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**Canyon Ranch Institute Announces 2016 CRI Healthy World Scholarship Recipients**

*Four teams focused on improving children's lives through healthy eating will visit Canyon Ranch to collaborate and create lasting change in low-income communities*

**TUCSON, AZ (March 29, 2016)** – Four teams of health and well-being professionals working to improve children's nutrition in low-income communities have been named recipients of the 2016 Canyon Ranch Institute Healthy World Scholarship. The teams -- made up of 15 dedicated experts from such diverse fields as health care, food service, education, and non-profit innovation -- live and work in the communities of Chinle, AZ; Greenville, SC; Savannah, GA; and Wilkes County, NC.

World-renowned health and wellness resort Canyon Ranch partnered with the non-profit Canyon Ranch Institute to develop the CRI Healthy World Scholarship program, which is designed to create lasting change in the health and well-being of children. For 2016, the program sought applications from interdisciplinary teams collaborating across systems and organizations to improve children's health and well-being through healthy eating.

“Good nutrition is essential to children's growth and development, but children in low-income communities often have limited access to healthy food,” says Jennifer Cabe, M.A., Canyon Ranch Institute Executive Director and Board Member. “We know that many of the chronic diseases that people experience are related to eating unhealthy foods and unhealthy portions. By supporting these teams now, Canyon Ranch Institute and Canyon Ranch are investing at the community level in changing systems and organizations that directly influence what low-income children eat every day.”

Recipients were selected through a competitive application process and rigorous reviews by impartial CRI volunteers representing a variety of professional disciplines.

Recipients of the CRI Healthy World Scholarship will travel to Canyon Ranch in Tucson, AZ, in July 2016, to meet with thought leaders in the fields of fitness, health literacy, integrative health, nutrition, partnership development and sustainability, and public health. The experience will support and strengthen the teams' collaborative efforts to improve the health and well-being of children in their communities.

The 2016 CRI Healthy World Scholarship teams and their projects are:

- The “Growing Healthy Dine Families” team from Chinle, AZ – supported by the Navajo Area Indian Health Service – will strengthen its home-visiting program, Family Spirit, by developing culturally competent strategies and curriculum to prevent early childhood obesity in their rural community.
- The “New Impact: A Healthy Lifestyles Program” team from Greenville, SC – supported by Children's Hospital of Greenville Health System – will focus on strategic planning efforts for a new community child health initiative as well as improving the curriculum and evaluation of their New Impact program, a healthy lifestyle and nutrition program for families.

- The “C-Port Youth Empowered” team from Savannah, GA – will expand Forsyth Farmer Market’s Bring it Home and Farm Truck 912 programs, to include new youth-focused nutrition and cooking curriculum and evaluation.
- The “Wilkes Health Action Team” from Wilkes County, NC – supported by The Health Foundation – will influence and advance organizational practices and community-wide policies that improve opportunities for healthy eating in order to eliminate health disparities in their rural Western North Carolina community.

“The diversity of these teams and their work with some of our nation’s most vulnerable children are very impressive,” says Maggie King, manager for the CRI Healthy World Scholarship program. “We’re excited to see how each team uses their scholarship experience to produce even greater positive changes in the health of children and the communities where they live.”

More information about the [CRI Healthy World Scholarship program](#) is available at [canyonranchinstitute.org](http://canyonranchinstitute.org).

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**About Canyon Ranch Institute:** Canyon Ranch Institute is a 501(c)3 non-profit public charity that catalyzes the possibility of optimal health for all people by translating the best practices of Canyon Ranch and our partners to help educate, inspire, and empower *every person* to prevent disease and embrace a life of wellness.

More information on Canyon Ranch Institute is available at [www.canyonranchinstitute.org](http://www.canyonranchinstitute.org), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

**About Canyon Ranch®:** Canyon Ranch® has been a pioneer and an industry-leading proponent of the wellness lifestyle for nearly 40 years, operating the world’s most celebrated collection of life-enhancement properties. Canyon Ranch has wellness destination resorts in Tucson, AZ, and Lenox, MA. In addition, Canyon Ranch operates a SpaClub® day spa at The Venetian® & The Palazzo® hotels in Las Vegas, Nev., Canyon Ranch SpaClub at Sea® facilities onboard Cunard’s Queen Mary 2® luxury ocean liner, Oceania® and Regent Seven Seas Cruises®, and on Celebrity Cruises®. Canyon Ranch is proud to bring its holistic and integrative approach to wellness to the global stage with its international destination resort Canyon Ranch Wellness Resort at Kaplankaya near Bodrum, Turkey, opening July 2016. Canyon Ranch is a 13-time winner of Travel + Leisure’s Best Spa Award and an 11-time recipient of the Condé Nast Traveler Best Destination Spa Award.