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**NJ SHARING NETWORK HONORS HACKENSACK UNIVERSITY MEDICAL
CENTER WITH TWO 'CIRCLE OF LIFE' AWARDS
FOR ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION EFFORTS**

Close to 400 nurses, doctors and other medical professionals gathered on April 4, 2008 at New Jersey Organ and Tissue Sharing Network's (NJ Sharing Network) 4th annual "Circle of Life" Gala held at PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel to recognize Hackensack University Medical Center's (HUMC) dedication to the donation process and significant achievement in 2007.

Janet Luce, RN, of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at HUMC, was presented the award for Nurse Champion for her exceptional clinical knowledge and her dedication to organ and tissue donation. Stephen Percy Jr., M.D., vice chairman of The Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital at HUMC, was also honored as the Physician Champion for 2007 for his unconditional support and commitment to help save lives.

"We have a great team of physicians and nurses whose work is far reaching. Countless amounts of people are helped through organ donation and it's fitting we recognize the people that help to make it happen," said Michael Shapiro, M.D., chief of Organ Transplantation at HUMC and vice medical director of the NJ Sharing Network.

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This event was created to honor and celebrate medical professionals who have a direct impact on saving the lives of the over 4,300 NJ residents waiting for a transplant. "We work with donors, donor families and recipients, and the supporting medical community on a daily basis," said Joseph Roth, NJ Sharing Network president and chief executive officer. "Being in a position to understand the medical and emotional complexities of donation, we realize that it takes special effort from doctors, nurses and a host of others to make the process as smooth, stress free and successful as it can be. The 'Circle of Life' awards allow us to honor the dedication and commitment of these outstanding professionals."

"This honor's significance embodies the strength and the selflessness of all of the families who during a time of tragedy gave the greatest gift of all – life," said Dr. Percy.

"As sad as it is when someone loses a life, it's amazing to know how many others are going to be touched by their gift," said Ms. Luce.

The NJ Sharing Network is a non-profit, federally certified and state approved organization responsible for recovering organs and tissue for New Jersey residents in need of transplants. For additional information, please visit www.sharenj.org.

The Organ Transplantation Section at HUMC has a number of renal and pancreatic specialists, along with a team of diabetologists, who thoroughly evaluate each transplant candidate and work closely with other members of the transplant team to ensure the success of the transplant. A multi-faceted, patient-centered approach to these life-saving procedures is utilized. Treatment is individualized, customizing pre-surgery treatment and post-surgery care to the specific health and wellness needs of the patient.

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The Organ Transplantation Section provides patients with a coordinated support system of medical, surgical, and social care professionals.

HealthGrades® named HUMC one of America's 50 Best Hospitals for the second consecutive year. This designation recognizes hospitals that have demonstrated superior clinical quality over a seven-year time period, based upon an analysis of more than 75 million Medicare patient records from 1999-2005. These hospitals have achieved better survival rates and lower complication rates across dozens of medical procedures and diagnoses, from cardiac care to orthopedic surgery, consistently ranking among the top five percent in the nation for overall clinical outcomes. HUMC is the only healthcare facility in New Jersey, New York, and New England to be named one of America's 50 Best Hospitals. Only one percent of the nation's hospitals can make this claim.

To learn more about Hackensack University Medical Center, please visit www.humc.com.

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