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WIL OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA'S INAUGURAL "FUN" RAISER CELEBRATES ORGANIZATION'S TAX-EXEMPT STATUS

PHILADELPHIA (Oct. 13, 2015) — WIL of Greater Philadelphia, an organization that empowers women in developing countries to raise their economic and social status, promote self-determination and become community leaders, announced today it has achieved a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit status. The women-run organization funds microfinance projects and makes empowerment grants to very poor women and girls in developing nations; the 501 (c)(3) status will greatly increase WIL's ability to achieve its mission. To celebrate its status, WIL will host its inaugural "FUN" raiser at Fringe Arts on Thursday, Nov. 5 at 5:30 p.m.

"WIL is a group of Philadelphia area women who care passionately about helping very poor women and girls in developing countries," said Bryna Scott, board member and chairperson of the "FUN" raiser. "We come together with diverse backgrounds and a common interest in global women issues, constantly thinking of ways we can reach out to poor communities in countries like Haiti, Guatemala and Cuba—financially and spiritually. At the FUN raiser, we look to honor all those who work to make WIL's global initiatives possible."

One of WIL's biggest contributions is its microfinance projects in which its members donate to nongovernmental nonprofit organizations (NGOs) in developing countries in order for them to establish village banks in poor communities. Each village bank distributes \$5,000 to 15-20 women to help their small businesses flourish, and those women pay back the money by the end of their term. WIL has funded 11 village banks in nine countries—Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, South Africa, Ghana, Haiti, Tanzania, East Timor & the Philippines. A 12th village bank will be established in Kenya.

The nonprofit, now tax-exempt, organization also raises funds to provide "Empowerment Grants" to nonprofit organizations working in developing countries. The Empowerment Grants target areas of WIL's mission other than microfinance and village banks, such as education, health, training, social and political empowerment for women and girls. In 2015 WIL provided just over \$4,000 in grants to six different nonprofits located in Haiti, South Africa, India, Nigeria and Vietnam, including a \$500 grant to the Bombay Teen Challenge, an organization that provides library books to young women and children who are victims of human trafficking.

Honorees will be presented with awards at the "FUN" raiser for their contributions toward WIL of Greater Philadelphia's initiatives. Linda Resnick, former president of the organization, will receive the Bobbie Gohn Inspiration Award for co-founding WIL, as well as dedicating her nonprofit experience and activism for women's rights to WIL. Leigh Carter, founding director of Fonkoze USA—the fundraising and communications affiliate for Haiti's largest microfinance institution—will receive the Microfinance Innovator Award on behalf of Fonkoze for providing services to over 200,000 clients in Haiti. Receiving the Corporate Supporter Award will be KPMG—a global network of professional firms providing Audit, Tax and Advisory services—for consistently serving as WIL's principal corporate sponsor.

Thanks to WIL of Greater Philadelphia's tax-exempt status, friends, family members and colleagues of WIL can donate to the organization and are invited to attend the Nov. 5 "FUN" raiser to celebrate WIL for its dedication to helping women thrive in developing countries. To register for the event by Thursday, Oct. 22 or donate to the organization, please visit www.wil-gp.org.

ABOUT WIL OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

WIL of Greater Philadelphia, founded in 2007, is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization that brings together women from diverse backgrounds who are committed to empowering women socially and economically in developing countries. Members contribute their time, knowledge and funds to support a broad array of projects. WIL has allocated \$55,000 to nongovernmental organizations in third-world countries to establish village banks, in addition to providing “Empowerment Grants” to nonprofit organizations that implement education and health initiatives. The organization has also worked on educational programs and artisanal collectives. For more information, visit www.wil-gp.org.

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