

South Wilmington PLANNING NETWORK

Brittany Salen, *Chair* Executive Director

Environmental Justice Initiative
William Swiatek, Vice Chair

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Wilmington Area Planning Council

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Councilperson
City of Wilmington

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Alison Windle, Executive Director Neighborhood House

Deborah Wiggin Neff, Population Health Specialist Nemours Health & Prevention Services

Jim Black, Consultant Delaware Partnership for Sustainability

Patricia Kelleher, Executive Director Delaware Housing Coalition

Victor Perez, Assistant Professor *University of Delaware*

Randi Novakoff, Chairperson SWPN Youth Committee February 7, 2017

Kenny Family Foundation 501 S. Walnut Street Wilmington, DE 19801

RE: Donation Request of \$1000 to Support Health Education in the form of Cooking Demonstrations

The South Wilmington Planning Network (SWPN) functions in collaboration with neighborhood residents, state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and private agencies. The mission of the Network is to serve as a vehicle for information-sharing. By working collaboratively to leverage resources for neighborhood projects, the SWPN seeks to ensure that communities like Southbridge remain healthy spaces *for all* to live, work, and play.

The SWPN is partnering with the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension to conduct cooking demonstrations at community events held at The Neighborhood House in Southbridge, Delaware. Due to health regulations in Delaware, produce used in demonstrations must be purchased directly from commercial sources.

The South Wilmington Planning Network is requesting \$1000 in order to provide produce for educational demonstrations on healthy eating during a series of Community Dinners and Youth Farm Stand events this year. Funds would support free and healthy cooking demonstrations on the 2nd Friday of each month from May through September 2017 by providing the needed produce.

Through the Youth Farm Stand Program, young residents receive first-hand experience and are exposed to the complex processes of successful urban farming, including: planting, germinating, composting, harvesting, marketing, pricing, and selling of various fruits, vegetables, and flowers. The Community Dinner Program, held in conjunction with Farm Stand events, is designed to help bring people from the local community together to share a healthy meal and participate in health education discussions and activities.

If granted a donation from the Kenny Family Foundation, the SWPN will have the resources to expand our Youth Gardening Program from **growing** and **selling** to also include **cooking** and **eating**!

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at (607) 592-7650 or via email at brittsalen@ejinitiative.org.

Sincerely,

Brittany Salen
South Wilmington Planning Network, Chair