



Press Release – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Riverview Gardens, Inc., Appleton Downtown, Inc. and City of Appleton
Receive Collaborative Grant for Downtown Appleton CARE Project**

Appleton, WI (June 16, 2016) – Riverview Gardens, Inc. announced that it received a three-year \$272,142 collaborative grant with Appleton Downtown Inc. and the City of Appleton from the Basic Needs Giving Partnership Fund from Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, Inc., supported by the U.S. Venture Fund for Basic Needs, the J. J. Keller Foundation and other community partners.

The collaboration between Riverview Gardens, Appleton Downtown and the City of Appleton provides job-training and transitional employment opportunities for participants of Riverview Gardens' impactful ServiceWorks® job-training program. Downtown CARE (Clean, Assess, Refresh and Enhance) teams, consisting of ServiceWorks participants, will supplement existing cleaning services within the downtown business improvement district managed by Appleton Downtown and the City, and they receive meaningful transferable skill-based and leadership training and work opportunities. Peer-led outreach connects individuals at Jones Park and the downtown Valley Transit Center with opportunities to be part of their own solution.

“Addressing the basic needs and self-sufficiency of our marginalized community members is not only the right thing to do but it enhances the vibrancy and accessibility of our city,” said Cindy Sahotsky, Riverview Gardens Executive Director. “There is dignity in work. Programs like this one help communities understand the potential of community members with barriers to stable employment. We are so grateful to the Community Foundation for this unique opportunity to address root causes.”

“This project will give our community members experiencing homelessness and other barriers an opportunity to enhance their skills and help them on their road to finding stable employment and at the same time beautify our downtown through their efforts,” said Mayor Tim Hanna. “This is another great collaboration for the city with our partner organizations here in Appleton and we thank the Community Foundation for seeing the value in this program.”

A CARE collaboration kick-off event for local business owners and community members is scheduled for Thursday, June 30, 2016, 3-5pm at Riverview Gardens' 513 W. College Avenue building in downtown Appleton.

The mission of Riverview Gardens, Inc. is to provide job training to transform a community. Appleton Downtown, Inc. (ADI) is a not-for-profit community coalition dedicated to an economically strong, safe, attractive and exciting downtown.

For more information, please contact Riverview Gardens Director of Resource Management, Kelly Nutty, at 920-378-8527 or knutty@riverviewgardens.org.