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Impact 100 Contact: Kyra Scarton Newman
804.357.4873

TCF Contact: Kim Russell
The Community Foundation *Serving Richmond & Central Virginia*
(TCF)
804-330-7400

NEWS RELEASE

IMPACT 100 RICHMOND AWARDS TWO \$100,000 GRANTS IN FIFTH YEAR *Grants presented to Higher Achievement and Greater Richmond ARC at Big Give*

RICHMOND, Va. – At its fifth annual Big Give, Impact 100 Richmond awarded a pair of grants, providing \$100,000 each to Higher Achievement and Greater Richmond ARC. For the first time, the organization raised enough funds to award two annual transformational grants.

As a grant recipient, Higher Achievement, which is striving to close the educational opportunity gap during the pivotal middle school years, will partner with the MathScience Innovation Center to update the science, technology, engineering and math curriculum. Aimed at better preparing underserved students in grades 5-8 for today's rapidly changing careers, updated offerings will include new field trip opportunities and hands-on elective classes.

Greater Richmond ARC, which works with families to create life-fulfilling opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities, will use its grant to build Richmond's first all-inclusive park. Located on 2.4 acres in Northside, the park will fully accommodate individuals with disabilities and welcome those who do not.

At the May 13 program, Impact members heard from four finalists on how they would spend the gift if awarded; members voted and awarded the grant on the spot at the Weinstein Jewish Community Center.

"Impact 100 is based on the simple idea that together we can do so much more – not only within the Impact membership but in partnership with critical community organizations," said Talley Baratka, founder of Impact 100 Richmond. "Because our membership expanded so dramatically this year, we had deeper resources to provide a pair of transformational gifts in this milestone anniversary for our program. It is so hard to single out one grant recipient each year, so it was so rewarding to recognize two great projects this time."

Impact 100 Richmond, a partnership with The Community Foundation, aims to generate an annual \$100,000 grant based on individual and two- or three- person shared "circle" gifts of \$1,000. In this fifth anniversary year, the organization doubled its membership – which, as a collective giving model, is open to anyone – to support two grants of \$100,000 each.

Members invite nonprofit organizations from across Central Virginia to compete for the award by demonstrating how such a significant investment would transform the community. Although nonprofits apply within five focus areas, Impact 100 grant committees do not always recommend a

2014 Big Give grant recipients

Page 2 of 2

finalist in every category.

In her appeal for Greater Richmond ARC to receive a grant, parent Vicki Beatty spoke of both the blessings and challenges of raising a teen-aged son with disabilities. She noted that the proposed playground would create a new learning environment by offering a level playing field where all children can have fun and interact in meaningful ways. "They learn from each other in incidental ways," she said. "They learn acceptance. They learn about differences. And they grow together."

This year, Higher Achievement noted that its efforts to provide tailored educational support for underserved middle school children are paying off, with all of its participants graduating next fall into advanced high school programs. "Opportunity definitely matters," said Tyren Frazier, executive director. "Higher Achievement closes the opportunity gap in the pivotal middle school years."

Higher Achievement was a finalist in the Education category, while Greater Richmond ARC was the finalist in the Family category. The other 2014 finalists were Boaz & Ruth (Environment) and Faison Centers of Excellence (Health & Wellness).

"The mission and vision for Impact 100 to change the lives of women and their families have played out through our work over the past five years," Baratka said. "By giving two awards this year, we are incrementally working to do more to ensure that these great nonprofits can continue to deliver meaningful services in our community. We will continue to build on this year's momentum, because we see firsthand how our dollars are having a direct impact."

ABOUT IMPACT 100 RICHMOND: Founded in 2009-10, Impact 100 Richmond is a women's collective fundraising initiative, dedicated to providing an annual \$100,000 grant that would transform the services and programs of a nonprofit organization in the Greater Richmond community. As part of the yearlong program, members can participate in special events to learn more about community needs and review grant applications, which include site visits to find out more about potential finalists. Impact 100 partners with The Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia to take advantage of the Foundation's grant making expertise and administrative support.

Previous Impact 100 recipients and how they used the grants are: Southside Community Development Center (2010), which made long overdue improvements, including a new roof and drainage system; Communities in Schools/FeedMore (2011), which improved nutrition for children in need and strengthened relationships between parents and schools; ART 180 (2012), which established a new teen art center; and YWCA of Richmond (2013), which changed from communal to private sheltering, which allows women in crisis to make better decisions and keep their families together.

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