



For Immediate Release

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### Energizer® Keep Going® Hall of Fame – Honoring Everyday Heroes

February 2007 (St. Louis, MO) – We all know somebody who is like the Energizer Bunny®. They’re out there, in every town across America, people who live their lives with strong can-do attitudes. The Energizer® Keep Going® Hall of Fame was created to celebrate their stories and share them as a way to inspire and motivate others.

“We all know people like this — ordinary people with extraordinary attitude and energy,” said Jeff Ziminski, vice president of marketing for Energizer North America. “Honoring unsung heroes is what the *Keep Going* Hall of Fame is all about. We’re celebrating the spirit and essence of the *Energizer Bunny* — determination, focus, never quitting.”

Last year, more than 1,200 nominations were received from across the country. The 2006 finalists are an inspiring cross-section of Americans:



■ 2006 winner and inductee, John O’Leary of St. Louis, MO, survived a life-threatening childhood accident and launched an outreach program to inspire people and enrich their lives with renewed meaning and hope. Despite being burned more than 98 percent of his body, he owns his own remodeling business, volunteers with Big Brothers, Big Sisters and works as a chaplain at a children’s hospital. John was inducted into the *Keep Going* Hall of Fame alongside National Baseball Hall of Fame inductee, Cal Ripken, Jr.



■ Dustin Wilen, of Frisco, TX, was only four-years-old when he started martial arts training. Early on, Dustin’s instructor told him it would take 24 months to get his black belt if he trained every day. Determined to get it sooner, a six-year-old Dustin accomplished his goal in just 22 months. In order to reach the black belt level, Dustin had to complete 20 hours of community service; run a mile and complete 100 push-ups, leg lifts, crunches and squats. After testing, the evaluating instructor commented, "I wrote down: Dustin, littlest guy-biggest heart."

*Keep Going Hall of Fame Everyday Heroes – add one*



■ Nicholas Marriam of Clayton, NC, is determined to make a difference in the lives of hospitalized children. After being diagnosed with T-Cell Lymphoma cancer, Nicholas had to receive chemotherapy every week, have spinal taps and take many pills. He missed two years of school and was very lonely. When he finished his chemotherapy, he wanted to help other kids, so he decided to start The Nickelby Project, which provides gift bags to help ease the worries and fears of children with a chronic or life-threatening illness. To date, thousands of gift bags have been delivered to local hospitals.



■ Bloomington, CA, teen Rudy Garcia-Tolson was born with a rare genetic disorder that prevented him from walking. Rudy had both his legs amputated when he was just five-years-old. His optimistic and positive attitude motivated him to set a goal of becoming a Paralympian. At age 15, Rudy won a gold medal in the 200 meter Independent Medley at the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens, Greece.



■ After a terrible car accident left Brenda Gilmore of Upper Marlboro, MD, paralyzed, she took up wheelchair tennis and became a nationally top-ranked player. Out of her desire to support her community and help children, Brenda founded the non-profit Prince George's Tennis and Education Foundation. She works tirelessly to train the bodies and minds of children so that they may achieve their goals in life. Many have received scholarships to college and all have learned what it takes to succeed.



■ Retired musician Donald Mattney of High Point, NC. One week after retiring from 55 years in radio, Don began a new career. Now in his seventies and legally blind, Don donates his time, playing piano five days a week at three retirement centers and a local hospital. He plays the music of the 40's & 50's...if you can hum it, Don can play it. He is an inspiration to others for his optimistic, never-quit spirit.

*Keep Going Hall of Fame Everyday Heroes – add two*



■ When a friend of teen Becca Robison of Salt Lake City, UT, told her that being an astronaut was a boy's job, it didn't stop her, it motivated her. Becca developed AstroTots, Science Camp for Little Dippers, a free camp for at-risk girls, age four to 10. The camp was created to motivate girls who love science. Now in its sixth year, AstroTots is so popular that Becca has to turn away as many as 100 girls for some sessions.



■ Denise Walsh of Fairfield, CT, is a nurse whose compassion for helping others takes her to some of the neediest countries of the world. She assembles teams of doctors and nurses to travel the globe to provide medical service and supplies. Each year she spends her vacation time giving medical attention to over 1,000 needy children and adults.



■ Christiane Oliveri of Oradell, NJ, is a mother, a hero, and a go-the-extra-mile beacon of strength, courage and inspiration. She cares for a son with Muscular Dystrophy and her mother, age 94. She's a do-it-yourself architect, landscaper, artist, chef and hospital volunteer. Although English isn't her first language (actually, her fourth of nine), she single-handedly founded the first-of-its-kind, volunteer-run teen center in her town and donates proceeds to charities. She's an icon of love, courage and generosity to everyone who's lucky to know her, young and old. And to find her, look for the woman who's always smiling.



■ Miriam Richards of Corvallis, OR, continues to work towards her goal to be the first deaf person to reach the highest altitude in each of the 50 states. She does this despite also being challenged by her diagnosis of multiple sclerosis. When not climbing or backpacking, she motivates deaf children to set goals and dream big.

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