

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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36th Annual Rare Plant Auction® Supports Greener Communities and Urban Agriculture Programs throughout Wilmington

Wilmington, DE – The Delaware Center for Horticulture’s 36th Annual Rare Plant Auction® (RPA), held on Saturday, April 30 at Longwood Gardens, will once again raise vital funds to help support the gardening program at Baylor Women’s Correctional Institute (BWCI) and the E.D. Robinson Urban Farm at 12th & Brandywine. This year’s event will include hundreds of rare, unique, and beautiful plants, feature Special Guest Bunny Williams and Celebrated Plant Expert Page Dickey, and benefit our urban greening programs.

“One of the things I value the most in TheDCH’s mission is that we demonstrate what is possible through horticulture, showing the positive changes that can be achieved in one garden, one corner lot, one block,” said TheDCH Executive Director Vikram Krishnamurthy. “We know bringing people and plants together can change the lives of individuals and communities, as evidenced by the many successes of our gardening program at BWCI and our urban farm at 12th & Brandywine.”

Through a partnership with the Garden Club of Wilmington, TheDCH has run a gardening program at BWCI since 1999, impacting the lives of more than 200 women. As part of the Delaware Department of Correction’s education program, year-round classroom sessions complement the learning experiences provided in the outdoor space, which includes over 3,000 square feet for vegetable, fruit, flower, and herb production, a composting area, and a drip irrigation system. With the proceeds from this year’s RPA®, TheDCH plans to launch new and exciting projects for learning, including cut flower production and greenhouse growing.

In 2009, with the leadership of neighborhood activist Eric Robinson and the 11th Street Bridge community, TheDCH facilitated the development of Wilmington’s first urban farm. The Farm, which grew out of a vacant, trash strewn lot, now provides fresh produce in a community that otherwise is considered a food desert. The Farm, which is managed and cultivated by TheDCH’s Adrienne Spencer, will be rededicated this summer in honor of Eric Robinson for his vision and dedication to the farm as a DCH partner and Wilmington City Councilman. Proceeds from the 2016 RPA® will fund an expansion of the Farm, including a five-year business plan to bring economic opportunities to the neighborhood, and support more Farm-based events and programming.

FOR MEDIA ONLY: To attend RPA® as a member of the media, please RSVP to Catherine Kempista at 302-388-5597.