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Local Leaders Step Up to Support Youth

Jerry Franklin and John N. Little Join Our Piece of the Pie's Champions Council

Hartford, CT... Youth development agency, Our Piece of the Pie[®], Inc. (OPP[®]), proudly welcomes Jerry Franklin and John N. Little as members of its Champions Council, a prestigious advisory group of community and corporate leaders who support the organization's mission to help urban youth become economically independent adults.



Jerry Franklin, the president and chief executive officer of Connecticut Public Broadcasting, Inc., has over 36 years of experience in mass media and the broadcasting industry. His responsibilities include overseeing the Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network; the state's only locally owned media organization producing television, radio, print, and Internet content over a variety of media channels for distribution to Connecticut's wide-ranging and diverse communities. Under Jerry's leadership, Connecticut Public Broadcasting has won hundreds of local, regional, and national awards. In 2016, Jerry received Honorary Doctorate of

Humane Letters from Eastern Connecticut State University. In addition, he is recipient of many awards, including the Boston/New England Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (NATAS) Silver Circle Award (2013), an induction into the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame (2014), the Hartford Business Journal gave him a Lifetime Achievement Award (2014).

"I am honored to join the Champions Council for Our Piece of the Pie and look forward to working closely with the Board to develop and implement strategic plans in keeping with its mission," said Jerry Franklin. OPP is doing outstanding work for the Connecticut community, and I am excited to work with other local corporate and community leaders to support the deeply needed mentoring and educational opportunities the organization provides."



John N. Little is a senior marketing and management executive with over 30 years of experience in marketing, strategic planning, and general management in the consumer packaged goods, aerospace, and manufacturing industries. Currently the Principle of Little Consulting, LLC, his businesses focuses on helping financially distressed, privately-held manufacturers in the Northeast. John was on OPP's Board of Directors from 2007-2016, including Chairman for the last four years, supporting the organization through two strategic plans and statewide growth.

John Little commented: "I am both proud and honored to continue my association with OPP as a member of the Champions Council. This organization is uniquely positioned to make a difference in the lives of our inner city youth."

"Jerry and John have been avid members of their community, dedicating time, talent and treasure to bettering the lives of the families and youth in Hartford and beyond," said Bob Rath, CEO of Our Piece of the Pie. "With their

addition, OPP's Champion Council is even better equipped to support the organization through strategic plans, growth, and more."

For over forty years, OPP has served Connecticut youth through mentoring, education and employment programs. OPP works with young people, ages 14-24, who face significant social, economic, and academic barriers, helping them overcome obstacles by providing personal guidance, academic assistance, and career readiness services that prepare them for success as adults. Last year, the organization served approximately 1,600 youth.

The Champions Council was created in 2011 to help the nonprofit improve education and employment outcomes for urban youth. The Council acts as advisors to OPP's CEO and Board on such strategic issues as planning, growth and long-term sustainability. Franklin and Little join other Champions Council members Tom Barnes, Ed Budd, Joel Freedman, Mickey Herbert, Peter G. Kelly, Karl J. Krapek and Donald K. Wilson, Jr.

About Our Piece of the Pie:

Our Piece of the Pie (OPP) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping 14 to 24 year-old urban youth become economically independent adults. OPP's unique model is centered around a personal and consistent relationship between each youth and a caring, committed adult staff member. That relationship helps participants identify and overcome barriers, access support services, and achieve the goals of high school graduation, a postsecondary credential, and rewarding post-education employment. Founded in 1975, OPP provided high school, community college and community-based programs to nearly 1,600 young people throughout Connecticut last year. For more information, visit www.OPP.org.

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