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GOVERNOR CHRIS CHRISTIE NAMED
NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY
GOVERNOR OF THE YEAR
Award Recognizes Leadership on Disability Issues

WASHINGTON, DC – New Jersey Governor Chris Christie is the National Multiple Sclerosis Society’s 2012 Governor of the Year. Grassroots MS activists and National MS Society Public Policy Staff will honor Governor Christie at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel during the Society’s annual Public Policy Conference on March 5, 2013. In bestowing its highest honor for public officials, the Society applauds Governor Chris Christie’s leadership and dedication to issues that improve the lives of people living with multiple sclerosis and their families.

Building on his reputation of helping New Jersey families, Governor Chris Christie signed the Multiple Sclerosis Task Force bill into law in 2012 to help address the unmet needs and challenges of more than 14,000 citizens with MS. Additionally, Governor Christie and his Administration sought approval from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to ensure access to prescription medications to uninsured residents affected by Hurricane Sandy through its Emergency Prescription Assistance Program.

“Multiple sclerosis affects thousands of New Jerseyans and many more Americans across the country, as well as their families,” said Governor Christie. “Through proactive legislation and Employment First opportunities, my Administration is committed to addressing the needs and improving the quality of life for residents living with MS. I am deeply honored to be recognized by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, whose tireless efforts to draw attention to the needs of individuals affected by MS inspire us all to continue to advocate for these brave individuals and their families.”

Governor Christie has also shown his commitment to the full realization of the Americans with Disabilities Act when he signed a bill allowing students with disabilities to bring their service animals to school and participating in Employment First, a program to enhance employment opportunities for the disabled.

“Governor Chris Christie is a strong advocate in New Jersey and amongst governors across the country on behalf of people with disabilities and everyone impacted by MS,” National MS Society President and CEO Cyndi Zagieboylo said. “We’re proud to name him 2012 Governor the Year for signing the Multiple Sclerosis Task Force Bill into law and his leadership during Hurricane Sandy to help uninsured residents receive the prescription drugs in a time of need.”

For more information on Governor Chris Christie, visit www.nj.gov/governor, www.facebook.com/GovChrisChristie, or www.twitter.com/govchristie.

For more information on the Society and MS issues, visit www.nationalMSSociety.org/advocacy.

For more information on the Society’s local New Jersey programs, visit www.nationalmssociety.org/chapters.

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 body. 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 at least two to three times more women than men being diagnosed with the disease. MS affects more than 2.1 million people worldwide.

About the National MS Society

The National MS Society addresses the challenges of each person affected by MS. To fulfill this mission, the Society funds cutting-edge research, drives change through advocacy, facilitates professional education, collaborates with MS organizations around the world, and provides programs and services designed to help people with MS and their families move forward with their lives. In 2012 alone, the Society invested \$43 million to support 350 research projects around the world while providing programs and services that assisted more than one million people. The Society is dedicated to achieving a world free of MS. Join the movement at www.nationalMSSociety.org.

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