NEW HAVEN (August 1, 2023) – The Prosperity Foundation announced Tuesday that it received a proclamation from Governor Ned Lamont declaring August as Black Philanthropy Month (BPM) in the state.

“I call upon public officials, givers of the luminary and everyday variety, professionals and volunteers from the philanthropic and nonprofit realm, faith-based congregants, the young and the forever young-hearted and all the people of the State of Connecticut observe this month, to celebrate and encourage the cultural richness and philanthropic spirit of our community, and to recognize the vital role generosity plays in ensuring a healthy, safe and prosperous community in which to live, work and flourish,” Governor Ned Lamont said in the proclamation.

BPM, a program of The Women Invested to Save Earth Fund (WISE), is a global celebration and campaign to highlight and celebrate Black giving and funding equity globally. Dr. Jackie Bouvier Copeland, WISE Chief Executive Officer and founder, launched the observance in 2011. Since then, states that have received BPM proclamations include Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, Virginia. Washington, DC and major cities like Chicago, New Orleans, Houston, Jacksonville, Nashville and Oakland.

“Black Philanthropy Month is a month where we can put a spotlight on giving to Black people, programs and organizations. Having this proclamation gives us an opportunity to bring awareness to economic justice,” said Orsella Hughes, executive director for The Prosperity Foundation. “It's also about supporting the people around us.”

Throughout the month, summits and conferences highlighting Black giving will take place across the country. The theme for this year is “Love and Action” and the hashtag is #BPM2023. The following events will take place locally.

8/2 - Celebrating Black Philanthropy: Love in Action, 12-2PM, Virtual
8/9 - Power of the Collective, 12-1PM, Virtual
8/28 - Black Giving Day, The goal is to raise $50K on this day and to encourage ongoing giving moving forward.

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ABOUT THE PROSPERITY FOUNDATION, INC.

Throughout the nation, Black families are disproportionately affected by structural imbalances, institutional racism, and economic inequality. The Prosperity Foundation is a community fund established to strengthen Connecticut’s Black communities in critical areas such as health, education, and economic development. Our mission is to create a sustainable system of support to meet the unique needs of Black communities in Connecticut. The organization is designed as a permanent endowment vehicle that provides opportunities to Connecticut’s Black communities to access capital to meet their unique needs. TPF also enables community members to engage in philanthropy by creating their own funds on our platform. Through coordinated, focused efforts, TPF believes that philanthropy funded and managed by Black people is a viable and sustainable means of addressing critical social and economic gaps in Black communities.