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**NJBIZ Honors New Jersey's Healthcare Heroes
*Dr. John A. Schmidt, Jr. Named Volunteer of the Year***

Belmar, NJ, June 29, 2011 – John A. Schmidt, Jr., MD, one of the leading Internists in Monmouth County and one of the first physicians to provide Medical Home services to his patients, was named **Volunteer of the Year** in the 2011 NJBIZ Healthcare Heroes awards program on June 21 at the Palace in Somerset Park in Somerset, New Jersey.

“I am very grateful for this wonderful award and especially thankful to the Parker Family Health Center for giving me an opportunity, in collaboration with my fellow-volunteers, to be of service to the Greater Red Bank community,” states Dr. Schmidt. “Whatever little I have given has been returned to me one-hundred fold by our appreciative patients who, thanks to Parker, receive the quality healthcare they deserve. I am also grateful to our partner, the Salvation Army of Red Bank, for working with us to serve this vibrant community.”

Dr. John Schmidt was recognized for his work at Parker Family Health Center (The Center), a volunteer-based, free health care facility in Monmouth County. He provides residents without medical insurance or the ability to pay the same level of health care at The Center that a paying patient receives at other facilities. Many of the patients of The Center are victims of the economic downturn. The Center allows them to receive high quality health care while retaining their dignity and self-esteem. “So many people have lost their jobs, homes, dignity and self-respect,” continues Dr. Schmidt. “Focusing on their total well-being is as important as their physical health.” Dr. Schmidt’s area of specialty is primary health care; emphasizing disease prevention, health promotion and patient education.

“Dr. Schmidt made the transition from for-profit to not-for-profit with such ease,” states Dr. Eugene Cheslock, President of the Parker Family Health Center Board, as well as one of its founders. “He epitomizes the spirit of The Center. Dr. Schmidt truly enjoys giving back to our patients.” Dr. Cheslock was honored as Volunteer of the Year in the 2010 Healthcare Heroes program for his work at the Parker Family Health Center.

Dr. Schmidt is also a Board Member of the Red Bank Salvation Army, where he works to provide additional services to diabetics in need of a regular exercise program. He worked with The Center to form an alliance with the Salvation Army to build an exercise program for patients whose health requires a life style modification. In addition, Dr. Schmidt works with medical externs from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, nursing externs from Georgian Court University, and technology externs from Brookdale Community College to help them prepare for careers in medicine.

A resident of Wall Township, Dr. Schmidt is a Board Certified Internist practicing in Belmar, New Jersey. He is on the staff of Jersey Shore University Medical Center. Dr. Schmidt received his pre-medical education from St. Joseph's University, where he graduated *magna cum laude* and was co-recipient of the Biology Prize. His Medical Degree is from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Dr. Schmidt interned and completed his residency in Internal Medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He then studied for five years at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, first as an officer in the Public Health Service working in the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; and then as a Fellow of the Arthritis Foundation in the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute. More information on his practice is available at www.schmidtmd.org. Dr. Schmidt can be contacted at (732) 282-8166 or johnschmidt@schmidtmd.org.

About the Healthcare Heroes Awards Program

The Healthcare Heroes awards program recognizes excellence and innovation. It honors individuals and organizations making a significant impact on the quality of healthcare in New Jersey. Finalists were selected in eleven categories: Corporate Achievement, Education Hero-Individual, Education Hero-Organization, Hospital of the Year, Innovation Hero-Individual, Innovation Hero-Organization, Nurse of the Year, Nursing Home/Assisted Living Facility of the Year, Physical Therapy Rehabilitation Center of the Year, Physician of the Year and Volunteer of the Year.

Finalists and winners were chosen by an independent panel of judges including: Donald J. Cinotti, MD, Medical Society of New Jersey; David Knowlton, New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute and D.N. Lombardi, Ph.D., USMC®.

The award program, produced by NJBIZ, New Jersey's premiere business news publication, was sponsored by Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, Hackensack University Medical Center, New Jersey Hospital Association, NJTopDocs.com and WithumSmith+Brown, PC.

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