



**MARRIOTT
SYRACUSE DOWNTOWN**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARRIOTT SYRACUSE DOWNTOWN EMPLOYEES DONATE TO LITERACY CNY

\$2,000 Grant Part of New “Spirit to Serve: Community Piece of The Puzzle” Initiative to Benefit CNY Not-For-Profits

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Feb. 24, 2017 – Employees of the Marriott Syracuse Downtown recently awarded LiteracyCNY a \$2,000 grant as part of a new local giving program called, “Spirit to Serve: Community Piece of The Puzzle.” The program, which aligns with Marriott International’s global “Spirit to Serve” initiative, allocates a portion of local hotel revenue for donation to local not-for-profit organizations, which are chosen by employees. LiteracyCNY is the first recipient monthly award.

According to Paul McNeil, General Manager, Marriott Syracuse Downtown, the “Spirit to Serve: Community Piece of The Puzzle” commitment exemplifies the strong connection between the hotel and the Syracuse community. “This hotel and its employees are an important part of the fabric of this area. Through ‘Spirit to Serve,’ our team has the opportunity to further enrich their community through their employment here at the Hotel.”

LiteracyCNY, which helps adults attain the literacy skills needed to live and work in the community, was ideally suited to be the inaugural recipient of a “Spirit to Serve: Community Piece of The Puzzle” grant, McNeil explained. “Like the hotel, LiteracyCNY has a rich history in contributing to the vibrancy of this community. Their efforts to improve adult literacy positively impacts the entire region, including our hotel.”

For LiteracyCNY, donations like the “Spirit to Serve: Community Piece of The Puzzle” grant are critical to the sustainability of local adult literacy programs, according to Marsha Tait, Executive Director of LiteracyCNY. “The extent to which we can provide adult literacy skills training is directly related to community giving. We appreciate the support of the management and employees of the Marriott Syracuse Downtown. Their generosity will help us continue our mission to strengthen our community through adult literacy.”

About Community Piece of the Puzzle Award

To demonstrate its “Spirit to Serve” commitment, the Marriott Syracuse Downtown has established the “Community Piece of the Puzzle” Award. This award is in recognition and support of the vital role that our community partners play within our community. Each month in 2017, Marriott Syracuse Downtown employees will select a local non-profit, community-based organization to be honored for its contributions to the City of Syracuse and Onondaga County. In addition to highlighting the organization for its mission, accomplishments and future endeavors, the “Spirit to Serve: Community Piece of the Puzzle” Monthly Award aims to educate and promote this organization throughout the entire month in which the award is made.

For more information about “Spirit to Serve: Community Piece of The Puzzle,” contact Paul McNeil, General Manager, Marriott Syracuse Downtown at 315-474-2424.

About Marriott Syracuse Downtown

Located in one of the area's most historic buildings, the new 261-room Marriott Syracuse Downtown opened in fall 2016 after a major renovation to restore the hotel to its original glory. Conveniently situated just minutes from all that downtown Syracuse has to offer, from its many businesses to numerous entertainment venues and cultural sites, the hotel is an ideal destination for business and leisure travelers alike. The hotel's stylish interiors combine history and modernity – with original features dating back to 1924 and new furnishings designed by local Stickley furniture. In addition to the hotel's restaurant, Eleven Waters, and its casual gathering spot, The Cavalier Room, Marriott Syracuse Downtown offers a choice of 23 event rooms that include expansive, state-of-the-art meeting venues and facilities for up to 1,330 guests. All main floor meeting rooms, as well as the Finger Lakes Ballroom, meet the discerning standards of International Association of Conference Centers (IACC). The hotel is located at 100 E. Onondaga Street and is managed by Crescent Hotels & Resorts. For more information, call (315) 474-2424 or visit marriottsyracusedowntown.com.

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