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Impact 100 Jersey Coast Class of 2017

IMPACT 100 *Jersey Coast* ANNOUNCES GRANT RECIPIENTS

By Lori Draz

There was a palpable energy in the Navesink Country Club on November 15, as the members of Impact 100 Jersey Coast came together to make the final selection of recipients of the organization's two grants of \$123,000 each. Following a cocktail hour and dinner, the women took their seats to hear the all-important presentations, which would earn two of the organizations a life-changing grant. The semi-finalists included the American Littoral Society (Environment, Parks & Recreation grant category), The Community YMCA (Education), Covenant House New Jersey (Children & Families), Mental Health Association of Monmouth County (Health & Wellness), and New Jersey Repertory Company (Arts & Culture). The presentations, which were limited to a strict six-minute time limit with no visual aids, were each moving, educational, and powerful. Each presentation was worth winning the grant, but in the end, only two could be selected. After the presentations were completed, each member cast their votes. The suspense was thick as the votes were tallied. Then came the big announcement. The recipients of this year's grants were Covenant House New Jersey (Children & Families) and Mental Health Association of Monmouth County (Health & Wellness).

This was Impact Jersey Coast's second Annual Membership Meeting. In its inaugural year, the organization grew from a founding group of 11 local women to 145 women, each contributing \$1,000. The 2016 grant of \$145,000 was awarded to 180 Turning Lives Around, who used the grant to open the new Family Justice Center that is already addressing the needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse/neglect, and human



(LEFT) \$123,000 grant recipient Covenant House: Kevin Ryan, President & CEO and Jim White, Executive Director, with members of the Children & Families grant review committee, Suzy Gilbert, Grace Yannakakis, Lauren Cesario, and Kim Willemstijn (RIGHT) \$123,000 grant recipient Mental Health Association of Monmouth County: Wendy DePedro, Executive Director, and Susan Tellone, Vice President of Programs and Community, with Health and Wellness grant review committee member Mary Riley

trafficking, in one centralized location.

The membership was nearly 250 members in 2017 and the group is expecting to grow again in 2018. As membership grows, the organization will be able to make additional grants, the amounts of which will be driven by the number of members.

Women may join now for the 2018 membership cycle, which ends March 15, 2018. Current members will be organizing informal gatherings throughout Monmouth County. Please visit www.impact100jerseycoast.org for more information. To learn about membership, email membership@impact100jerseycoast.org.

About Impact 100 Jersey Coast:

Impact 100 Jersey Coast unites women to make a lasting impact by collectively funding transformative grants in the Jersey Coast region. Combining not only the charitable dollars but the experience and energy of a diverse group of local women, Impact 100 Jersey Coast is a unique coalition and a powerful force for change in our community.