



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 24, 2016

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TheDCH Presents at State's Community Garden Micro-Grant Award Ceremony

Wilmington, DE – TheDCH's Director of Programs Ann Mattingly joined Governor Jack Markell, Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) Secretary Ed Kee, and Executive Director Logan Herring of Kingswood Community Center this morning to announce the award recipients of the State's Urban Agriculture and Community Garden Pilot Micro-Grant program. This is the first state-sponsored program of its kind, raising the profile of urban agriculture and community garden efforts throughout Delaware. The Department of Agriculture is requesting \$20,000 in next year's state budget to support the micro-grant program, doubling this year's initial \$10,000 investment.

"The beautiful thing about being involved with urban agriculture projects is the opportunity to meet so many people and recognize you are a part of something so much bigger," said Mattingly. "Under Governor Markell and Secretary Kee, urban agriculture and all of its related activities have been elevated at the state level. The support DDA has shown toward our efforts in New Castle County has really raised awareness of the multi-generational benefits of these programs. We are so very thankful for their support and leadership on this front."

One of the first-round recipients of the micro-grant program is New Castle County for the development and implementation of a community garden and urban agriculture project at the Absalom Jones Senior Center in Wilmington. The micro-grant funding will go towards supplies, materials, seeds, or minor equipment to support the new venture, for which TheDCH will provide leadership guidance and planning for the design, execution, and cultivation of this newest urban agriculture space.

The Delaware Center for Horticulture has been a leader in urban agriculture and community gardens since our founding in 1977. Most notably, TheDCH established the first urban farm in Wilmington in 2009 in concert with the late Wilmington City Councilman Eric Robinson and the 11th Street Bridge neighborhood and currently supports more than 40 community gardens throughout the City of Wilmington and New Castle County. As a founding member of the Delaware Urban Farm and Food Coalition, TheDCH works in concert with the Coalition's 65 members to raise awareness on issues of access to healthy and sustainable food sources and the benefits of urban agriculture programs.

The Delaware Center for Horticulture cultivates a greener community, inspiring appreciation and improvement of our environment through horticulture, education, and conservation.