

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MEDIA ADVISORY

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BANK OF AMERICA AWARDS NEARLY \$640,000 TO ADDRESS CRITICAL NEEDS IN PHILADELPHIA REGION

PathWays PA one of 14 Nonprofit Recipients

PHILADELPHIA – The Bank of America Charitable Foundation announced nearly \$640,000 in grants to 14 nonprofits in Philadelphia addressing critical needs such as hunger and shelter to longer term solutions that promote financial wellness through access to benefits and resources.

As part of this support, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation named Cradles to Crayons and ACHIEVEability as Neighborhood Builder award recipients. The organizations will each receive a \$200,000 unrestricted grant and leadership training for their executive director and an emerging leader. Since 2004, Bank of America has recognized nearly 730 nonprofits as Neighborhood Builders.

"We're committed to supporting our local community and look to make investments that are responding to the greatest needs of the people that live here," said Thomas C. Woodward, Pennsylvania and Philadelphia market president for Bank of America. "These grants will assist nonprofits addressing Philadelphia's immediate needs while also supporting integrated services that will help people get back on their feet."

PathWays PA received funding for their Girls SHElter, which The Girls SHElter specifically targets girls between the ages of 13 and 18 years old living in Philadelphia who have run away from home, and/or are homeless. While living at the SHElter Case Managers assist the girls in returning home, to a safe family member; or linking participants to a transitional living program or permanent housing.

"So many homeless youth in Philadelphia are living on the street - they are not even couch surfing," said Brenda Dawson, Senior Vice President at PathWays PA. "There are significant numbers of girls who are homeless, and they face many risks by staying on the street."

The goal of the Girls SHElter is to assist vulnerable teen girls in stabilizing their lives, and access supportive services that will result in returning home or entering transitional living or permanent housing. The teen girls served through the SHElter are linked to an array of supportive services that ensure that they remain engaged in school, and return home to their families, where safe and appropriate.

In addition to the Neighborhood Builder grantees, some of the nonprofit organizations receiving funding to support their efforts include:

- People's Emergency Center, which serves homeless women and their children
- Project H.O.M.E, which works to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty.

- MANNA (Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance), which prepares and packages medically-appropriate meals for people living with life-threatening illnesses such as cancer, renal disease or HIV/AIDS.

Grants were also awarded to the Bethesda Project, DePaul USA, the Klein Jewish Community Center, LIFT Philadelphia, the Mazzone Center, Operation Warm, the Salvation Army, Cradles to Crayons, and the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey.

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation is awarding nearly \$22 million in grants to over 1,000 nonprofits across the country. The majority of grants will support nonprofits serving low-income communities that have been disproportionately affected by the economic downturn. This funding is part of the company's intensified philanthropic focus on three core issues vital to the economic health of communities: housing, jobs and hunger and represents an important component of Bank of America's lending, investing and giving activities to help advance local economies.

Last year, the bank awarded \$730,000 in grants to Philadelphia region nonprofits that support housing and workforce development and education programs.

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Bank of America Corporate Social Responsibility:

Bank of America's commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a strategic part of doing business globally. Our CSR efforts guide how we operate in a socially, economically, financially and environmentally responsible way around the world, to deliver for shareholders, customers, clients and employees. Our goal is to help create economically vibrant regions and communities through lending, investing and giving. By partnering with our stakeholders, we create value that empowers individuals and communities to thrive and contributes to the long-term success of our business. We have several core areas of focus for our CSR, including responsible business practices; environmental sustainability; strengthening local communities with a focus on housing, hunger and jobs; investing in global leadership development; and engaging through arts and culture. As part of these efforts, employee volunteers across the company contribute their time, passion and expertise to address issues in communities where they live and work. Learn more at www.bankofamerica.com/about and follow us on Twitter at @BoFA_Community. For more Bank of America news, visit the Bank of America newsroom.

About PathWays PA:

PathWays PA was founded in 1978 as the Women's Association for Women's Alternatives. It served as one of Pennsylvania's first residential programs to keep low-income, vulnerable women together with their children and has grown to become one of the Greater Philadelphia Region's foremost providers of residential and community-based services for women, children and families. Each year over 6,000 women, children and families benefit from our full complement of social services; job training and employment assistance; as well as outreach and residential programs as they move along the path to self-sufficiency.