Hall/ Louzan award press release Draft 1 - 3/5/14 Kristi V. - 3/6 Kirk - 3/5

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Quincy Teen Wins Easter Seals Pioneer in Technology Award**

**March 19, 2014** — Easter Seals presented Jake Louzan of Quincy with its 2014 Pioneer in Technology Award on March 18 at a reception in Boston. Easter Seals provides services for people with disabilities.

Because of his disability, this bright and articulate 14-year-old has difficulty reading and using a computer keyboard. With assistive technology and training from Easter Seals, Jake is now able to keep up with his homework assignments by dictating to his computer, which also reads text back to him.

"This award is a tribute to Jake for his hard work and positive attitude," Easter Seals President Kirk Joslin said. "With Easter Seals assistive technology and training, and the support of his teachers and family, Jake is envisioning a bright future for himself."

The Easter Seals Assistive Technology program marked its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year. One of the oldest programs of its kind in the nation, it is now one of the largest and best-known. Assistive technology includes a wide range of technology and devices that empower people with disabilities to reach their full potential.

Easter Seals Massachusetts provides services to ensure that children and adults with disabilities have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play. Nonprofit and nonsectarian, Easter Seals offers technological assistance, employment and training services, recreational activities, youth transition and leadership programs, veterans' services, rehabilitation services and public awareness programs. For more information, call 800-244-2756 or go to <a href="https://www.EasterSealsMa.org">www.EasterSealsMa.org</a>.

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