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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Funk Honors Youth for Public and Community Service

Newark, DE (**June 6, 2012**) –Youth from Downes Elementary, Leasure Elementary, Glasgow High School and Newark High School were presented with Jefferson Awards during the May 29 City Council meeting in recognition of their outstanding community service projects as part of the Youth Service Challenge. Also recognized were youth from Kirk Middle School, Marshall Elementary, Gallaher Elementary and Newark Center for Creative Learning.

The Youth Service Challenge was launched nationally by the Jefferson Awards and Ways to Help in September 2010. The challenge has two purposes: work with Mayors and youth focused organizations across the country to shine a positive spotlight on student-led community service initiatives; and engage one million youths in student-led service activities over the next five years.

The Youth Service Challenge involves students from kindergarten through college and focuses on three major issues: ending hunger, conserving the environment, and encouraging health and wellness. A fourth category called BYOSP (Bring Your Own Service Project), which allows students that are passionate about a different service area to participate. Over 4,900 projects were received this year from across the country and almost every state.

Newark's Mayor Vance Funk supported the effort this year. "I am so amazed by the compassion, creativity, and ingenuity of these young people," said Mayor Funk. "I think it is important to recognize youth that do great things for others, in our community and elsewhere."

Photos attached: 1) Mayor Funk with students from Downes Elementary School. 2) Mayor Funk with students from Newark High School's Student Action Team. 3) Mayor Funk with students from Newark Center for Creative Learning.

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