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FOR RELEASE ON NOVEMBER 6, 2006

## **Hudson Community Enterprises to Launch “Camino al Empleo,” an Hispanic Outreach Program**

### **Department of Labor Awards HCE \$111,910 for Hispanic Outreach Program**

**Jersey City, New Jersey, November 6, 2006** – Hudson Community Enterprises (HCE), a ground-breaking non-profit organization focused on creating meaningful, “real world” training and employment opportunities for the people with special needs today announced that it is launching its “Camino al Empleo” program (Passage to Employment), a Hispanic outreach program focused on providing vocational training and employment opportunities to Hispanic special needs people. It is funded by a grant in the amount of \$111,910 received from the New Jersey Department of Labor.

The project will bring together as partners the County One Stop, DVRS, the County’s Independence Living Program, the business community, and community based organizations. Camino al Empleo is focused on increasing awareness of vocational training and employment programs available to Hispanic people with special needs, and the ways in which these programs can improve their quality-of-life. The campaign is two-fold. One program targets all members of the Hispanic community to educate them about vocational training and employment resources available to the disabled. The other program targets area businesses to develop employment opportunities and increase their understanding of disability issues that impact the minority population in their community.

“The Hispanic community makes up more than 40% of the population in Hudson County compared to 9.6% of the State’s population,” said HCE President Maureen Walliser. “They are a proud and honorable culture. But there is a critical lack of awareness about the programs that are available to improve employment prospects for the disabled in their community. This needs to be remedied immediately,” she said.

For more information about the Camino al Empleo program, please contact Maureen Walliser at 201-434-3303 or email her at [mwalliser@hudsoncommunity.org](mailto:mwalliser@hudsoncommunity.org)

#### **About Hudson Community Enterprises**

Hudson Community Enterprises (HCE) is a collaborative non-profit organization made up of forward-thinking social enterprises and innovative employment preparation programs that enable people with special needs to become self-sufficient. HCE has been serving Hudson County for nearly 50 years and offers vocational training in a variety of employment areas, vocational rehabilitation and job placement programs. HCE’s four social enterprises include Metro Scanning, Metro Shredding, Metro Fulfillment and Metro LitterPatrol. HCE has offices located at 68-70 Tuers Avenue, Jersey City, New Jersey, and 780 Montgomery Street, Jersey City, New Jersey. For more information about HCE, please call 201-434-3303, email us at [info@hudsoncommunity.org](mailto:info@hudsoncommunity.org), or visit our web site at [www.hudsoncommunity.org](http://www.hudsoncommunity.org).

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