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Hudson County Executive Thomas A. DeGise Inducted as “Hero”

Hudson Community Enterprises Recognizes Thomas A. DeGise and His Ongoing Support and Dedication to Creating Employment Opportunities for People with Special Needs

Jersey City, New Jersey, October 10, 2006 – Hudson Community Enterprises (HCE), a non-profit enterprise made up of social enterprises and vocational training programs that enable special needs people to become self sufficient, today announced that they have inducted Hudson County Executive Thomas A. DeGise as a “Hero” into their Passport to Independence program in a ceremony held on Tuesday, October 10th at 10:00 a.m. at their facility located at 780 Montgomery Street, Jersey City, NJ.

The Passport to Independence program is a pioneering program that has been helping create and increase employment opportunities in areas that have not typically been open to people with special needs. It is designed to increase awareness among organizations about how they can enrich their community and put special needs people to work by using services that are offered by community rehabilitation programs like document imaging and shredding, or by putting our specially trained special needs people to work in areas like records management and scanning.

“Hudson Community Enterprises is essential to Hudson County,” said Hudson County Executive Thomas DeGise. “The world is changing and we have people out there that are being left behind. We can’t allow this to happen. HCE’s amazing history of helping people lead better and more satisfied lives because they have become self sufficient speaks volumes. HCE has recently opened up new and exciting areas for employment for special needs people in document imaging and records management. There is no doubt in my mind that they are a role model for all of us about what dedication and ingenuity can accomplish. Anything we can do to help them achieve their goals, well, it’s a win/win for everyone.

“Mr. DeGise has been a vocal advocate in the community on our behalf and on behalf of special needs people. He has continuously encouraged municipalities to step up to the plate to do things to create employment opportunities,” said HCE President Maureen Walliser. “For many years his

support has helped us expand our operations and our facilities. He is one of the reasons we've been as successful as we have," she said. "He has been a long time supporter of our Transition program, Metro LitterPatrol, one of HCE's social enterprise companies and he's helped get Metro Shredding and Metro Scanning operational. He is a true hero to us and to people with special needs in Hudson County," she said.

Mr. DeGise's support and dedication to creating opportunities for people with disabilities is in line with Executive Order 67, introduced by Acting Governor Richard J. Codey on November 21, 2005 directing all state agencies to work to increase their purchases of annual goods and services through the state's Central Non-Profit Agency (CNA) to 3%, a measure that would provide millions of additional dollars in employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities without increasing state spending. Governor Jon Corzine, upon assuming the Office of Governor, reinforced the efforts of the CNA set aside to create more jobs for people with disabilities by issuing a letter encouraging state agencies and cooperative purchasing partners to purchase goods and services offered by CNA Services and its Community Rehabilitation Program partners, like HCE.

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, or visit our web site at www.hudsoncommunity.org.

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