

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF PHILADELPHIA, INC.**  
*Women building better communities®*

**THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF PHILADELPHIA, INC. PRESENTS \$48,000 GRANT TO PHILADELPHIA ORCHARD PROJECT**

**Ardmore, Pennsylvania** –The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. (JLP) has presented \$48,000 to the Philadelphia Orchard Project (POP) to build a Propagation Greenhouse, Production High Tunnel, Edible Plant Nursery, and Demonstration Orchard at its new headquarters. This legacy grant will aid in expanding POP's reach and programming as it plants and supports community orchards in the city of Philadelphia. Additionally, the grant will help POP better educate its community partners and the public in ecological orchard care and sustainable living, reduce costs, generate earned income for operations, expand its ability to engage larger volunteer groups, and allow POP to tell its story more directly to new partners, supporters, funders, and the city.

Two members of the JLP, Bertina Whytehead and Deanna Jenkins, currently sit on the board of POP. POP is one of the Junior League of Philadelphia's partners for its Apple a Day Healthy Living Initiative™ (AAD). AAD is the JLP's multi-tiered community initiative with the goal of creating a positive impact on the health and wellness of adults and children in the Greater Philadelphia area. AAD programming encompasses both interactive educational curriculum and a focus on increasing the region's capacity to supply and distribute healthy food to families in need.

The monies donated came from the JLP's Blossom Fund, raised by the Bed, Breakfast, Blossoms, and Barnes Committee. This committee raised money through the Bed, Breakfast, Blossoms, and Barnes event for which all members of the Association of Junior Leagues International were invited, and the profits are set aside to provide grants to many local organizations and community projects. Previous grant recipients include: horticultural work at the Jubilee School, restoration of the Lemon Hill Gazebo, Waterworks South Garden, Paul Fly Elementary School, E.M. Stanton Multicultural Garden, Smith Living Willow Structure, and Chester Children's Chorus. Including the new grant to POP, Blossom Fund community donations have totaled more than \$135,000.

**About the Junior League of Philadelphia**

The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. The JLP reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism. The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization and a member of The Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI). To learn about future Junior League of Philadelphia events or become a member, please visit [www.JLPhiladelphia.org](http://www.JLPhiladelphia.org).

**About The Philadelphia Orchard Project** - POP was founded to address the twin challenges of poverty and vacant land in Philadelphia. POP works with community-based groups and volunteers to plan and plant orchards filled with useful and edible plants in neighborhoods across the city. POP provides its partners with orchard design assistance, plant materials, and training in orchard care. Community organizations own, maintain, and harvest the orchards, expanding community-based food production. POP supports orchards in formerly vacant lots, community gardens, schoolyards and other urban spaces, almost exclusively in low-wealth neighborhoods where people lack access to fresh fruit. POP is a 501(c)(3) organization.

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