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Children's Home Society of New Jersey Gets Trenton Children Dancing *Investors Bank Grants \$3,000 for Trenton Education Dance Institute*

ROBBINSVILLE, New Jersey – Alyssa Alvarez, aged 16, has been involved in the Trenton Education Dance Institute (TEDI), a member of Associates of National Dance Institute, for five years. Alvarez, who someday would like to be a nurse, said that TEDI has taught her “how to feel confidence in doing what you love.” Thanks, in part to \$3,000 in grants from the Investors Foundation and the Roma Bank Community Foundation, Alvarez and other students involved in TEDI will continue dancing!

The Children's Home Society of New Jersey is a nonprofit organization that helps at-risk infants, children, youth, and families achieve their potential by providing adoption options, birth parent counseling, child abuse prevention and treatment, child care services, community and neighborhood-based services, foster care, pre- and post-natal services, school-based youth services, child welfare services, kinship services, early childhood and parenting services.

“Investors Bank supports The Children's Home Society of New Jersey, and its programs like TEDI, because we believe in its commitment to strengthening families and protecting and helping children develop their potential,” said Maria C. Cartagena, Assistant Vice President/Branch Manager, Chambersburg, in presenting the check for the TEDI program. “Strong families,” continued Cartagena, “build strong, thriving communities, which benefits everyone.”

Since 2011, The Children's Home Society of New Jersey has been partnering with TEDI to offer a tailored curriculum which challenges students' cognitive and physical capabilities. The youth development programs include:

- Weekly, in-school classes for fifth-graders in two Trenton public elementary schools;
- “First Team” classes for TEDI kindergarten students;
- After-school SWAT Team (Scholarship for the Willing, Achieving & Talented) program for selected TEDI fifth- graders;
- Celebration Team Scholarship Program for sixth through tenth-grade TEDI alumni; and,
- TEDI Alumni Association for program graduates.

Each May, the TEDI program holds an end of year event with live performances for school, family and community audiences. Importantly, TEDI inspires students to achieve both as individuals and group members, while promoting self-esteem and life skills such as self-discipline, teamwork, concentration, cooperation, confidence and pride in personal achievement. Students like eleven-year-old Ahmilliyon McRae, who said TEDI has taught her “to never give up.”

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“TEDI is an opportunity for our young students, through the pedagogy of NDI Dance, that we can offer a full youth development experience that teaches how to successfully work with a team, how through repeated practice one can be successful when you set your goals, and the importance of staying in school and learning,” said The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey President & CEO Donna C. Pressma. “These life skills are instrumental to one’s success in life. TEDI teaches our youth that they can succeed with hard work, practice and commitment.”

The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey applied for the grants from the foundations, which support non-profit organizations that enrich the diverse communities served by Investors Bank; Roma Bank became part of Investors Bank in December 2013.

“Investors Bank is proud to be able to support The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey’s TEDI program,” said Linda Martin, Senior Market Manager, Investors Bank. “The ability to instill confidence in children and encourage them to ‘never give up’ is exceedingly important in today’s chaotic world.”

Photo Captions:

Photo 1 – Investors Bank representatives Maria C. Cartagena, Assistant Vice President/Branch Manager, Chambersburg (far left) and Senior Market Manager Linda Martin (far right) present Children’s Home Society of New Jersey representatives Karen Courtney, Vice President, and Pamela Cipriano, Director of Corporate Development and Volunteerism (center), with a check for \$1,500 from the Roma Community Bank Foundation in support of the Trenton Education Dance Institute. Roma Bank became part of Investors Bank in December 2013.

Photo 2 – Investors Bank representatives Maria C. Cartagena, Assistant Vice President/Branch Manager, Chambersburg (far left) and Senior Market Manager Linda Martin (far right) present Children’s Home Society of New Jersey representatives Karen Courtney, Vice President, and Pamela Cipriano, Director of Corporate Development and Volunteerism (center), with a check for \$1,500 from the Investors Bank Foundation in support of the Trenton Education Dance Institute.

About Investors Bank

Investors Bank is a full-service community bank that has been serving customers since 1926. With more than \$20 billion in assets and over 135 retail branches in New Jersey, New York City and Long Island, Investors Bank delivers personalized services and products tailored to the needs of its customers. Investors’ consumer banking services include complete deposit products, online banking, home equity loans and lines of credit and a full array of mortgage loans. Serving the business community, Investors provides deposit accounts, cash management services, business loans and lines of credit, and commercial real estate financing solutions to small and middle market companies, professional services firms, municipalities and other businesses. Investors Bank. Member FDIC and Equal Housing Lender.

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About Trenton Education Dance Institute

Trenton Education Dance Institute (TEDI) reaches approximately 200 Trenton Public School District students from Kindergarten through tenth-grade with in-school and after-school dance classes, journal writing, mid-year demonstrations, and five Event of the Year culminating performances. Dedicated to access and full participation, every fifth-grade student at Mott and Robeson Elementary Schools dances in weekly TEDI classes and scheduled performances. In 2011, TEDI joined with The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (CHS of NJ).

About The Children's Home Society of New Jersey

The Children's Home Society of New Jersey is a nonprofit child and family serving agency whose mission is to save children's lives and build healthy families. Founded in 1894, the agency protects abused or neglected infants and at-risk children by ensuring stable, permanent, and loving homes for each and every child it serves. All services are confidential and most are free.

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