



NEWS RELEASE

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JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF NEW JERSEY RECEIVES GRANT FROM RENT-A-CENTER

Funding will increase financial literacy program implementation for K-12 students.

Camden, NJ – Junior Achievement of New Jersey (JANJ) announced today that it will receive a grant from Rent-A-Center, Inc., to fund expansion for Junior Achievement's K-12 financial literacy programs.

The \$4,400 grant — one of 35 available to local JA operations this year — will enable JANJ to extend the scope of its programs, emphasizing the critical need for financial education among young people. With the funding, the JA operation will be better equipped to engage community volunteers to implement JA programs, teaching students age-appropriate, hands-on lessons in budgeting, saving, investing and spending.

All JA programs implemented through Rent-A-Center grants must be delivered in schools in which 51 percent of the student population qualifies for a free or reduced lunch program. The funding is part of a nationwide initiative between JA and Rent-A-Center, which involves an \$800,000 grant to be dispersed over a four-year period. JA Offices throughout the United States have the opportunity to apply for the annual funding.

"We are proud to support Junior Achievement in its efforts to educate and inspire young people around the country," says Mark Speese, Rent-A-Center chairman and CEO. "JA Worldwide's programs teach our students valuable lessons that they will use in their future careers and in life, and we are happy to provide assistance that will help the organization reach even more students."

"Junior Achievement of New Jersey is extremely appreciative of the support of Rent-A-Center," says Catherine Milone, President. "Now, more than ever, strong personal financial literacy skills are key to our economic recovery and to preventing another financial crisis. Junior Achievement's financial literacy programs help students learn these skills so they can make informed decisions."

This grant from Rent-A-Center specifically funded seven JA classroom programs taught by 20 students from Brimm Medical Arts High School in Camden during a JA High School Heroes/JA Day event at George Washington Elementary School on March 27, 2009, reaching 170 kindergarten through 2nd graders.

About Junior Achievement® (JA)

Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization dedicated to inspiring and preparing young people to succeed in a global economy. Through a dedicated volunteer network, Junior Achievement provides in-school and after-school programs for students which focus on three key content areas: work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. Today, 137 individual area operations reach more than four million students in the United States, with an additional five million students served by operations in 123 other countries worldwide. For more information, visit www.ja.org. This year, Junior Achievement of New Jersey, a member of JA Worldwide®, will reach more than 30,000 students in the Garden State. Please visit www.janj.org for more information.

About Rent-A-Center

Rent-A-Center, Inc., headquartered in Plano, Texas, currently operates more than 3,000 stores nationwide and in Canada and Puerto Rico with a focus on home furnishings and financial services. The Company employs approximately 18,500 co-workers. Learn more about Rent-A-Center and its community partnerships at www.rentacenter.com.