

**PRESS RELEASE**

October 21, 2008

Contact Information:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Iris McKenney, Development Associate

Phone: 302.762.1132 ext. 45

Fax: 302.994.5273

Email: [IMcKenney@wilmingtonmusic.org](mailto:IMcKenney@wilmingtonmusic.org)



Stephanie Ferrell

**PHILANTHROPY DAY'S RISING STAR CONNECTS GENERATIONS**

WILMINGTON, DE – The Brandywine Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals is pleased to announce the 2008 Philanthropy Day Rising Star.

Ms. Stephanie Ferrell, Director of Development at Connecting Generations (CG), is this year's Rising Star which recognizes individuals with less than five years of outstanding service in fundraising. Originally from Greenwood, she is a graduate of Woodbridge High School and has an M.P.A. and B.S. from the University of Delaware. Ms. Ferrell began her fundraising career at YWCA Delaware under the tutelage of this year's Fundraising Executive of the Year, Michèle LeFever Quinn. While there, she represented YWCA Delaware on the Board of the Delaware Women's Conference. She then returned to the University of Delaware as the Grant and Project Coordinator in the Center for Disabilities Studies.

In 2007, Ms. Ferrell arrived at Connecting Generations in Wilmington. Begun in 1990 by Robert Kasey, CG provides intergenerational mentoring. Their "mission is to provide creative programs and services that help children and adults lead purposeful, fulfilling and self-directed lives." Those who mentor are the core of CG and under Ms. Ferrell's guidance, those volunteers as well as CG's mission, were celebrated for the first time at their annual fundraising event, Jazz in January. Ms. Ferrell states, "I believe whole-heartedly that the effort put into events is only worth it if you make sure to focus on the mission and inspire the people who attend to get even more involved in the organization." Ms. Ferrell has taken a non-existent development department and

turned it on its head. She has implemented “a fund development committee...and created a fundraising plan that includes introduction, cultivation, on going communication, and appreciation.”

Ms. Ferrell is proud to be a ‘mentee’ of YWCA Delaware’s Michèle Quinn, demonstrating a fundamental rule of fundraising; believing in your mission.

Brandywine Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals hosts National Philanthropy Day ®, on November 13, 8:00a.m. – 2:00p.m., at Deerfield Golf & Tennis Club, 507 Thompson Station Road, Newark, DE. The day includes workshops and an awards luncheon. Tickets are available for the entire day or just for the lunch. For more information, visit [www.afpbrandywine.afpnet.org](http://www.afpbrandywine.afpnet.org) or call 302.778.1595.

This year’s Philanthropy Day sponsors include Chase, DuPont, Delaware Community Foundation, Community Counseling Service Co., LLC, Advanta National Bank, Aloysius Butler & Clark, Citizens Bank, PNC Bank, DE and The News Journal.

The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) represents nearly 30,000 members in more than 200 chapters throughout the world, working to advance philanthropy through advocacy, research, education and certification programs. AFP fosters development and growth in the fundraising profession. The AFP Brandywine Chapter serves communities in DE, PA, MD and NJ.

Connecting Generations is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, with the programs Creative Mentoring, Seasons of Respect, and Creative Transitions. Their mission is to provide creative programs and services that help Delaware’s children and adults lead purposeful, fulfilling, and self-directed lives. Their website is [www.connecting-generations.org](http://www.connecting-generations.org). Their Jazz in January 2009 fundraising and celebration event will be held on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at the DuPont Country Club.

###