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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Millburn Charity Donates \$25,000 to Special Needs Schools

Annual Hoop-a-Paluzza fund-raiser netted \$215,000 for local charities that support children

MILLBURN, NJ – The Millburn-based Hoop-a-Paluzza Inc., (HAPI) Foundation has picked ECLC of New Jersey to join the roster of deserving charities it will support in 2011.

HAPI Foundation Executive Director, Lori Robinson, of Short Hills, announced a \$25,000 donation to support after-school and weekend programs for the special needs children who attend ECLC's schools in Chatham and Ho-Ho-Kus.

The generous gift helps ECLC continue its popular weekend sleepover program, where kids enjoy activities that their typical peers take for granted. The youngsters shop, play games at an arcade, catch a movie or go to a Nets or Devils game, enjoy a casual dinner and then sleepover at school or a nearby hotel.

Donations were raised in December during HAPI's annual Hoop-a-Paluzza event, an afternoon of carnival games, food, DJ music and nonstop basketball action. ECLC students and other beneficiaries and donors took turns at the foul line to see how many baskets they could sink for a good cause. The event raised a total of \$215,000 for area charities that support the physical and mental well-being of children.

Hoop-a-Paluzza was started in 2002 by Ed and Betsy Zimmerman of Short Hills in their driveway, with the simple belief that local, grassroots fundraising can have a profound impact on the health and well-being of children and their families. Since then, the charity was raised almost \$2.5 million. Learn more at <http://www.hoopapaluzza.org>.

About ECLC

Based in Chatham, ECLC operates schools in Ho-Ho-Kus and Chatham that educate more than 300 students, ages 5-21, with severe learning and/or language disabilities, autism or multiple disabilities. For its own graduates and other adult clients throughout the state, ECLC provides job placements and transition services through Community Personnel Services, Inc., and independent living skills habilitation in its P.R.I.D.E. day and evening programs. Learn more about ECLC at <http://www.eclofnj.org>.