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IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 4, 2010

Millburn Students Say Good-Bye to Special Friends

Students have been helping developmentally disabled youngsters from ECLC of New Jersey

CHATHAM, NJ – Seniors from Millburn High School recently said good-bye to a group of special friends, graduating students from ECLC of New Jersey's school in Chatham. The evening marked the conclusion of PAIRS – an award-winning program in which the Millburn youngsters conduct weekly enrichment workshops for ECLC's special-needs students, including basketball, arts and crafts, games and just plain hanging out. In 2008, PAIRS (Partners in Afterschool Inclusive Recreation for Special Needs) was honored by the New Jersey School Boards Association as an exemplary, innovative program.

ECLC is celebrating its 40th anniversary. The non-profit ECLC has grown from a small, early-intervention program into a comprehensive network of non-profit agencies serving special-needs children and adults throughout central and northern New Jersey. ECLC educates more than 300 students at schools in Chatham and Ho-Ho-Kus. And, for its graduates and other clients, ECLC provides job placements and transition services through Community Personnel Services, Inc., and vocational skills and independent living skills training in its P.R.I.D.E. adult program.