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INTERVIEWS/PHOTOS AVAILABLE

**NATIONAL CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE PRESENTS PRESTIGIOUS
2005 LEWIS HINE AWARD TO
CHIEF OF POLICE BERNARD K. MELEKIAN OF PASADENA, CALIFORNIA
FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO YOUTH**

New York, NY, January 5, 2005 — The **National Child Labor Committee** (NCLC) announced today that **Bernard K. Melekian of Pasadena, California** will receive its prestigious **Lewis Hine Award** on January 31, 2005 in New York City. Chief Melekian, is being honored for helping to transform this medium-sized city's police department into a law enforcement vehicle which also serves as a support system for young people.

Bernard Melekian, Police Chief of Pasadena, California--a city of 144,000 people--was nominated for the Lewis Hine Award for his work with and on behalf of young people, particularly, though not exclusively for the reduction of gangs and gang violence. His references, which include the Mayor, the City Manager, and a representative of the City Council, speak of him in glowing terms. According to the Mayor who nominated him, *"what Bernard Melekian learned early on as a policeman, and passes on to all of his staff, is that there is more to police work than enforcing the law."* That clearly applies directly to his work with young people. Gang activity in Pasadena, a city that had serious gang problems before Bernard Melekian arrived, has been reduced dramatically because he has focused as much on prevention and social intervention as on law enforcement. He understands that the kids, given the poverty and family dysfunction they often come from, are badly in need of solid support systems. He has integrated that knowledge into police work, helping to provide experiences for teenagers such as Outward Bound, drama programs, youth sports, and the Police Athletic League (PAL). Last year, Bernard Melekian told the Pasadena Conference of Racial Reconciliation that *"if officers go out and they are bigoted and biased and uncaring and selfish, then ... the words of the Constitution of the United States are a lie. But if they go out and help solve neighborhood problems and treat people...with dignity and respect...then the Constitution is alive and well."*

"The Lewis Hine Awards are very special," says C. Robert Henrikson, President and Chief Operating Officer of MetLife, Inc. and Chair of this year's Lewis Hine Awards. *"They honor those unsung heroes who give of themselves to better the lives of young people. The winners are chosen for the extraordinary work they do to provide our children with the tools and support they need to become happy and self-sufficient adults."*

Chief Melekian is one of 10 men and women, volunteers and professionals, selected from hundreds of submissions from across the nation. Each recipient will receive a \$1,000 prize and a trip to the awards ceremony in New York City. He plans to donate his prize money to the Pasadena Police Activities League and the Pasadena Police Foundation.

A panel of distinguished judges from corporations, nonprofits, and foundations selected award recipients from hundreds of nominations submitted by governors, mayors, CEOs, and nonprofit leaders from across the country. The winners join a select group of dedicated individuals with extraordinary stories from communities big and small, urban and rural, who reach out every day to make the futures of young people better.

Named for acclaimed photographer Lewis Wickes Hine, the Awards were established by The NCLC in 1985. In the early twentieth century, Hine worked for the NCLC using his camera to document child labor conditions in the workplace. Hine's more than 10,000 unsettling images of children laboring in sweatshops, coal mines, textile mills, and on farms stirred Americans to take action to enact state and federal laws to protect the rights of children in the workplace.

The National Child Labor Committee (NCLC)

The National Child Labor Committee (NCLC) is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1904 and incorporated by an Act of Congress in 1907. Its mission is to promote the rights, dignity, well-being, and education of children and youth as they relate to work and the workplace. In its tenth decade, the NCLC continues the work of its founding visionaries as a leading force in ensuring child labor law compliance, transforming the workplace into a learning environment, improving youth occupational safety and health, educating children, and increasing public awareness of the rights of children.

About MetLife

MetLife is a subsidiary of MetLife, Inc. (NYSE: MET). Ranked 36th on the Fortune 500, MetLife is a leader in providing insurance and other financial services to millions of individual and institutional customers. As sponsor of the 2005 Lewis Hine Awards, MetLife carries on the company's long-standing tradition of community involvement. Recognizing the vital role that young people play in the future of our country, MetLife and MetLife Foundation support organizations which provide opportunities for young people to learn and grow and encourage mentoring. MetLife has supported The Lewis Hine Awards since 1988.

For more information about The Lewis Hine Awards and the National Child Labor Committee, e-mail NCLC05HINE@AOL.COM or call (1-212) 840-1801 x 23.

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