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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Federated Conservationists to Honor County Executive Andrew J. Spano  
and The Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation with the Green  
Leadership Awards**

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On Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the Federated Conservationists of Westchester County (FCWC) will celebrate local green leaders at its annual fall benefit from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. This year, FCWC celebrates the environmental efforts of County Executive Andrew J. Spano and the Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation, led by Katie Ginsberg and Patti Bressman. The event will be held in a private "green" home in Pelham Manor with solar panels and a geo-thermal energy system.

The "Green Leadership Awards" recognizes the outstanding work of local citizens and businesses in Westchester County and the NY Metropolitan region, in areas of environmental sustainability and social responsibility. The 2008 honorees have gone "above and beyond" in their efforts by acting locally to help Westchester become a leader in sustainability. They also tackle the problems we face from global climate change by re-thinking the issues and designing solutions that are both holistic and innovative.

County Executive Andrew J. Spano exemplified this idea of re-thinking solutions by commissioning the Westchester Global Warming Task Force and encouraging any member of the community to become an active participant. Rather than ask only members of County Government to form this task force, he capitalized on the intellectual and creative capital of Westchester's citizens, as well as environmental, community and business professionals.

In recognition of his commitment and leadership in efforts to deal with global warming on a local level, County Executive Andy Spano has been appointed to the Board of Directors of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability U.S.A. He will be the representative of the northeast region of the United States. His Westchester task force created an action plan that won praise from ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability U.S.A. The American organization is an affiliate of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, an international membership association of local governments dedicated to addressing environmental problems through local actions. It was founded in 1990 and originally named the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives.

The Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation (CELF), founded by Chappaqua resident Katie Ginsberg is a local, non-profit organization that collaborates with public school districts and individual teachers to raise awareness of sustainable development and to help incorporate

related sustainability principles into K-12 curricula and programs as a core learning framework. CELF believes we cannot solve global climate change with the same thinking that created this global crisis. CELF works to capture one of the most valuable resources we have- the imagination of our youth. Through early education CELF works to equip students with the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will lead to a sustainable future for everyone. CELF envisions our children and future generations understanding the unique and complex systems that support the natural, as well as human-built environments, and having the knowledge, desire and the ability to save the integrity of those systems.

The FCWC fall benefit is a “green” event from the hosts’ home to the food! The event will feature hors d’ oeuvres catered by a local organic restaurant, the Flying Pig; invitations printed on recycled paper; a silent auction that includes local “green” products and services; and it will be held at a private, solar-powered home in Pelham Manor. Carpooling is encouraged, as guests who drive with three or more passengers will be given two complimentary raffle tickets.