



DATE: November 9, 2007

TO: Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Gary S. Carter, FACHE  
President and CEO

SUBJECT: **HRET Community Outreach Awards - 2008**

The Community Outreach Awards, established by the Health Research and Educational Trust of New Jersey, a nonprofit affiliate of NJHA, were founded on the belief that partnerships between a hospital and its community are essential to assess and fulfill community needs, build healthy environments and bring about changes to improve the health and well-being of people. Again this year, HRET celebrates the worthy efforts of NJHA's member hospitals to reach beyond the walls of their institutions, focusing their attention on the wellbeing of the greater community.

Best hospital community achievements will be recognized based on community partnerships and innovative programs/services focusing on three themes: **Preventing Disease and Injury; Improving Access and Quality of Care; Reducing Healthcare Disparities.** In each theme, different population categories may be the target of health improvement interventions including children, the elderly and those with special needs (i.e. indigent, minorities, women, patients with disabilities, addictions or specific diseases such as cancer, HIV/AIDS or chronic conditions).

Again this year, following a recommendation from our independent panel of judges to make our selection process more objective and fair, accomplishments of four programs will be recognized: three awards for programs with an annual budget more than \$50,000, one on each of the above major themes; and one award for programs with an annual budget less than \$50,000 on any of the major themes. Please note, due to the cancellation of NJHA's annual meeting last year, the HRET community outreach awards were not conducted. As a result, programs in effect from January 1, 2006 to the present will be suitable for submission.

The enclosed "Call for Entries" provides more information about the HRET community outreach awards. Please share this information with your staff members and encourage them to enter and, as instructed, send a short description of each project your institution launched in collaboration with community agencies on any of the three themes listed above. The deadline for submission of entries is January 4<sup>th</sup>.

Award recipients will be invited to join us February 29<sup>th</sup> for the NJHA Annual Meeting at the Princeton Hyatt Regency, as HRET applauds the community efforts of New Jersey hospitals.

We look forward to seeing you February 29<sup>th</sup> and appreciate your support of this program.

cc: Chief Operating Officer, Chief Nursing Executive; VPs/Department Heads for: Assisted Living, Case Management/ Social Services, Communications/Marketing, Community Health Services, Education/ Training, Maternal Child Health, Nursing Home, Patient Care, Pediatrics, Planning, Public Relations, Rehab Services, Quality Improvement, Grant Coordinators for Hospitals, Pro-KIDS Coordinators

Enclosure: Call for Entries