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Resource Center for Accessible Living, Inc. and Darden Restaurants Partner to Empower Disabled Individuals to Live Independently

[Kingston, NY] – March 11, 2014 – Resource Center for Accessible Living, Inc. (RCAL) today announced it has been selected to receive a \$2,000 grant as part of the Restaurant Community Grants program from the [Darden Restaurants Foundation, Inc.](#), the charitable arm of Darden Restaurants. RCAL will utilize this grant with its close community partner, Ulster County Office for the Aging (OFA).

The grants program, now in its third year, empowers each restaurant in the Darden family of brands to help award a \$1,000 grant to support local community programs. The donation will enable RCAL and OFA to carry out their vision to assist and empower elderly and disabled individuals to live healthfully and independently, and to participate in all aspects of community life.

Darden’s Red Lobster, Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse, Bahama Breeze, Seasons 52, The Capital Grille, Eddie V’s and Yard House brands participated in the program. Many restaurants and brands worked together to award one nonprofit organization with a larger grant and make a greater impact in their community. Nonprofits receiving grants support one of Darden’s three key focus areas: education, preservation of natural resources and hunger relief.

“Some of our employees focus their efforts toward Home Delivered Meals,” said Susan Hoger, Chief Executive Officer of RCAL. “That is where we would like to utilize this gift—for emergency meals for people with food insecurity.”

“We strive to make a positive impact in all the communities our restaurants serve,” said Gene Lee, Darden’s president and chief operating officer. “Our employees are incredibly passionate about getting directly involved in their local communities, and our Restaurant Community Grants program enables each of our restaurant teams to make a difference right in their own backyard.”

This \$2,000 will make all the difference in our mission of working with people in Ulster County who need assistance in their journey toward independence. RCAL, in partnership with OFA, will have a greater budget and opportunity to help obtain and provide nutritious meals and any other related, necessary services.

For more information about the Darden Foundation, please visit www.dardenfoundation.com.
For additional information on RCAL please visit www.rcal.org.
Also visit www.ulstercountyny.gov/aging

About RCAL

Our Mission is to assist people with disabilities to open the doors of opportunity and independence in the Ulster County region through self-determination by creating disability understanding and awareness, and access community-wide.

About OFA

The Office for the Aging is a department of Social Services that assists Ulster County seniors to be as independent as possible, for as long as possible in their own home with support. We work as advocates for seniors, offering information and referrals, as well as providing programs for a variety of services.

About Darden Restaurants

Darden Restaurants, Inc., (NYSE: DRI), owns and operates more than 2,100 restaurants that generate over \$8.5 billion in annual sales. Headquartered in Orlando, Fla., and employing more than 200,000 people, Darden is recognized for a culture that rewards caring for and responding to people. In 2014, Darden was named to the FORTUNE "100 Best Companies to Work For" list for the fourth year in a row. Our restaurant brands – Red Lobster, Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse, Bahama Breeze, Seasons 52, The Capital Grille, Eddie V's and Yard House – reflect the rich diversity of those who dine with us. Our brands are built on deep insights into what our guests want. For more information, please visit www.darden.com.

The Darden Foundation

The Darden Restaurants, Inc. Foundation is the charitable arm of Darden Restaurants, Inc. The Darden Foundation's mission is to maintain a spirit of service and community engagement as defining characteristics of Darden's family of restaurants – Red Lobster, Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse, Bahama Breeze, Seasons 52, The Capital Grille, Eddie V's and Yard House. Since 1995, the Darden Foundation has awarded more than \$71 million in grants to leading nonprofit organizations that align with its mission and community priorities: Recipe for Success[®], Preservation of Natural Resources and Good Neighbor grants. Through the Darden Harvest program, Darden Restaurants has also donated more than 66 million pounds of food to hunger relief agencies across the U.S. and Canada. In 2011, the Darden Foundation introduced the Restaurant Community Grants program that is dedicated to supporting local nonprofit organizations in the hundreds of communities where we live and serve. For more information, please visit www.dardenfoundation.com.

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