



Delaware Center for Horticulture receives grant from Bank of America to Support Branches to Chances® Program and Delaware River Climate Corps

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wilmington, DE, September 15, 2023 – Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH), a local non-profit organization dedicated to improving the community through the power of plants, has received a \$25,000 grant from Bank of America. The grant will help to support the organization’s Branches to Chances® horticultural job skills training and placement program, and the continuation of education and employment for participants through the support of the Delaware River Climate Corps.

The Branches to Chances® program provides classroom and hands-on training in the horticulture and landscape industry by preparing individuals for entry-level positions through training on plant identification, basic botany, equipment use, and landscape maintenance techniques. Additional training is offered including financial and computer literacy, job interview preparation, and personal wellness. Upon completion of this program, participants are placed with industry partners for externships and provided the opportunity for potential full-time employment.

One potential for employment includes joining DCH's Delaware River Climate Corps (DRCC). Launched in 2022, the DRCC is an initiative to advance climate resiliency and strengthen green career pathways in the Delaware River Watershed. Through support from the William Penn Foundation and leadership from The Corps Network, the DRCC expands upon the Branches to Chances® training to include training in land stewardship, climate resiliency, green infrastructure (rain gardens, green roofs), watershed and ecosystem protection, plant propagation, and food production/access.

“This support of the Branches to Chances® program and the Delaware River Climate Corps will directly impact the lives of our participants by allowing us to provide employment well above minimum wage and to extend the work season to span the winter months,” said Vikram Krishnamurthy, Executive Director of DCH. “We appreciate Bank of America’s generous award and continued support of our crucial, life changing programs.”

The grant is part of Bank of America's philanthropic giving efforts in local communities. Awardees were selected for their commitment to addressing basic needs and workforce development for individuals and families.

“DCH is creating stronger and more vibrant communities through the power of horticulture, education, and conservation,” said Chip Rossi, President of Bank of America Delaware. “We continue to support their vital mission and the role they play in connecting people to meaningful and well-paying work.”

In addition to the Branches to Chances® program and the Delaware River Climate Corps, the Delaware Center for Horticulture provides a variety of programs on horticulture, tree planting and care, community gardening, and public greening. The facility is located in Wilmington’s Trolley Square neighborhood and is available to rent for events; the gardens are free and open to the public year-round.

The Delaware Center for Horticulture

Since 1977, the Delaware Center for Horticulture has inspired individuals and communities through the power of plants. Its work includes creating and maintaining the first Urban Farm in the city of Wilmington, establishing the Branches to Chances® Return to Work Program, beautifying public landscapes, planting and advising on the urban placement of trees, and hosting educational programs and community events. For more information, visit www.thedch.org.

Bank of America

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