



Contact: Michele Fisher
Media Relations Specialist
732/235-9872
fisherm2@umdnj.edu

Long Branch Public Schools Achieve Success with “Wave of Hope” Event to Fight Cancer
The Cancer Institute of New Jersey Benefits from \$27K Raised During Annual Gathering

New Brunswick, N.J., August 3, 2007 –A check for \$27,000 was given to The Cancer Institute of New Jersey Foundation (CINJF) earlier this week following the second-annual Wave of Hope Walk for Cancer Research hosted in June by the Wave of Hope Foundation and the Long Branch Public Schools. The school organization known as “Wave of Hope” (after the school moniker “Green Wave”) recently became a foundation, further cementing its role in the greater community as a fundraising entity for those in need. Proceeds from the event help support cancer research at CINJ.

The walk was first started last year in honor of Karen Gizzi, a guidance counselor in the district and patient at CINJ, who died of cancer in 2005. It has continued with the goal of raising awareness about the disease that took Gizzi’s life. Schools Superintendent, Joseph M. Ferraina says Gizzi continues to serve as an inspiration to the Long Branch community, “Even though Karen is no longer with us, it is evident the kind of impact she had on our students and their families, for it is they who come out to this event year after year committed to making a difference in the fight against cancer.”

Event Co-Chairs Marissa Fornicola and Nicole Pellegrino, of the Gregory School and Lenna W. Conrow School, respectively, worked with the Wave of Hope Foundation Board and representatives from all ten schools in the district to coordinate this year’s walk – which also featured rides, music and food. The event was held in memory of the many beloved colleagues of the Long Branch Public School family who lost their battle with cancer and to support those who are currently fighting cancer or are cancer survivors.

Alexis “Lex” Tucci is the president of the Wave of Hope Foundation. He notes the annual walk is a wonderful way to teach children about philanthropy, “An event like the annual walk shows our youngsters that even the smallest contribution -- whether it be pocket change, making a poster, or telling a friend – truly can make a difference in the lives of others who need help. At the end of the day, that’s what giving is all about.”

Andy Zangrillo, who is a retired principal from the Long Branch district and the vice president of the Wave of Hope Foundation, echoes Tucci’s sentiment, “The annual walk serves as an educational tool for our children. The teachers in the district, who volunteer a great deal of their time and energy to the walk each year, use the experience as a springboard for discussion and other projects. As a retired educator, I can honestly say that sometimes ‘hands on’ teaching models are the best teaching models, and the children in Long Branch are definitely benefiting from it.”

“The fight against cancer truly is a community effort, and the Long Branch community continues to commit itself to this cause year after year. The bottom line is that only research will lead to better ways to control, treat and prevent cancer. The Wave of Hope proceeds provide critical resources for CINJ to

conduct this world-class research and move it from the lab to the bedside of the patients it will benefit,” said Michelle Walker, director of annual giving for CINJF.

The CINJ Foundation raises funds to support cancer research, treatment, prevention and education programs of CINJ. Gifts are received from corporations, foundations, individuals, special events and through planned gifts. To make a tax-deductible gift to New Jersey’s only NCI -designated Comprehensive Cancer Center call 732-235-8614 or visit www.cinjfoundation.org.

About The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is the state’s first and only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, and is dedicated to improving the prevention, detection, treatment and care of patients with cancer. CINJ’s physician-scientists engage in translational research, transforming their laboratory discoveries into clinical practice quite literally bringing research to life. The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is a Center of Excellence of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey Network is comprised of hospitals throughout the state and provides a mechanism to rapidly disseminate important discoveries into the community. Partner Hospitals: Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, Atlantic Health (Morristown Memorial Hospital and Overlook Hospital). Affiliate Hospitals: Bayshore Community Hospital, CentraState Healthcare System, Cooper University Hospital*, Jersey Shore University Medical Center, JFK Medical Center, Mountainside Hospital, Raritan Bay Medical Center, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Hamilton (CINJ-Hamilton), Saint Peter’s University Hospital, Somerset Medical Center, Southern Ocean County Hospital, The University Hospital/UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School*, and University Medical Center at Princeton. *Academic Affiliate

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