



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Neighborhood Christian Center Advances to Finalist Stage in Prestigious Environmental Awards Program

Santa Clara, February 3, 2014 – Acterra has announced that Neighborhood Christian Center **has advanced to the Finalist Stage in the 2014 Business Environmental Awards**. Neighborhood Christian Center has been selected from amongst a highly competitive field of applicants in the category of Acterra Award for Sustainability for its all-around achievements in sustainable business practices.”

At **NCC**, our goal is to recognize and reduce our carbon footprints while teaching children, families and staff how to live responsibly on earth. We are the first education program in the city of Santa Clara that has achieved “**2012 Green Business Certification and Proclamation Award**”. Annually, we host “**Green School Forum**” which networks and builds relationships with other educators from all over the Bay Area to discuss sustainable strategies in their educational facilities. Globally, we have equipped eleven schools around the world with the tools of sustainable education/choices. We initially support their projects until they become self-sufficient to take lead on their own. Other outstanding elements of our program involves daily practices that are incorporated in our curriculum such as eating fruits and vegetables for our snack, growing our own organic fruits and vegetables year round in our garden, composting, requiring all green lunches to be “green” with a focus to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

“In this fragile world of ours, it is not enough to make green/sustainable choices for only ourselves. Our world is at risk and it requires us to make major steps to equip others to take ownership of a healthier world. At NCC, we live what we teach and strive daily to make healthy choices in our own lives, in our relationships with others and in our stewardship of our environment”. –Graciela Marques-Hahn, NCC Executive Director

Acterra’s Business Environmental Awards is one of the San Francisco Bay Area’s oldest and most prestigious environmental recognition programs. Initiated in 1990, it is considered a heavyweight among award programs due to its rigorous application and judging process. “In addition to a written application, all finalists must demonstrate their programs’ merits firsthand to the expert panel of judges during a visit to their facilities,” states Board President Laura Teksler. “We look forward to learning about the finalists’ programs in further detail and appreciate the opportunity to be informed by their exemplary achievements.”

Awardees will be announced on March 17th and honored at the **2014 Business Environmental Awards Reception on Wednesday, May 28th at Intuit Corporation in Mountain View**. For more information, please visit www.acterra.org/bea.

About Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet

Acterra is a non-profit organization with a 44-year history of environmental programming in and around Silicon Valley. Acterra involves and educate individuals, businesses and communities to take action against global warming, restore natural habitats, and cultivate environmental leaders for the future. For more information visit www.acterra.org.

About Neighborhood Christian Center (NCC)

Since 1981 NCC has served children two years and older. As a not for profit, it has taken the lead to explore and share natural education. For more information visit www.myncc.net.

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