



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 16, 2016

Contact:

Cassandra Sullivan

(860)761-7371

Cassandra.Sullivan@opp.org

The Prudential Foundation Invests in Innovative High School for Students in Hartford

Our Piece of the Pie, Inc. Creates Alternative Academic Environment for High School Students

Hartford, CT — The Prudential Foundation awarded \$200,000 to Our Piece of the Pie® (OPP®) to support OPPportunity Academy: Hartford, a high school for struggling students. The grant will develop the school's capacity to help urban youth become economically independent adults. The Prudential Foundation has been a long-time partner of OPP, contributing more than \$500,000 to the organization since 2009.

“Over the last 7 years, we have seen the incredible impact that OPP has had on youth in Hartford and the critical resources they have provided to help young people secure their futures,” said Lata Reddy, vice president of Corporate Social Responsibility at Prudential and president of The Prudential Foundation. “OPP’s work to empower youth and grow communities is at the heart of the The Prudential Foundation and we are proud to partner with them to help Hartford youth succeed.”

OPP helps young people, ages 14-24, become economically independent adults through an individualized mix of education, employment and skill development training. The organization also provides continued support to some of the most vulnerable students, helping them complete their education and prepare for their future.

OPPportunity Academy, previously known as Opportunity High School, serves over-age, and under-credited (OU) students who do not respond well to the traditional school structure. Recent partnership developments with the Hartford Board of Education, have recently given OPP more control over OPPportunity Academy’s operations and The Prudential Foundation’s involvement will help expand the school’s reach and impact even further.

OPP is a key player in Hartford’s education reform movement and has demonstrated success in increasing student employment. The organization helps place vulnerable young people on track to earn a living wage and enter a career path. OPPportunity Academy serves 170 OU students during the 2015-2016 school year and will grow in 2016-2017 with the long-term goal to eradicate OU youth and dropouts in Hartford and Greater Hartford, Connecticut through strong partnerships with the district and community service providers.

“We are proud to have worked so closely with The Prudential Foundation to help sustain and grow OPPportunity Academy Hartford,” said OPP CEO Bob Rath. “They are a true partner. We are both committed to providing positive support for our community’s youth by increasing education opportunities.”

About The Prudential Foundation

The Prudential Foundation is a nonprofit corporation supported by The Prudential Insurance Company of America, an insurance subsidiary of Prudential Financial Inc. of the U.S. The Prudential Foundation advocates for systemic change focused on eliminating barriers to financial and social mobility in the areas of meeting basic needs, connecting people to quality jobs, building personal assets and transforming communities. As a strategic investor, the Foundation makes long-term commitments that yield tangible results through both grants and program related investments.

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 the personal, intense and consistent relationship developed between each youth and a caring, committed and proactive adult staff member. That relationship helps participants identify and overcome barriers, access support services within the best practices of Youth Development, Academics, and Job Readiness, and to achieve the goals of high school graduation, a postsecondary credential and meaningful employment. Founded in 1975, OPP provided community- and high school-based programs to 1,565 young people in Connecticut last year. For more information, please visit www.OPP.org.

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