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NEWS RELEASE

JUNIOR REPUBLIC RECEIVES GRANTS FOR WORK-BASED LEARNING SUMMER PROGRAM

The Connecticut Junior Republic's Waterbury Program is providing a six-week work-based learning summer program for 40 at-risk and disadvantaged boys and girls, through grants of \$26,550 from the American Savings Foundation and \$7,000 from the Frederick Marzahl Memorial Fund, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee. The program includes vocational training in culinary arts, video production and publications, horticulture and landscaping, and entrepreneurial skills development. Participating boys and girls attend the program Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and work in one of the four study areas. The Marzahl Memorial Fund grant will specifically fund the horticulture and landscaping component of the work-based learning summer program.

All students begin the program with a standardized application and interview process for various positions to learn skills in resume development, interviewing and employment readiness. Each of the four study areas will utilize an entrepreneurship model to develop specific "products" associated with culinary arts, video production and publications, and horticulture and landscaping. The entrepreneurial development class will work with the other program components to market these products. Assigned teams will work together on projects and develop specific skill sets relevant to the four job areas, and students are paid stipends for their participation in the program.

Youngsters in the culinary class are catering lunches for CJR programs, other non-profit organizations and local schools. They also catered a luncheon for approximately 200 guests at the Connecticut Junior Republic as a part of the 2011 Open House Day Tour of Litchfield held on July 9. The horticulture and landscaping class has created a flower and vegetable garden on the grounds of the Junior Republic's Waterbury facility at 80 Prospect Street, and produce will be donated to local soup kitchens and non-profit organizations. The class is also working in the community on beautification projects. The video class is producing two public service announcements that will focus on reducing teen violence and on increasing self-esteem. These will be aired on Channel 16. The class will also create a poster and a DVD that students can share with family, friends and their schools.

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The American Savings Foundation also awarded CJR an additional 2011 grant of \$4,393 to provide a summer work experience for an American Savings Foundation Scholarship recipient. This grant enabled CJR to hire Sheena Boyle as a summer program assistant. An English Education major who recently received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Connecticut, Ms. Boyle is currently a graduate student at the University of Connecticut's Neag School of Education and resides in Waterbury.

Ms. Boyle's responsibilities will involve working with students as a part of CJR's work-based learning summer program, and assisting teen participants in creating a magazine exploring careers. "This position will offer me an opportunity to work with children in an environment outside of school and to gain insight and perspective on how this kind of program can help children be successful," she stated. "The internship will also allow me to do something I love – to teach writing," she continued.

John F. Boyd, executive director of the Connecticut Junior Republic, expressed gratitude to the American Savings Foundation and the Frederick Marzahl Memorial Fund, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee, for these generous grants and for their past support of the CJR Waterbury Program.

"The Junior Republic is honored by the support of American Savings Foundation and the Frederick W. Marzahl Memorial Fund," he stated. "These grants support our efforts to help high-risk adolescents who are associated with CJR's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program maintain the gains they have made during the school year through enrollment in a highly-structured, strength-based summer program," he continued. "This program helps students develop practical skills that will assist them in the classroom, in their homes and eventually, in the workplace," he noted.

The work-based learning program began on July 5 and will culminate in an event the first week of August, which showcases student work, including a catered luncheon that is prepared by students and incorporates produce from CJR's Waterbury garden. Friends and family of CJR students will be invited to the program.

The American Savings Foundation is a permanent charitable endowment which provides grants to local nonprofit organizations, and college scholarships to area students. Since its inception in 1995 the Foundation has contributed over \$30 million in total grants and scholarships in its 64-town service area.

The Frederick W. Marzahl Memorial Fund was established in 1974 to support and promote quality education, human services and health care programming for underserved populations in the Woodbury area.

Founded in 1904, the Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR) provides care, treatment, education and family support for at-risk, special needs and troubled young people so they can become productive and fulfilled members of their homes, schools and communities. Today, the organization's combined programs serve more than 1,000 boys and girls annually in ten locations throughout Connecticut.

The Junior Republic conducts a residential program for court-referred young men on its Litchfield campus. Special, vocational and alternative education programs are provided for boys from communities throughout Connecticut in this location through CJR's Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center. Transition and related services are also provided.

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CJR also provides residential care for boys at its group homes in East Hartford and Winchester and short-term, residential crisis intervention for girls at its Center for Assessment, Respite and Enrichment (CARE) in Waterbury. A broad spectrum of prevention, early intervention, family support, and intensive home-based services, and aftercare, are provided for boys and girls through CJR's offices in Danbury, East Hartford, Meriden, New Britain, Torrington and Waterbury (two sites).

A private charitable organization, the Connecticut Junior Republic is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). CJR is supported by gifts from individuals, businesses and organizations, and through service contracts funded by the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) of the Connecticut Judicial Branch, the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS), and by Connecticut's public schools. For further information, please contact Hedy Barton, Director of Development and Public Relations (860) 567-9423, extension 252; or by email: hbarton@cjryouth.org.