



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Noemi Santana
(917) 593-9659

Family Life Academy Charter School I Receives Donation from Spring Bank High Value Placed by Both Organizations on Good Nutrition for Kids

Bronx, New York -- February 29, 2016 – Demetris Giannoulis, Chief Executive Officer of Spring Bank, with locations in Harlem and the Bronx, New York, believes that raising awareness about the high hunger index in the areas served by his bank can be a first step in improving the economic strength of poor communities. On Friday, February 26, 2016, Mr. Giannoulis presented Family Life Academy Charter School I with a check in the amount of \$6,000 to help defray the cost of the replacement of a steam table for the FLACS Café that daily feeds approximately 468 students.

“As a community bank, you readily feel the pulse of your customers on their frequent and consistent visits to conduct their banking needs. Their bank accounts provide a picture of their reality and you quickly begin to attach a face to their transactions. You learn about their needs and aspirations as well as the future they want for their children. You also learn that food poverty, or the lack of high-quality, nutritious food choices are largely absent in poor communities. There is a direct correlation about how the access to a well-balanced diet can improve a child’s ability to learn and we see education as a step in the right direction towards financial health. That’s why we are happy to support programs such as the one offered by Family Life Academy Charter School I,” stated Demetris Giannoulis.

Family Life Academy Charter School I, known as FLACS I with address at 14 West 170th Street, Bronx, NY 10452, converted seven years ago from traditional, packaged, frozen foods to a chef-driven kitchen that daily provides freshly cooked, well-balanced meals to its students. FLACS I was one of the first public schools in the Bronx to move in this direction. The school is located in the poorest Congressional District (CD 15) in the country which additionally has the highest hunger index of any CD in the U.S. The Kindergarten through 8th grade school provides free meals to 88% of its student population who qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program based on the poverty index.

Chef Bennett Fins, FLACS’ Executive Chef, believes that: “All children deserve and need fresh, nutritious food to keep them healthy. Our students get to choose from an array of vegetables and fruit every day in addition to getting hot soup, cooked vegetables and, depending on the day of the week, chicken, fish, turkey or beef. Once in a while they get thin crust pizza and occasionally we provide a portion-controlled dessert. And it does not cost any more than the pre-packaged food! What I find really special is that our middle-schoolers get to choose to participate in the FLACS Cooking Club which has become the most popular elective. Kids learn how to shop, prepare food, and how to create healthy menus. At the Cooking Club graduations, students show off their newly acquired skills by cooking and serving their families and friends a five-course meal. Our students introduce healthy eating to their families. We are most grateful to Spring Bank for their donation that now allows us to replace a well-worn salad bar cart.”

-More-

14 West 170th St.
Bronx, NY 10452
718-410-8100
www.flacsny.com

FLACS I Receives Donation from Spring Bank

Page 2 of 2

February 29, 2016

Mr. Michael Adler, Assistant Principal and Dean of FLACS I, represented the Principal, Ms. Debra Friday who was at an education conference, and on behalf of the school presented Mr. Giannoulis and Spring Bank with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of their contribution. Also present were: for Spring Bank, Mr. Barry Mann, Chief Financial Officer and Ms. Melanie Stern, Community Reinvestment Act Officer and Director, Consumer Lending; and Ms. Lorin Brown, Director of Development; and Ms. Noemi Santana, Director of Communications and External Relations for the FLACS Network of Schools.

###

Family Life Academy Charter Schools are public charter schools, registered as not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) in the State of New York and are community grown schools sponsored by the Latino Pastoral Action Center. FLACS I and the Network Administrative Office are located at: 14 West 170th Street, Bronx, New York 10452: Tel.: (718) 410-8100 – flacs.flacsny.com. FLACS II location: 296 E. 140th St., Bronx, NY 10454: Tel.: (718) 665-2805 – flacs2.flacsny.com. FLACS III temporary location: 296 E. 140th St., Bronx, NY 10454: Tel.: (718) 665-2805 – flacs3.flacsny.com