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ZIA, INC RECEIVES GRANT FROM W. W. SMITH CHARITABLE TRUST

Zia, Inc is pleased to announce it has been awarded a \$7,500 grant from The W.W. Smith Charitable Trust. This is the second grant that Zia has received from the W.W. Smith Charitable Trust in the last 3 years, which has been monumental in supporting Zia's mission of fighting food insecurity. This 2025 grant will support the organizations ongoing effort to expand its services to a second elementary school while continuing to provide high quality meal kits to food-insecure Philadelphia families, year-round.

The W. W. Smith Charitable Trust is a private foundation established by William Wikoff Smith in 1977 to make grants in the Greater Philadelphia region to support basic needs, higher education scholarships, maritime education, and medical research primarily for Heart Disease, Cancer and AIDS.

Zia was started in 2015 with the understanding that children with access to adequate food early in life have significantly better outcomes regarding their health, economic status, education, employment, and finances than their food-insecure counterparts. Zia's member families continuously state how impactful the service is for their families. Long-time Zia member Jessica M. said, *"Zia has helped me with bonding with my children through cooking and exploring recipes together and with the cost of groceries."*

Zia is excited to be able to use the grant funds from The W.W. Smith Charitable Trust to continue to make the meal-kits more robust and nutritious, while also looking to expand its services to a second school to help an even larger population of food insecure families in Philadelphia. Founder/President of Zia, Paula M. Jones, stated, *"Now more than ever, with huge amounts of government funding being cut for all manner of programs, Zia is still here, thanks to donors like the W. W. Smith Charitable Trust, providing food - one of the most basic tools we all need to grow into productive adults. Zia continues to support the most vulnerable members of our society, enabling them to show up to school, well-fed and ready to learn."*

As a 501c3 non-profit organization, Zia is staffed by committed and caring volunteers from the Philadelphia community, who ensure the operation of Zia runs smoothly each week.

For more information or to contact Zia, visit: www.ziafood.org.