



For Immediate Release

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Delaware Center for Horticulture receives national NeighborWoods grant

Sponsored by Alliance for Community Trees and The Home Depot Foundation

WILMINGTON – The [Delaware Center for Horticulture](#) (The DCH) today announced that it will receive an \$8,960 grant from Alliance for Community Trees and The Home Depot® Foundation. The DCH is one of 11 organizations honored in the national competition, which promotes strategic partnerships between greening organizations and affordable housing providers. Grant funds in Delaware will support tree planting to enhance the health and livability of affordable homes in the Little Italy neighborhood of Wilmington.

This challenge grant is part of the National NeighborWoods Program™, made possible through generous support of The Home Depot Foundation. NeighborWoods is a nationwide initiative that engages the public in hands-on action to produce tangible improvements to community health through tree planting and stewardship.

“This is a great opportunity to forge a new coalition around trees and affordable housing in Wilmington, and is an important step toward fulfilling Trees for Wilmington’s ambitious campaign to plant *20,000 trees by 2020*. We look forward to working with our partners on this exciting project which will benefit the city and residents tremendously,” **Jen Bruhler, Assistant Director of Urban Forestry** of [The DCH](#).

"The Home Depot Foundation believes that trees are an integral part of a sustainable community's infrastructure, and we are proud of our partnership with Alliance for Community Trees to plant and preserve a remarkable number of trees in urban areas," said **Kelly Caffarelli, president** of the [The Home Depot Foundation](#). Since 2005, The Home Depot Foundation partnership with Alliance for Community Trees has invested more than \$2 million in grants, technical assistance, and training to promote urban forest restoration for healthy communities nationwide.

“Thanks to the leadership and financial support of The Home Depot Foundation, we’re making investments in neighborhoods where the benefits of trees are needed the most. Trees provide clean air, energy savings for homeowners, and healthier play spaces for kids,” said **Alice Ewen**,

executive director for the [Alliance for Community Trees](#). Through its nationwide membership, Alliance for Community Trees has planted 15 million trees with help from 10.7 million volunteer hours to improve cities and towns nationwide.

The NeighborWoods grants recognize local urban forestry and affordable housing partnerships that will result in tangible, strategic improvements in the health and livability of the home environment of low-income families. The grants will fund projects that demonstrate the connection among quality affordable housing, adequate green spaces and trees and the overall health and success of communities. Trees can be the catalyst for profound community change and are an essential component of creating a strong and healthy community.

Studies show that:

- When planted to provide shade and windbreaks, as few as three trees can reduce residential utility costs by as much as 50%.
- Residential property values are 5-12% higher when landscaping includes trees.
- Children exhibit greater concentration and self-control, even displaying fewer symptoms of ADHD, when they are provided with daily access to green settings.
- Children who live on tree-lined streets have lower rates of asthma.
- Trees along roadways encourage slower and safer driving; tree-lined streets have fewer accidents.

To learn more about the benefits of trees and read a report on the state of trees in New Castle County, visit <http://urbanforest.dehort.org/>

The Delaware Center for Horticulture (The DCH) cultivates a greener community, inspiring appreciation and improvement of our environment through horticulture, education, and conservation. In partnership with the West End Neighborhood House and Cornerstone West, DCH will plant 38 trees on the property of new residents in the Little Italy neighborhood of Wilmington. The DCH's efforts will help revitalize this densely-populated, diverse community, where active civic groups and neighborhood organizations are working to confront challenges like crime and blighted and vacant housing.

Homeowners and tenants at two housing projects, The Pavilion and Clayton Court, will join with DCH Tree Stewards, other area residents, The Home Depot employees, students, neighborhood volunteers, and DCH's Return-to-Work crew to plant new, neighborhood-beautifying trees in yards, streets, and common spaces. People living at Pavilion and Clayton Court will benefit from the improved air and water quality, increased shade, lower summer temperatures, and lower energy costs that new trees will bring. The DCH will educate residents about the value of trees in the urban environment and train them on proper tree maintenance so that their trees will survive as sustainable revitalizing tools in the Little Italy community.

To learn more, visit <http://TheDCH.org>

(more)

About Alliance for Community Trees

Alliance for Community Trees (ACT) is dedicated to ensuring clean air, green streets, and healthy neighborhoods by planting and caring for trees. With 160 grassroots affiliates in 41 states and Canada, ACT engages volunteers to take action to improve the environment where 80% of people live – in urban areas. Together, ACT member organizations have planted and cared for 15 million trees in cities with help from 10.7 million volunteer hours. To learn more, visit www.actrees.org.

About The Home Depot Foundation

The Home Depot Foundation was created in 2002 to further the community building goals of The Home Depot. The Home Depot Foundation is dedicated to building affordable homes for working families that are healthy to live in and affordable to own. To make homes healthy and affordable, the Foundation encourages developers to incorporate responsible design and use durable and quality materials to ensure that homes are more energy and water efficient, have good indoor air quality, and provide a safe and healthy space to live. Since its formation, The Home Depot Foundation has granted \$120 million to nonprofit organizations and supported the development of more than 65,000 affordable, healthy homes. To learn more, visit www.homedepotfoundation.org.

About West End Neighborhood House & Cornerstone West

West End Neighborhood House (WENH) is a 127-year-old non-profit organization that helps over 10,000 low- to moderate-income individuals achieve self-sufficiency and economic independence annually. The variety of services offered at West End include before and after school child care, programming for at-risk youth, adult employment training and educational services, financial management services and low-interest loan products, certified housing counseling and transitional housing for former foster-care youth.

Established in 1999, Cornerstone West is a not for profit community development corporation which grew from a collaborative effort between WENH, St. Francis Hospital and the community. Cornerstone West was designed to improve the economic viability of Wilmington's Westside, be a proactive catalyst for positive community revitalization and to deliver a housing system that serves the needs of New Castle County's low to moderate-income families. Over the last 10 years, Cornerstone West has created a total of 338 affordable housing opportunities and home improvements in the Wilmington area, investing over \$50 million into the Wilmington community. To learn more, visit www.westendnh.org and www.cornerstonewest.org.



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