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## Investors Bank Aims to Help Women Gain Self-Sufficiency Through Grant to Women's Opportunity Center

**SHORT HILLS, New Jersey** – Women who are working to gain greater self-sufficiency will have better opportunities thanks in part to combined grants of \$5,000 from the Investors Foundation and Roma Bank Community Foundation to the Women's Opportunity Center at the YMCA of Burlington and Camden Counties.

The Women's Opportunity Center (WOC) is committed to "help women gain economic self-sufficiency through education, job readiness, networking, outreach, referrals and emotional support," said Cathi Rendfrey, the Center's Director. Rendfrey said the WOC serves approximately 200 to 250 women each year with a number of free services, including workshops, career counseling, and training opportunities. "Many of the women we serve are displaced homemakers," explained Rendfrey, "who have lost financial support as a result of separation, divorce, death or disability of a spouse."

The Women's Opportunity Center applied for the grants from the Investors Foundation and Roma Bank Community Foundation; Roma Bank became part of Investors Bank in December 2013. The foundations support non-profit organizations that enrich diverse communities served by Investors Bank.

"The grants from Investors Bank are a big help to us," said Rendfrey. "This money will enable us to provide training, free workshops, so many things." Rendfrey also said that the WOC often will make small grants to individual women to assist them in going to college, or for other essentials. "Many of these women are not on welfare and do not qualify for assistance programs, but may need help in paying for books, or turning the electric back on, or to pay back rent. The grants from Investors can go a long way in helping our women get back on their feet," said Rendfrey.

Investors Bank's Angela Venti, Assistant Vice President/Branch Manager – Marlton Office, presented the grant checks to the WOC. "Investors Bank is committed to helping women achieve their goals and support their families," said Venti. "To assist these women in making ends meet, learning new skills or further enhancing those they already have, and gaining access to available community services not only helps them and their families, but further strengthens their communities."

In addition to providing help with resume writing, interviewing skills and job searches, the WOC also offers workshops in financial planning, family law, career development, and computer training. With the assistance of Donna M. Pellegrino, RN, Ed.D., LMFT, of the Psychology Group in Cherry Hill, WOC also offers workshops in self-confidence and self-esteem.

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The WOC also provides a small food pantry and a “closet” where the women can find professional business attire that will enable them to have the confidence to pursue job opportunities.

The women served by the WOC can stay in the program as long as they need to, according to Rendfrey. “We do follow-up as well, to be certain they have everything they need to continue on their path to economic self-sufficiency. Sometimes it is important to just know that they are not alone.”

### **Photo Captions**

**Photo:** Investors Bank recently presented two checks totaling \$5,000, from the Investors Bank Foundation and the Roma Bank Community Foundation to the Women’s Opportunity Center at the YMCA of Burlington and Camden Counties during one of its morning workshops. Roma Bank became part of Investors Bank in December 2013. Pictured from left with the check: Donna M. Pellegrino, RN, Ed.D., LMFT, The Psychology Group; Investors Bank’s Angela Venti, Assistant Vice President/Branch Manager – Marlton Office; WOC Director Cathi Rendfrey; Donna Lombardo, WOC Case Manager; and the women attending the workshop.

### **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.

### **About Women’s Opportunity Center**

The Women’s Opportunity Center is a program of the YMCA of Burlington and Camden Counties is funded by the Division on Women, New Jersey State Department of Children and Families. The Women’s Opportunity Center assists women who have lost financial support due to separation, divorce, death or disability of a spouse. The Women's Opportunity Center is committed to help women gain economic self-sufficiency through education, job readiness, networking, outreach, referrals and emotional support. The Center also promotes awareness of women's rights and issues through public advocacy.