

**For Immediate Release**

**CEREBRAL PALSY LEAGUE NAMED FIRST “MOVE” MODEL SITE IN NEW JERSEY**

**Cranford, NJ – May 22, 2007** – The Cerebral Palsy League (CPL), with facilities in Cranford and Union, moved to another level of quality education services today when the League’s Jardine Academy was dedicated as the state’s first Model Site of MOVE® (Mobility Opportunities Via Education).

In addition to providing this progressive level of care for its students, the academy also will serve as a showcase of the MOVE program for educators, therapists and parents statewide to observe first-hand how MOVE can bring personal dignity to students while strengthening their learning processes.

MOVE is a research-based program designed to apply education, psychology, biomechanics and motor science to improve functional mobility skills of persons with severe physical disabilities. The program objective is to enable participants to sit, stand and walk, thereby allowing for fuller participation with family activities and inclusion in the wider community.

MOVE was founded in the early 1980s and The Jardine Academy has been practicing its principles for nearly 10 years with students ranging from ages 3 to 21. The school fully integrated the program’s principals into its curriculum by 2002 and immediately began working toward certification as a MOVE Model Site.

Speakers at the dedication included the program’s founder, Linda Bidabe; State Senator Raymond Lesniak (D-20); Assemblyman Joseph Cryan (D-20); and Union Township Mayor Brenda Restivo.

Diane Pierce, mother of a Jardine Academy student, said her son Joseph receives much more than an education at the school and through the MOVE program.

“As parents, the most important goal we set for Joe is his increasing independence,” she said. “We believe the MOVE program enables us to achieve these goals.”

Added Lesniak, “Whatever we can do for you, we can’t do enough. This is the reason why we’re in elected office – to help children like this and to help you help them. These children are blessed to have these teachers and staff. And these teachers and staff are blessed to have these children.”

The dedication event included a demonstration of MOVE principals by students and staff, which showcased progress made by the children, including one student who began the program able only to stand for a few seconds who now is able to take up to 15 steps and another child who advanced from crawling to completely independent walking.

Said Debra Wolfel, CPL executive director, “Being named a MOVE Model Site is very rewarding because it culminates a process that required a great deal of commitment and hard work on the part of everyone at the Cerebral Palsy League and The Jardine Academy. Of greater importance, it formally recognizes the enrichment the MOVE curriculum is bringing to our students and their families, and the opportunities for other educators and parents to see the MOVE advantage first hand.”

**About Cerebral Palsy League**

The Cerebral Palsy League, headquartered in Cranford, is an independent, non-profit organization providing high quality programs and services for persons with developmental disabilities throughout Union, Essex, Middlesex, Hudson, Passaic, Somerset and Morris counties. Programs and services include early intervention, pediatric medical, adult services and The Jardine Academy, a private school serving students from 17 school districts. For additional information about the League please visit [www.theclinc.org](http://www.theclinc.org).

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