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Roselyn Saunders, Honorary Chair for 2012 IDA Awards Banquet

Colorado-based Invisible Disabilities Association honors outstanding individuals and organizations at fifth annual awards banquet in Lone Tree, Colo., October 14, 2012.

Parker, Colo.—August 12, 2012— The Invisible Disabilities Association is overjoyed to have Roselyn Saunders join them as this year’s Honorary Banquet Chair for their fifth annual Honor Awards Banquet. About Roselyn, Nancy Koontz of Blacktie Colorado stated, “She’s always thinking of the less fortunate who need a helping hand, and she likes getting involved in causes that are close to her heart rather than just showing up for an event.” Roselyn encourages everyone to “Join the Expedition” with her at this amazing event featuring keynote speakers, Mike Pierce aka Antarctic Mike and his wife, Angela Pierce.

Antarctic Mike has completed marathons in some of the world’s coldest climates including the Canadian Arctic, Siberia and twice in the Antarctic. He has set world records in endurance swimming and cycling as well. Adventure sports have changed Mike’s life in many ways, including teaching him the importance of being mentally focused and conditioned to run the most challenging and important marathon, that of helping Angela manage her lifetime disability.

Millions of Americans have unseen, life-altering and often painful medical conditions, such as diabetes, cancer, lupus, PTSD and fibromyalgia. In addition to enduring chronic pain and facing the physical challenges of their diseases, many people with “invisible disabilities” also face misunderstanding, critical judgments and discrimination from people who don’t understand their medical conditions.

“One of the most common things my wife, Sherri hears is, ‘But you LOOK good!’ ”said Wayne Connell, founder and president of the Invisible Disabilities Association. Sherri has lived daily with debilitating multiple sclerosis, Lyme disease and chemical sensitivities for almost three decades. “There is a tremendous need to raise awareness about pain, diseases and chronic conditions that have significant impacts on people’s lives, but are not physically apparent,” said Wayne. “Even people close to you may not understand what you are going through if you have a debilitating condition, because on the outside, you look the same.”

Wayne continues “Believing a loved one when they say they are sick or in pain is the most important thing we can do. Just because we can’t see from the outside, what they are battling on the inside doesn’t mean it doesn’t exist. Belief, validation and support can give a friend or family member the strength they need to continue the fight!”

IDA works closely with disease support organizations, medical professionals and businesses to help encourage, educate and connect tens of thousands of people each month who live with debilitating conditions, as well as their loved ones.

The annual awards banquet is an opportunity to raise awareness and funds, and honor individuals and organizations making positive contributions to understanding and treating invisible disabilities.

2012 honors award recipients include:

Advocacy Award – Suzanne Mintz, CEO and Founder– National Family Caregivers Association
Caregiver Award – John O'Brien, CEO and Co-Founder - Central Coast Senior Services, Inc.
Corporate Award - Deborah Marriott Harrison, Senior Vice President – Marriott International, Inc.

Founders Award- Dick Layton, Managing Partner – Kenton Talent Management
Healthcare Award - Kermit Crawford, President – Walgreens - Pharmacy, Health and Wellness Services and Solutions
Impact Award - Jan Chambers, President - National Fibromyalgia & Chronic Pain Association
Inspiration Award - Bob Woodruff, Founder – Bob Woodruff Foundation
Invisible Hero Award Anna Bigham, Founder and Executive Director - Hidden Wounds
Medical Award - Kevin Lofton, President and CEO - Catholic Health Initiatives
Perseverance Award - Angela Pierce
Research Award – Esteem Implant - Envoy Medical Corporation
Volunteer Award – Frances Owens, EVP - Galloway Group

Banquet details:

Date: Sunday October 14, 2012

Place: Marriott Denver South 10345 Park Meadows Drive Lone Tree, CO

Time: 5:00 Registration & Silent Auction - 6:15 Dinner & Program

Tickets \$75 per person. Corporate sponsorships available.

Live and silent auction items needed.

Business, dressy attire or expedition wear.

RSVP at www.JoinTheExpedition.org

ABOUT IDA

The Invisible Disabilities Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization based in Parker, CO which encourages, educates and connects people and organizations touched by illness, pain and injury around the globe through its website, online social network, literature, projects and seminars. For more information, visit www.invisibledisabilities.org.

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