



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT: Patricia Pope
304.414.3459
patricia.pope@nmss.org

LOREN SWARTZENDRUBER HONORED WITH SILVER HOPE AWARD
MS DINNER OF CHAMPIONS RAISES MONEY FOR THE NATIONAL MS SOCIETY

Harrisonburg, May 29, 2013 – The 19th Annual MS Dinner of Champions honored Loren Swartzendruber for his involvement in the community. Dr. Swartzendruber was presented the Silver Hope Award by Cheryl Dean at the James Madison University Festival Conference and Student Center. The dinner has raised over \$97,000 to date.

The MS Dinner of Champions honors outstanding community leaders as it raises funds for MS research, advocacy, regional programs and services and education.

Dr. Swartzendruber was toasted by Dr. Paul Yoder, Judith Trumbo and Dr. Luke Hartman. The chair of Dinner of Champions was Ryan Waid and honorary chairs were Karl and Barbara Stoltzfus.

“We are honored to have the opportunity to recognize Loren’s outstanding commitment to our community,” said Fay Painter, National MS Society Blue Ridge Chapter President. “He has had a positive impact on the lives of so many young people in college and through his work in campus ministries.”

Ryan Waid, Chair of the Harrisonburg Dinner of Champions, agreed. “The National MS Society Blue Ridge Chapter does so much good work in our community. I welcomed the opportunity to help a great organization and to honor such a worthy recipient in Dr. Swartzendruber at the same time.”

For more information about MS Dinner of Champions, contact Patricia Pope at 304.414.3459 or at patricia.pope@nmss.org

About the Honoree

Dr. Loren E. Swartzendruber became the eighth president of Eastern Mennonite University on January 1, 2004 and is currently serving in his tenth year at EMU.

Dr. Swartzendruber came to EMU from Hesston College, a two-year Mennonite school in Hesston, Kansas, where he served as president for 10 years. Previously he was associate executive secretary of the former Mennonite Board of Education in Elkhart, Indiana for ten years.

A native of Kalona, Iowa, Loren graduated from EMU with a Bachelor of Arts degree in liberal arts and earned a Master of Divinity from Easter Mennonite Seminary. He completed a Doctor of Ministry at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary.

After graduating from EMU, Loren was an associate director of admissions and part-time associate campus pastor at his alma mater. He was ordained to the Christian ministry in 1975 at Lower Deer Creek Mennonite Church near Kalona, Iowa, and was pastor at Salford Mennonite Church, Harlesville, Pennsylvania, for several years.

Dr. Swartzendruber is a member of Park View Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg. He is actively involved with Council of Christian Colleges and Universities, the Council for Independent College in Virginia and the Virginia College Fund on behalf of EMU. Loren was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the Evangelical Environmental Network.

Loren is married to Pat Swartzendruber, a native of Wellman, Iowa. She is a nurse by training and a former health care administrator. Pat currently works full time as a volunteer for Easter Mennonite University and serves on several church-wide boards. The couple has four adult children and four grandchildren.

About Multiple Sclerosis

Multiple sclerosis, an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system, interrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and the body. Every hour in the United States, someone is newly diagnosed with the disease. Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research and treatment are moving us closer to a world free of MS. Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, with more than twice as many women as men being diagnosed with the disease. MS affects more than 2.1 people million worldwide.

About the National Multiple Sclerosis Society

MS stops people from moving. The National MS Society exists to make sure it doesn't. The Society addresses the challenges of each person affected by MS by funding cutting-edge research, driving change through advocacy, facilitating professional education, collaborating with MS organizations around the world, and providing programs and services designed to help people with MS and their families move forward with their lives. In 2011 alone, through its national office and 50-state network of chapters, the Society devoted \$164 million to programs and services that assisted more than one million people. To move us closer to a world free of MS, the Society also invested \$40 million to

support more than 325 new and ongoing research projects around the world. The Society is dedicated to achieving a world free of MS. Join the movement at nationalMSSociety.org.

The National MS Society Blue Ridge Chapter serves 51 counties in Virginia, the state of West Virginia and seven counties in Kentucky. Within the chapter, 6,000 people are living with MS.

Early and ongoing treatment with an FDA-approved therapy can make a difference for people with multiple sclerosis. Learn about your options by talking to your health care professional and contacting the National MS Society at nationalMSSociety.org or 1-800-FIGHT-MS (344-4867).

#