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**Bank of America Names Jonnycake Center and Boys and Girls Clubs of Providence 2020 Neighborhood Builders®**

*Program Provides \$400,000 in Flexible Funding and Leadership Skills Development Training to Advance Economic Mobility in Rhode Island*

PROVIDENCE, RI – The Jonnycake Center and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Providence have been named as the 2020 Bank of America [Neighborhood Builders®](#) awardees for Rhode Island. The nonprofits were selected for their work to address issues fundamental to economic mobility, specifically furthering the economic and social progress of individuals and families in low- to moderate-income communities.

As an awardee, each organization receives a \$200,000 grant, a year of leadership training for the executive director and an emerging leader, a network of peer organizations across the U.S., and the opportunity to access capital to expand their impact. Since 2004, Bank of America has invested over \$260 million in 50 communities through Neighborhood Builders, partnering with more than 1,300 nonprofits and helping more than 2,600 nonprofit leaders strengthen their leadership skills.

The Jonnycake Center's mission is to provide basic needs and resources to assist people out of poverty and toward self-sufficiency, and they are well-known for their programs to end hunger, achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture. The Boys and Girls Clubs of Providence is a youth service organization for high-need children and families that provides comprehensive learning opportunities, caring adult role models, hot meals and a safe environment throughout the year.

"As we consider many of the challenges that our community is facing – from the health and humanitarian crisis brought on by COVID-19 to the need for progress on racial equality and economic opportunity – the Neighborhood Builders program is a relevant and timely initiative to support the communities we serve," said Bill Hatfield, Market President for Bank of America in Rhode Island. "This program enables partners like the Jonnycake Center and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Providence to plan strategically for growth and long-term sustainability, and we look forward to seeing how this investment helps them make even greater strides to address their mission."

The Neighborhood Builders program is an opportunity to provide relevant skills development and topics to help nonprofit leaders address current and future community challenges. Each year, Bank of America refines the Neighborhood Builders Leadership Program to include topics ranging from strategic storytelling to human capital management, and highlights themes that

are critical to moving the nonprofit sector forward within broader societal and economic context.

"We are honored and humbled to be chosen for this prominent award. The grant and professional development opportunities provided will allow us to have a strong and sustained social services team; develop an effective and efficient business model as we transition to a new facility; and create a pilot program that can begin to address our members' greatest need, which is affordable housing," said Kate Brewster, Executive Director of the Jonnycake Center. "The resources and technical assistance provided through Bank of America will prove invaluable as we enter into a new phase of growth."

Added Nicole Dufresne, CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Providence: "This is not only a tremendous honor and opportunity to further advance our work, but also a testament to the impact we have on improving young lives. These are unpredictable times creating unprecedented need, and thanks to Bank of America we are better positioned to address the issues holding our community back."

Since 2007, through its Neighborhood Builders program, Bank of America has partnered with 21 nonprofits in Rhode Island, investing \$4.2 million to provide capacity building opportunities within Rhode Island. The invitation-only program is highly competitive, and leading members of the community participated in a collaborative selection process to identify this year's awardees. Examples of the leadership training topics include human capital management, increasing financial sustainability, and storytelling. Neighborhood Builders is just one example of how Bank of America deploys capital in communities, builds cross-sector partnerships, and promotes socioeconomic progress as part of its approach to responsible growth.

Recent Bank of America announcements focused on advancing economic mobility include:

- [Bank of America Announces Seven Completed Equity Investments in Minority Depository Institutions and Community Development Financial Institution Banks](#)
- [\\$2 billion Equality Progress Sustainability Bond.](#)
- [Universal ESG Reporting; International Business Council of World Economic Forum.](#)
- [Top Global Bank on Fortune Change the World List.](#)
- [Bank of America Directs \\$300 Million of Its \\$1 Billion, Four-Year Commitment to Advance Racial Equality and Economic Opportunity.](#)
- [Expanding support of Boys & Girls Clubs of America with \\$1 million grant to support educational programs.](#)
- [\\$1 billion, four-year commitment to support economic opportunity initiatives.](#)
- [Committing \\$250 million in capital and \\$10 million in philanthropic grants to CDFIs.](#)

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