Two nonprofits awarded large grant, training from Bank of America

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people from my peer group still convne every six months by conference call."
Like Regnante, the other emergent leaders from her peer group now lead
their organizations.
"The way nonprofits do business today is so different from 20 to 30 years ago," she said. "All successful nonprofits have diversified enormously, and there has to be training for leadership. Agencies don't have a pot of money to send two or three people to training, and we're very grateful to Bank of America for this training - it has a tremendous impact on the people who have had the opportunity to go through it."

For Neighborhood Builders, Bank of America invites about 20 organizations in the Long Island market to submit applications each year. The program focuses on organizations concerned with workforce development, affordable housing and hunger relief, according to Isaksen, who noted the applicants are whittled down to 10 finalists. A panel that includes Isaksen and outside business experts, including a past Neighborhood Builder, comb through the applications, looking for financial stability and a well-thought-out plan of how the organization intends to use its funds.
"The organizations submit a very lengthy written application and the decision is made based on the strength of the application," Isaksen said. "It's a prominent group of judges and a robust conversation - people aren't shy about their opinions.
Mercy Haven and Circulo had "well-thought-out applications about how the funds would be used and how winning would benefit their mission," Isaksen said.
Mercy Haven, which provides temporary and permanent housing and supportive services to needy Long Islanders, will apply its grant funds toward support programs such as homeless outreach and free legal services, as well as to help initiate development of a $5 million, 16-unit apartment complex to further serve clients.
Circulo, which provides a wide range of human services, will apply its funds to workforce development programs and to transition to new leadership, as executive director and founder Gill Bernard looks to pass the baton after 35 years at the helm.

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