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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*  
*May 21, 2007*

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**CELEBRATE NJ! POSTER CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED:**  
**TWO HONORABLE MENTIONS AWARDED IN BERGEN COUNTY**

(Bradley Beach, NJ) -- A Hillsdale woman and a New Milford student are being honored in the first Celebrate NJ! poster contest. Laura Grunwerg and Trevor Matthews won Honorable Mentions for their poster entries. They are among 12 winners selected from 300 posters entered statewide.

Grunwerg is the Director of Youth Services at the River Edge Public Library, and nine-year-old Trevor is a student at the BF Gibb School in New Milford.

He said, "I love New Jersey, and winning the honorable mention made me feel special."

Grunwerg explains, "I was raised in New Jersey, but I've also lived in Boston & Helsinki. I keep coming back to NJ because it's my comfort zone. The contest is a good way to teach kids to set a goal and work toward that goal. It then becomes a process of creativity and self-discovery."

Karen Hatcher, Executive Director of Celebrate NJ! says, "We are so impressed with the level of creativity and talent in these 12 winning posters, and in all 300 posters submitted. This is a wonderful way to "Celebrate NJ!" and these posters vividly showcase the positive characteristics of our great state."

The contest was designed to encourage children and adults to pay tribute to our state using their artistic talents. The 12 winning posters will be on display at the Governor's Gala at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

All posters submitted were required to provide one or more reasons to celebrate New Jersey, in keeping with the "365 Reasons to Celebrate NJ! Campaign" The campaign asks New Jersey residents to describe what they celebrate about our state in 25 words or less. Each day another "Reason" is selected as one of the "365 Reasons to Celebrate NJ!"

Celebrate NJ! invites everyone who has a Reason to Celebrate NJ! to log on to [www.CelebrateNJ.org](http://www.CelebrateNJ.org) and enter that reason. No deadlines have been set. The group will

continue to unveil the reasons each month based on the number of days in a particular month. Residents are encouraged to enter multiple reasons describing the interesting and unique aspects of the Garden State. Entry cards are also available at over 350 libraries across the state. The selected reasons are announced daily on the organization's website. The best 365 reasons will be published as part of an advertising and media campaign, taking place on outdoor ads across the state and through radio, television and newspaper promotions.

The "365 Reasons to Celebrate NJ!" campaign is made possible through the generous support of sponsors NJ Cable Telecommunications Association, ArborSys Group, NJ101.5 Radio, and St. Barnabas Health Care System. For more information about the campaign, visit [www.CelebrateNJ.org](http://www.CelebrateNJ.org).