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## PRESIDENT OF HUDSON COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES RECEIVES 2004 HUMANITARIAN AWARD

### Maureen Walliser Honored by the National Conference for Community and Justice

Jersey City, NJ, May 25, 2004 – Hudson Community Enterprises (HCE), a collaborative nonprofit enterprise made up of forward-thinking social ventures and innovative employment preparation programs that help special needs people become self-sufficient, today announced that Maureen Walliser, president of HCE, received the 2004 Humanitarian Award from the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) in recognition of her far-reaching work in establishing vocational programs that have enabled thousands of special needs students to become independent, contributing members of the community. The NCCJ has a long and vital history as one of the leading organizations offering programs that teach tolerance for diversity.

“Maureen has been remarkably diligent in helping special needs people get one step closer to achieving their dreams. She richly deserves this recognition,” said NCCJ-NJ’s Executive Director Diane Schwartz. “The Humanitarian Award is given to those people who have made a commitment to humanitarian and philanthropic efforts to make their communities a better place for everyone,” said Ms. Schwartz. Founded in 1927 as the National Conference of Christians and Jews, NCCJ offers programs that teach mutual respect for race, religion, and culture.

“I am honored to receive this award,” said Maureen Walliser, president of HCE. “NCCJ is an organization that does pioneering work which, step by step, is building a society where diversity is valued and respected,” she said. “Besides arming our program participants with the knowledge and expertise they need to navigate today’s job market, we teach our students to understand and appreciate that every person deserves respect for who they are regardless of ethnicity or religion,” she said. Maureen Walliser has been a driving force in creating and implementing HCE’s vocational programs for special needs students and adults for over 20 years. HCE was the first vocational services organization in the United States to introduce and successfully operate a social enterprise. Additionally, HCE continues to be the favored agency to supply Fortune 1000 companies with special needs employees.

Other recipients of the 2004 Humanitarian Award include Marilyn Bennett, executive director of Horizon Health Center; Sallie Porter, executive director of Hudson Cradle; and Elnora Watson, executive director of the Urban League of Hudson County.

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**Improving the Community One Person at a Time**

## About NCCJ

The New Jersey Region of the National Conference for Community and Justice, active for 55 years in the state, was founded as the National Conference of Christians and Jews. NCCJ today serves more than 60 regions in 34 states and the District of Columbia and works to build communities of justice through its initiatives with youth, educators, workplace leaders, news and media, government and across faith lines.

## About Hudson Community Enterprises

Hudson Community Enterprises (HCE) is a collaborative non-profit enterprise made up of forward-thinking social ventures and innovative employment preparation programs that enable special needs people to become self-sufficient. HCE has been serving Hudson County for 47 years and offers vocational training in a variety of employment areas, vocational rehabilitation and job placement programs. HCE's four social ventures include Metro CleanRight providing commercial and consumer cleaning services throughout the Hudson County area, Metro Fulfillment Services providing a complete range of fulfillment services since 1957, Metro Litter Patrol, providing litter clean-up around Hudson County, and Metro Shredding, a mobile shredding company providing secure on-site and off-site shredding services on a scheduled and one-time basis. HCE has offices located at 68-70 Tuers Avenue, Jersey City, New Jersey; and 780 Montgomery Street, Jersey City, New Jersey. For more information please call 201-434-3303 or visit our web site at [www.hudsoncommunity.org](http://www.hudsoncommunity.org).

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