For Immediate Release: October 29, 2015
Contact: Linda Czipo, 732-227-0800

Somerset, N.J. -- The Center for Non-Profits, New Jersey’s umbrella organization for the charitable community will convene 400 leaders for its 2015 New Jersey Non-Profit Conference, Power, Purpose, Performance: Non-Profits Growing a Thriving Garden State, Wednesday, December 2 at the Palace at Somerset Park, Somerset, New Jersey.

This all-day event attracts professionals throughout the state from non-profit organizations, major funders, corporate sponsors, exhibitors, government officials and consultants.

The morning keynote, You are the Champions: The Power and Privilege of Non-Profit Leadership, will be presented by Joan Garry of Joan Garry Consulting. In 1981, Garry was part of the management team that launched MTV and for nearly a decade, she served as executive director of GLAAD, one of the largest gay rights organizations. As a consultant, based in Montclair, N.J., she now works with non-profit leaders in crisis management, executive coaching and the building of strong management teams. Her blog, Because Nonprofits are Messy, has over 20,000 followers nationwide.

The afternoon keynote, We are Unicorns: Why Non-Profits Must Believe in Our Own Power, will be presented by Vu Le, a "writer with attitude" according to the Chronicle of Philanthropy and the author behind the humor blog Nonprofit with Balls and Blue Avocado magazine - practical, provocative and fun food-for-thought for nonprofits. Le is also the executive director of Rainier Valley Corps, an organization that aims to bring more leaders of color into the non-profit sector. His philosophy for non-profits: “We should take the work seriously, but not ourselves.”

-Continued-
In addition to the plenary presentations, event participants can choose from a variety of in-depth breakout sessions tailored to every non-profit career level, and headed by leaders in the sector. “New Jersey non-profits are at the forefront of making our communities, state and nation better, stronger places. We need to come together to learn from each other in order to support the diverse communities we all serve,” commented Linda Czipo, executive director of The Center for Non-Profits. “Whether you’re a CEO, a board chair, a new staff member, a non-profit veteran or a frontline volunteer, this conference provides boundless learning and networking opportunities to send you back to your organization with renewed enthusiasm.” (Learn more about New Jersey non-profits from Czipo’s recent blog post in *Front and Center*: *First Things First: What Should Everyone Know About New Jersey Non-Profits?*


Registration includes breakfast and lunch keynote presentations; two workshops (topics range from resource building, communications, technology, collaborations, advocacy, leadership development and more); exhibit fair; and an after-event networking reception. Registration fees through November 20 are $165 for Center for Non-Profits members and $215 for non-members; some discounts are available for emerging leaders, AmeriCorps members and others. A limited amount of scholarships are available, as well. ($20 late registration fee after November 20, 2015.) For complete conference details and online registration, visit [http://www.njnonprofits.org/Conf2015Main.html](http://www.njnonprofits.org/Conf2015Main.html)

*The Center for Non-Profits founded in 1982, is a charitable umbrella organization serving New Jersey’s nonprofit community. The Center exists to build the power of New Jersey’s nonprofit community to improve the quality of life for the people of our state. Center programs include advocacy, public education, legal and management assistance, publications, workshops, and member services. For more information, visit the Center’s Web site, [www.njnonprofits.org](http://www.njnonprofits.org), or call (732) 227-0800.*

# # #

*(Photos of this year’s presenters and last year’s conference available upon request. Please contact: Susan Merrill O’Connor, communications specialist at the Center for Non-Profits, 732-227-0800, ext. 302 or susan@njnonprofits.org.)*