

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEDIA ADVISORY/REQUEST FOR COVERAGE**

**NY/NJ STUDENTS KICK-OFF GROUNDBREAKING ELECTRONICS  
RECYCLING DRIVE TO PREVENT HAZARDOUS LEAD PRODUCTS FROM  
BEING SHIPPED OVERSEAS & DISCARDED OF HAPHAZARDLY**

**WHO:** Student environmental clubs, parental green teams, faculty, the Green Faith program and the Center for Health, Environment & Justice's Green Flags program.

**WHAT:** Interfaith Electronics Recycling Events

Today there are 500 million\* obsolete computers in the United States, with each monitor containing up to four to eight pounds of lead, yet only 10 percent of these hazardous items are being recycled. Worse, many of these – and other – discarded electronic products are being shipped to Asia and Africa and taken apart in unsafe ways causing harm to both workers and the environment. The heavy metals, lead, carcinogens and other chemicals inside of these products must be disposed of in an EPA/ISO certified recycling facility; if shipped overseas that standard cannot be met.

The Green Faith/Green Flags programs are teaming up with several area schools where students are leading the charge to guarantee that discarded electronics turned in will be recycled properly, thus preventing harm to workers and the environment overseas. Additionally, many of the computers donated will be refurbished by Per Scholas, a non-profit organization located in the Bronx, and provided to schools in need at discounted prices.

"Many families in our community have broken computers, cell phones and other electronics just sitting around the house, and they don't know what to do with it all. This event will help them to recycle these items in a way that is good for the environment and for the workers. The students helped to get recycling started a year ago in our school, and we wanted to do an event that would strengthen our commitment to recycling and also involve the entire community," said Rachel Lissak, student at Solomon Schechter Day School and kick off event organizer.

**TIMES &****LOCATIONS:**

April 13<sup>th</sup> @ Solomon Schechter Day School of Essex and Union  
1418 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, NJ 07052  
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

May 10<sup>th</sup> @ Academy of the Holy Angels  
315 Hillside Drive, Demarest, NJ 07627  
TBD

May 17<sup>th</sup> @ St. Patrick School and Parish  
45 Chatham Street, Chatham, NJ 07928  
TBD

\* From the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition

**About Green Faith**

Green Faith is an interfaith environmental organization working across faith and denominational lines to advance education and implementation of environmental stewardship.

**About Green Flags**

Green Flags is a program of the Center for Health, Environment & Justice, seeking to improve the environment one school at a time by preventing environmental health harm from coming to students, teachers and workers through education, training, surveying and awarding of Green Flags to schools completing the program.

**About CHEJ**

The Center for Health, Environment & Justice exists to mentor the movement to build healthier communities by empowering people to *prevent* harm in as many ways, and for as many people, as possible. We believe this can happen when people and groups have the power to play an integral role in promoting human health and environmental integrity. CHEJ's role is to provide the tools, the direction, and the encouragement to these people and groups, so that they can build strong, healthy communities where they live, work, learn, shop, play and pray. Following her successful effort to prevent further harm for the people living in contaminated Love Canal, Lois Gibbs founded CHEJ in 1981 in order to continue mentoring others seeking to prevent harm. CHEJ provides mentoring assistance to communities, homeowners, families and individuals throughout the country. To date, CHEJ has assisted over 10,000 groups nationwide. Currently, CHEJ is mentoring community groups in Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina and Ohio. Details on CHEJ's efforts to help people and communities prevent harm can be found at <http://www.chej.org>.