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Contact: Madison Shofner, Public Relations
713.838.9050 x 351
mshofner@eastersealshouston.org

BridgingApps Announced as a Winner in Verizon Powerful Answers Award for Education
Prizes for the most innovative solutions in healthcare, education and sustainability announced at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

HOUSTON (January 13, 2014) – Easter Seals Greater Houston’s BridgingApps program is proud to announce it is a winner in the Verizon Powerful Answers Award for Education winning $700,000. After several rounds and more than 1,300 entries, the Powerful Answers Award winners were announced at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

The winners were selected by panels of judges with significant expertise in each of the three focus areas – healthcare, education and sustainability. The 15 money-winning ideas range from solutions to help manage donations in the aftermath of natural disasters, to a solution that allows healthcare providers to use smartphones to track and manage patient care, to a business simulation app designed to help students with financial literacy. Each idea leverages Verizon’s broadband, cloud or wireless networks.

BridgingApps was selected for its innovative approach to using mobile device technology such as the iPad or Android devices to help improve the educational, social and physical outcomes for students with disabilities.

“We are so grateful for Verizon’s recognition of the power of available, low cost technology to improve the lives of people with disabilities. BridgingApps started as a community of parents and therapists sharing information about using touch technology. Mobile devices and apps combined with broadband and cloud technologies will allow us to help teachers, parents, therapists, care teams and people with disabilities get the help they need anytime and anywhere. We will use the award to help map apps to core curriculum and help automate app selection for educational planning. As budget cuts result in fewer resources available for special education, we can use the super computing power of the smart phones and tablets in our pockets to improve educational outcomes. For many children with disabilities, it is not a lack of intelligence or ability to learn that will limit their potential, but a lack of access to the tools and training that their teachers need to help them succeed,” says Easter Seals Houston’s CEO, Elise Hough.

For more information about Easter Seals Houston and its BridgingApps program visit www.eastersealshouston.org or www.bridgingapps.org.

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About Easter Seals Greater Houston
Easter Seals Greater Houston, Inc. is a non-profit corporation established to provide comprehensive services to individuals of all ages with all types of disabilities. For more information, visit www.eastersealshouston.org.

About BridgingApps
BridgingApps, a program of Easter Seals Houston, provides the access, education, and resources needed to effectively use mobile, touch-based devices to help people with disabilities communicate, exceed educational goals, and reach their fullest potential. BridgingApps includes a website, app reviews by therapists and special education teachers, a custom app search engine, assistive technology labs, monthly in person meetings in Houston, Rio Grande Valley and Austin, training and certification options for parents, organizations and schools. For more information, visit www.bridgingapps.org.

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