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HACKENSACK (April 23, 2010) "**Women United in Philanthropy** and Fairleigh Dickinson University have joined with more than 40 **Bergen County** women's groups, organizations and businesses, to sponsor a remarkable evening Thursday, May 6 at the Rothman Center in Hackensack featuring Dr. Maya Angelou, poet, author, professor and one of our country (TM)s most extraordinary women.

The event, An Evening with Maya Angelou: A Celebration of Mothers, Daughters and the Sisterhood of Women, is a pre-Mother (TM)s Day event designed to encourage women to bring a guest. Tickets are priced at \$100 for two attendees. The program will begin at 7 p.m. Doors will open at 5 p.m. Parking is free.

A pre-event gathering will take place from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for all attendees, showcasing local women-run businesses, service organizations and programs. Attendees will have the chance to meet and network with women who care about women and learn more about the resources that exist for women and girls in **Bergen County**.

"This gathering is about lifting up all women l.it is about learning what we do to help one another, and what more we can and should do l and celebrate how remarkably wonderful we are, " said Maxine Frampton, director of **Women United in Philanthropy**. "Dr. Angelou is one of the most renowned and influential voices of our time. "

Dr. Angelou is a celebrated poet, memoirist, novelist, educator, dramatist, producer, actress, historian, filmmaker and civil rights activist. As a child in Stamps, Ark., she experienced the brutality of racial discrimination, but also absorbed the unshakable faith and values of traditional African-American family, community and culture.

As a young single mother, Dr. Angelou supported her son, Guy, by working as a waitress and cook; however, her passion for music, dance, performance, and poetry soon took center stage. She toured with a production of the opera "Porgy and Bess" and appeared on television in Alex Haley (TM)s "Roots," studied modern dance with Martha Graham, danced with Alvin Ailey, and published, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" along with more than 30 bestselling titles. President Clinton requested that she compose a poem to read at his inauguration in 1993. Her poem, "On the Pulse of the Morning" was broadcast live around the world. Her words and actions continue to stir our souls, energize our bodies, liberate our minds, and heal our hearts.

"To be inspired by Maya Angelou is a gift every woman should gift herself, " said Frampton. She has a voice that tells the stories of a generation of women. She (TM)s seen it all, and she speaks to the power of women to care for themselves and one another, and change the world. That (TM)s what we believe. "

Since its launch by **Bergen County** (TM)s **United Way** in 2005, **Women United in Philanthropy** has focused its giving on helping women become economically strong and independent.

"We are helping women in poverty get what they need to provide for themselves and their families, " said Hanna Salvatore of Tenafly and a member of the grants committee. "Often what they need most is a place to live, affordable health care, and the education, training and assistance to get a job that affords them a living wage. So we look to give our funds to programs that do just that. And we give one big gift, rather than lots of little ones, so we can make a big impact. "

***Women United in Philanthropy*** is a giving circle " the first women (TM)s giving circle in New Jersey. Membership is extended to women who contribute \$1,000 annually to a collective fund and vote each year to award a large impact grant to a local program helping women.

"When we started, we had fifteen members and a fund of \$15,000. Then we grew to 50 members, then 65 members, then 100 members. Our largest grant was two years ago, when we gave \$100,000 to start a bakery for young teenage moms in Teaneck. The size of our grant is dependent upon the number of members in our circle each year. To date, we have invested \$285,000 into our community, " said Gina Plotino, of New Milford who is a founding member of the group.

"We are growing our membership every day as we see women responding to this new idea of collective, strategic, democratic and local philanthropy by women, for women, " adds Frampton.

For information about joining ***Women United in Philanthropy*** or to reserve a ticket for An Evening with Maya Angelou go to [www.wuip.org/order2.cfm](http://www.wuip.org/order2.cfm) or call 201-291-0619.

***Highlights: Women United in Philanthropy, Bergen County, Bergen County, United Way, Women United in Philanthropy***