

PSRC, Young Audiences receive Horizon grants

By **KATIE MORGAN**
The Princeton Sun

The Princeton Senior Resource Center, a non-profit that provides services and activities to Princeton area residents over the age of 55, was awarded a \$15,000 grant last week to support the Living Healthy for Older Adults Program.

Young Audiences New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania, a Princeton-based non-profit arts and education program for children, also received a \$15,000 grant.

The grants, provided by The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, will help the two organizations continue to expand large outreach programs.

PSRC will expand the Living Healthy program, which offers workshops on common illnesses and diseases, referrals to services, discussions with health-care providers, health screenings, immunizations and fitness classes.

The grant provided by the Horizon Foundation to Young Audiences will support the Trenton Adopt-A-School initiative, which will bring arts education workshops to five Trenton schools.

"It's really a family arts and creativity program," Denyce Mylson, Young Audiences director of marketing and public relations, said. "We go into the schools and work with students and their families to create art. It empowers the students and gives the families active quality time together. We know the arts help children become more confident and creative human beings, and a lot of these schools don't have arts programming, or enough of it."

Grants from the Horizon Foundation have supported the Young Audiences Adopt-A-School program for several years.

"This means we can continue having this great program in the Trenton schools," Mylson said. "It might be difficult to continue if we had to find other funding, and it's fantastic that they're able to support us in that way."

The PSRC and Young Audiences are two of 25 organizations throughout the state that will benefit from more than \$500,000 in grants from the Horizon Foundation this month.

The Horizon Foundation, part of insurance provider Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, has been supporting the state's non-profits since it was founded in 2004.

"We make grants quarterly, four times per year," Thomas Vincz, Horizon Foundation spokesman, said. "In the last nine years, we've benefitted non-profits through 870 grants totalling nearly \$32 million."

Joan Hollendonner, senior programming officer for The Horizon Foundation, said the grants are designed to support important health and arts programs in the state.

"About 80 percent of our funding goes toward health issues, and 20 percent goes to support the arts," Hollendonner said. "We're trying to address, largely through prevention, leading health issues that impact New Jersey residents. If we can help to decrease these health issues and improve the quality of life, that's good for the people, good for the economy and good all around."

The PSRC and Young Audi-

ences followed a formal application process to apply for the grants.

The Horizon Foundation considered each project application based on, "the degree to which the project aligns with the Foundation's mission, the merit of the proposed project, the quality of the organization's programs and services, the amount requested, and the organization's relationship and standing within the community it proposes to serve," according to the application.

Robert Marino, chairman of the board of directors of the Horizon Foundation, said he was pleased that the grants cover such a broad range of projects.

"The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey is proud to support non-profit organizations that are making a positive difference in the lives of New Jersey residents every day," Marino said in a statement.

These grants fund a broad range of initiatives that improve personal health and enhance the cultural and arts experience in New Jersey's communities."

