



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK PRESENTS A CELEBRATION TO PROVIDE HELP & CREATE HOPE

– On Tuesday, May 4, 2010, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark will hold its Fifth Annual Gala Celebration at Nanina’s in the Park in Belleville, NJ. All proceeds from the Gala will go to support the programs and services of Catholic Charities and its affiliates Mount Carmel Guild Behavioral Health System and Mount Carmel Guild Schools.

This year, Catholic Charities’ Humanitarian of the Year Award will be presented to Most Reverend John J. Myers, J.C.D., D.D., Archbishop of Newark. The Archbishop was appointed by Pope John Paul II as the fifth Archbishop of Newark in 2001. When Archbishop Myers went to the Vatican during one of his trips to Rome to report on the progress and concerns of the diocese, Archbishop Myers said that his papal appointment to Newark came as “a complete surprise”, but he emphasizes that the Archdiocese of Newark is now his home. As our Shepherd to the Lord, he is the spiritual leader to more than 1.3 million Catholics within the counties of Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union. Archbishop Myers has brought about a shining spirit of togetherness and has been the instrument of transformation within the communities we serve. Dr. Phillip Frese, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities will also present the Spirit of the Heart Awards to, Atiya Gordon, Jennifer Filannino, Sunil Ahuja, Allen Lalwani and Sangeeta Lalwani of the Sadhu Vaswani Center.

“I extend my congratulations to the Humanitarian of the Year recipient, Archbishop John Joseph Myers, for his dedication and leadership in our important ministry. I would also like to congratulate this year’s “Spirit of the Heart Award” recipients who have improved their lives and the lives of others through inspiration, commitment and perseverance. They are wonderful examples of individuals achieving greatness and success.

Ms. Gordon’s and Ms. Filannino’s accomplishments of their personal goals with hard work and guidance from our programs are proof that with perseverance success is within reach. According to Dr. Frese, “we are blessed with programs and staff that improve the quality of life for our consumers”.

Helping us improve the quality of life is the Sadhu Vaswani Center, Sunil Ahuja, Allen Lalwani and Sangeeta Lalwani, his wife. Through the center, Mr. Ahuja and the Sangeetas selected our shelters for their philosophy of “transforming

lives with love". Through their efforts our clients at Franciska Residence and St. Lucy's Shelter have received donated fresh fruits, vegetables and breads every week for the last nine years. Dr. Frese emphasized "it is this type of commitment to dedication that we extend to our consumers and recognize in our honorees."

This year we are pleased to announce that Governor Chris Christie and First Lady Mary Pat Christie will be attending the Gala.

For information about attending the Gala or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Tim Maher at 973-639-6531.