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### **For Immediate Release**

#### **STRIDE Adaptive Sports receives prestigious Newman's Own award at the Pentagon Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen Praises Their Work**

**Washington, DC-** On September 10, 2009, at the Pentagon, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Navy Admiral Mike Mullen lauded 11 volunteer-based organizations from around the country for their ingenuity and innovative efforts to improve the lives of military members and their communities. STRIDE Adaptive Sports of Rensselaer, New York was one of eleven organizations that received the prestigious Newman's Own award in support of its Camp STRIDE Wounded Warrior Fall Family Retreat. The \$5,000 dollar grant was presented in the 'Hall of Heroes' by Mr. Tom Indoe, President of Newman's Own, Mr. Dave Coker, President of Fisher House Foundation and Mrs. Tammy Fisher, Grandniece of Fisher House Founders Zach and Elizabeth Fisher. Admiral Mullen offered remarks at the ceremony challenging each group to inspire new groups to create innovative programs to meet the needs of our returning service members. One hundred eleven nominations were received in response to the grant application and eleven were selected to receive the award.

In its fifth year offering programs to military members who have been injured, STRIDE is proud to offer the second annual Wounded Warrior Family Camping Retreat at Moreau Lake State Park in Glens Falls NY, an event for service members with serious injuries who are living in the local community. The idea was an outgrowth after four years of providing winter sporting events for Wounded Warriors and their families. STRIDE realized that offering an event where seriously injured service members could connect with children with similar disabilities in their own community would be rehabilitative and have a lifelong impact for all involved. The Camp STRIDE Wounded Warrior Retreat is the first of its kind, nationwide, and STRIDE is extremely proud to have the recognition of a national award to support its work.

"When children who have special needs come together to be mentored by military service members who have sustained disabilities as a result of injuries, the activities and time together are extremely powerful in the rehabilitative process. Bonds are formed between the pairs that touch the lives of everyone involved." said Mary Ellen Whitney, CEO and founder of STRIDE. "I couldn't be more proud of this innovative program, and the prestigious recognition it has drawn from Newman's Own and Fisher House,"

**For more information – Department of Defense Website:**  
<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=55787>

**Attached photo captions: Left to right:** Mr. Tom Indoe, President of Newman's Own, Navy Admiral Mike Mullen, Katie Moshier Suhr, Development Director for STRIDE, and her daughter, Natalie Moshier pose for award presentation.