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PRESS RELEASE

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Superintendent Rouhanifard Announces \$250,000 Grant to Bring More Modern Resources and Opportunities to Camden Classrooms

Parents, educators cheer philanthropists' matching grant that could bring a half-million dollars' worth of resources and experiences to Camden City

September 2, 2015 – Office of the Superintendent, Camden, NJ – Camden City School District teachers returned to school today for the first day of training, and they received some welcome news: up to \$500,000 of resources and experiential learning opportunities are coming to Camden City classrooms.

Superintendent Paymon Rouhanifard made the announcement this morning to educators and parents at Harry C. Sharp Elementary School in East Camden. Thanks to a generous \$250,000 donation from John Langan and Judith Nadell of Townsend Press, DonorsChoose.org is offering a *Double Your Impact Match Offer* to all teachers in Camden City public schools. The couple is also donating \$50,000 to modernize the library at MetEast High School into a 21st-century learning environment for college- and career-bound students.

“Because of the Langans’ generosity, thousands of Camden students will be able to innovative with more technology, create with more art supplies, and experience more hands-on learning opportunities,” said Superintendent Rouhanifard. “I am deeply grateful for their support, and I encourage our teachers to begin brainstorming how they can make the most of this extraordinary gift.”

To give themselves the best chance of having their request funded, teachers are encouraged to post projects totaling \$1,000 or less. After the teacher secures half of the total cost of the DonorsChoose.org project, the donation will pay off the remaining balance of the project costs. In total, the *Double Your Impact Match Offer* will provide an opportunity for an additional \$500,000 in resources for Camden Students.

"Thanks to Townsend Press, we're about to take a huge step forward in supporting students and teachers in Camden – a community that needs and deserves our full support," said Charles Best, founder and CEO of DonorsChoose.org. "We're humbled by the commitment Townsend Press has made to ensuring Camden students and teachers start the year with the materials and resources they need most."

Teachers are encouraged to begin developing and posting their projects immediately. The *Double Your Impact* match logo will appear on all qualifying Camden City projects beginning on the first day of school,



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September 8, and will be located at donorschoose.org/camden2015. The *Double Your Impact Match Offer* will remain on qualifying Camden City projects until all of the donation funds have been distributed to schools.

“For those people who say no one cares about Camden, there are now 250,000 more reasons why you’re wrong,” said Evelyn Ruiz, principal of Sharp Elementary School, which participated more heavily than any other District school in the previous DonorsChoose.org campaign sponsored by the Langans. “My teachers and parents are so excited about this opportunity to create richer learning experiences for our students, and we couldn’t be more appreciative.”

“Because this donation is a match, we need support from the community and the region to make the most of this extraordinary potential to impact Camden schools,” said Superintendent Rouhanifard. “For the thousands of people who are planning to come through Camden during the upcoming papal visit, if you’re looking for a chance to give back to the city, consider this option.”

Camden educators have been training throughout the summer, with more than a half-dozen District school leaders attending a two-week training in New York City in July before all District school leaders gathered in August for seven full days of coaching. Hundreds of District teachers attended optional professional development last week before mandatory training commences Wednesday. The three days of teacher training before the school year is a feature of the new contract with the local teachers union.

The donation will support all Camden public school classrooms—District, charter, and renaissance—as part of the joint #AllSchoolsRise back-to-school campaign. School leaders are encouraged to work with their teachers to ensure that projects are aligned to the schools’ academic focus and needs.

To date, Camden City schools have had nearly 800 projects fully funded on DonorsChoose.org. These projects have put almost \$900,000 in resources into Camden classrooms.

About DonorsChoose.org

Founded in 2000, DonorsChoose.org makes it easy for anyone to help a classroom in need. At this nonprofit website, teachers at half of all the public schools in America have created project requests and more than a million people have donated \$342 million to projects that inspire them. All told, over 15 million students—most from low-income communities, and many in disaster-stricken areas—have received books, art supplies, field trips, technology and other resources that they need to learn.



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