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

Belmar, NJ, May 10, 2011 – John A. Schmidt, Jr., MD, one of the leading Internist in Monmouth County, has been named a finalist in the *Volunteer of the Year* category in the 2011 NJBIZ Healthcare Heroes awards program. The award program, produced by NJBIZ, New Jersey's premiere business news publication, is sponsored by Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, Hackensack University Medical Center, New Jersey Hospital Association, NJTopDocs.com and WithumSmith+Brown, PC.

Dr. John Schmidt is being 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 receive 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. Dr. Schmidt's focus is on primary health care; emphasizing disease prevention, health promotion and patient education.

In addition, Dr. Schmidt is 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 life style modification. Dr. Schmidt also 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 in Monmouth County, 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 and 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 NJ; David Knowlton, New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute and D.N. Lombardi, Ph.D., USMC[®].

The Healthcare Heroes awards finalists will be recognized and the winners in each category will be announced during a breakfast awards ceremony on June 21, 2011 at the Palace in Somerset Park in Somerset, New Jersey.

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