



Center for Health, Environment & Justice

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CHEJ AND FOUNDER LOIS GIBBS TURN A TRIPLE PLAY; RECEIVE THREE AWARDS RECOGNIZING THEIR WORK AS TRUSTED AGENTS OF CHANGE SAFEGUARDING OUR COMMUNITIES FROM DANGEROUS TOXINS

THE BUSINESS ETHICS NETWORK AND CHARITY NAVIGATOR PRESENT CHEJ, CHEJ'S PVC CAMPAIGN AND LOIS GIBBS WITH AWARDS DISTINGUISHING THEIR EXCEPTIONAL WORK

Falls Church, VA ... In the final quarter of 2007, as **The Center for Health, Environment and Justice** prepares to commemorate the **30th Anniversary of Love Canal in 2008**, it does so **having received unparalleled recognition** for its work in leading the way to help citizens organize to safeguard their communities from poisonous chemicals. The **Center has received a total of three awards for its work in recent weeks**. CHEJ has been presented two awards from evaluator entities, monitoring the performance of activist organizations in achievement and fiscal management. In addition, **Lois Gibbs was presented with a BENNY award, the first individual achievement award from The Business Ethics Network (BEN)**.

BEN Director Michael Marx recognized the evidence of the power that one person has in bringing change to our communities' health and environment when he presented Lois Gibbs with the inaugural individual achievement award: **"She not only refused to accept that her family and her community would live in this corporate toxic dump site of Love Canal, but she went on to start a national battle to protect other families."**

<http://www.businessethicsnetwork.org/article.php?id=1279>

The Business Ethics Network is the largest network of non-profit, marketplace advocacy activists and organizations in the United States and represents individuals who work on market-based corporate accountability campaigns. BEN Members work together in the mission of improving the effectiveness of corporate campaigns worldwide in order to make business practices more ethical in terms of the environment, health, social justice, and labor.

CHEJ's national effort to phase out PVC, the most dangerous plastic to our health and environment was also presented with a BENNY award for being on the path to victory. The PVC plastic is found in many common household items widely distributed in America. CHEJ's PVC campaign focuses on raising awareness of the dangers found in PVC and educating

corporations and consumers about safer alternatives. "We were thrilled to learn that we won first place for the BENNY Path to Victory Award," said **Mike Schade, PVC Campaign Coordinator with the Center for Health, Environment and Justice**. "Over the past few years we have convinced some of the world's largest corporations to phase out PVC and switch to healthier products and packaging. The writing is on the wall for PVC and even corporate America is now waking up to the truth about the poison plastic." <http://www.besafenet.com/pvc/>

The Center for Health, Environment and Justice is also being recognized for its exceptional and efficient fiscal operations as evidenced by earning the highly coveted – and rare – four-star rating by Charity Navigator. Charity Navigator is America's premiere charity evaluator, providing potential donors valuable information and ratings in order to help them make wise donation choices. Less than one quarter of the charitable organizations evaluated receive the prestigious highest four-star rating. The rating indicates an organization "worthy of their trust" to potential donors, based upon Charity Navigator's methodological criteria. <http://charitynavigator.org/index.cfm?bay=search.summary&orgid=5413>

"To receive such notable recognition for the work that we do, and for the way in which we run our organization, is a testament to the passion and drive of the people we have worked with throughout these thirty years, trying to clean up our communities and rid our neighborhoods and homes of chemical threats. There remains a great deal of work to be done in making our houses, our streets and our towns safer and healthier. **The Center for Health, Environment and Justice will not stop until every street and every community is one in which any family would feel safe raising children,**" said **CHEJ Founder and Lifetime Achievement BENNY Recipient Lois Gibbs**.

CHEJ's mission is to help people build democratic, community-based organizations to address public health and environmental threats. CHEJ believes strongly that the best way to solve local problems is from the bottom up, when the people directly affected speak for themselves and have a meaningful role, as equals in any and all decisions that affect their lives, homes and families. Lois Gibbs founded The Center for Health, Environment and Justice in 1981, following her successful effort to lead the citizens of Love Canal in winning a relocation effort after uncovering the toxic threat that impacted over 800 families. For more information: <http://chej.org/story.htm>