



Michigan Chapter, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RECIPIENTS OF THE 2006 da Vinci Awards® SELECTED

Six winners to be honored for innovations that embrace the “Universal Design Principle”

SOUTHFIELD, Mich., July 24, 2006 – The National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS), Michigan Chapter has announced the winners of the *da Vinci Awards®*, **Awards will be presented on Friday, September 29, 2006 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Dearborn, Michigan.**

Founded in 2000, the *da Vinci Awards®*, is a national competitive awards program created to recognize individuals, organizations, and corporations in the engineering, construction and technical realm for innovative developments and research in adaptive and assistive technology that embraces the *Universal Design Principle*. Nominations were sought worldwide and subsequently critiqued by a qualified panel of judges.

The winners of the *2006 da Vinci Awards®* include:

- **C-Leg** (Otto Bock Health Care: Duderstadt, Germany)
 - Microprocessor-controlled leg prosthesis system with a linear hydraulic unit that is completely controlled electronically and in real time.
- **Freedom Tent** (Designed by Blue Sky Designs, Manufactured by Eureka: St. Paul, MN)
 - Easy-to-open zipperless door and spacious vestibule camping tent designed to be accessible to people with disabilities.
- **MoPix** (National Center for Accessible Media: Boston, MA)
 - Rear Window® Captioning and DVS Theatrical Systems that make it possible for the nation’s deaf, hard-of-hearing, blind and visually impaired moviegoers to enjoy first-run theatrical films on the day of release.

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Winners/2006 da Vinci Awards®

Add One

- **Nüberwalker**(Institute for Design Engineering & Applications: Northwestern University, Evanston, IL)
 - o Portable body weight supported treadmill-training system, intended for stroke and spinal cord injury patients to practice a normal gait pattern.
- **Pebbles** (Telbotics: Toronto, Ontario, Canada)
 - o World's first robotic student and the first-ever fully functional "telepresence" application, which virtually places homebound or hospitalized children with their classroom at school.
- **Sendero GPS** (Sendero Group: Davis, CA)
 - o BrailleNote GPS is a fully accessible PDA location tool for blind and visually impaired individuals.

NMSS, Michigan Chapter has also announced the recipients of three special awards that will be presented during the *2006 da Vinci Awards®*:

Lifetime Achievement Award

- Lt. Col. Paul Pasquina, medical director of Walter Reed's amputee program and chairman of physical medicine and rehabilitation, will be recognized for his lifetime of significant contributions to advancing accessibility.

Spirit of da Vinci Award

- Rudy Garcia-Tolson, six-time triathlete, five-time American swimming record holder and four-time national track record holder, will be recognized for his use of assertive technology.

Founder's Award

- Major David Rozelle, who after losing his right foot in Iraq became the first troop commander to redeploy to the same battlefield as an amputee, was personally selected by da Vinci Awards® founder and Steering Committee member, Michael J. Rokosz, to be honored for his incredible heroism and courage in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds.

Additional sponsors of the 2006 da Vinci Awards®, "*A Celebration of Innovation*" Presented by Microsoft® include, DaimlerChrysler Corporation, Trilogy®, Ford Motor Company, and General Motors. For additional information about the 2006 da Vinci Awards®, including sponsorship and ticket sales, contact Darrious D. Hilmon of the NMSS Michigan Chapter at 248-936-0349.

Revenue generated from the 2006 da Vinci Awards® benefits the Michigan Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS), whose mission is to end the devastating effects of multiple sclerosis. One of the largest MS chapters in the country, NMSS delivers life-enhancing programs and services to the more than 16,000 people in Michigan living with MS, while supporting important research into the cause and cure of this devastating disease.

For additional information on the 2006 da Vinci Awards®, visit www.davinciawards.org