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Knights of Columbus Break Through \$20,000 Mark in Donations to ECLC of New Jersey!

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CHATHAM, N.J. – With a recent \$1,000 donation, the Knights of Columbus Chatham chapter has broken through a milestone: surpassing the \$20,000 mark in contributions to ECLC of New Jersey!

“We are so grateful to the Knights for their consistent support of ECLC over the years,” said Development Director, Heather Alonge. “We always know that we can count on their generosity!”

The Chatham chapter, which is called the Parcels Council, follows the tradition of helping those in need through an annual fund-raising drive that benefits the intellectually disabled. It has made contributions to ECLC every year, starting in 1992.

The Knights contributions and those of many other organizations and individuals have allowed ECLC, a nonprofit, based in Chatham, to expand from its original mission of education into much-needed adult programming. Today, ECLC offers lifelong services -- education, employment and enrichment -- to those with special needs, including autism, Down syndrome and severe learning and/or language disabilities.

“We are happy to support ECLC of New Jersey with contributions every year,” said Knights representative Jack Hurring. “It’s an organization that is in line with our mission of supporting families -- and has a special place in our hearts.”

About ECLC

ECLC’s two schools, in Chatham and Ho-Ho-Kus, educate more than 300 children with special needs from ages 5-21. In addition to academics, students enjoy many typical school experiences, from playing on sports teams and performing in musical shows to taking a date to the prom. They also receive occupational, physical and speech therapies and learn essential job skills through volunteer and paid work opportunities.

As students prepare to graduate, ECLC's affiliate, Community Personnel Services (CPS), also based in Chatham, takes over, guiding them into the next chapter of their young lives. CPS's employment specialists help them find jobs and provide ongoing support and advocacy.

ECLC graduates who are not ready for the workplace can enroll in the P.R.I.D.E. program, which offers adult clients an opportunity to enhance their daily living skills, socialize with peers and volunteer in the community. Last year, P.R.I.D.E. in Chatham added a micro-business venture, called P.R.I.D.E.CO, to give clients an opportunity to improve their work skills and earn a paycheck. Recently, a new P.R.I.D.E. Center opened in Paramus, at the site of a former print shop, with plans for yet another center on the horizon for 2013.

Meanwhile, the ECLC Foundation supplements funding for all entities and supports afterschool activities, respite weekends (overnights), alumni programs, adult services and capital projects. Learn more about ECLC at www.eclcofnj.org.