



**20th Heinz Award Honors Former U.S. Marines, Founders of Team Rubicon,
for Re-Engaging Thousands of Veterans in a New Service:
Disaster Emergency Response**

*William McNulty and Jacob Wood Created a Movement by Tapping into the Desire
Many Veterans Have for Purposeful Mission after Military Service*

PITTSBURGH, April 23, 2015—When a 7.0 magnitude earthquake rocked Haiti in January 2010, former U.S. Marines William McNulty and Jacob Wood assembled a rapid-response team. Their success gave rise to a worldwide volunteer organization of military veterans armed with a new mission: providing swift and effective disaster relief, from the flooded plains of Pakistan to the most vulnerable New York City neighborhoods hit hardest by Hurricane Sandy. Trained to be nimble and adaptable, the volunteers are able to seize the critical window between disaster onset and the arrival of conventional relief agencies to save lives almost immediately.

Today, the Heinz Family Foundation named Mr. McNulty and Mr. Wood, who co-founded the nonprofit veteran-led disaster relief organization Team Rubicon, the recipients of the 20th Heinz Award for the Human Condition. The accolade, one of only five made nationwide for extraordinary achievement in specific areas of endeavor, comes with an unrestricted cash award of \$250,000 to be shared by the two founders.

“William McNulty and Jacob Wood invite us to treat their fellow veterans as the powerful assets that they really are. By creating opportunities for veterans to continue serving others, they are not only reconnecting many of our former military men and women with a deep sense of purpose, but they are also helping our society fundamentally change the way we talk and think about veterans,” said Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Family Foundation. “The men and women who have served in our military have so much to offer, and Team Rubicon demonstrates that by engaging them as pillars of community and caring.”

Since 2010, Team Rubicon has deployed emergency response teams in disaster zones spanning four continents and 11 countries, including Pakistan, the Philippines, South Sudan and across the United States. Now a 25,000-member global volunteer network in the United States, Team Rubicon is also extending its model to other countries, including Norway, Australia and the United Kingdom, through a new organization called Team Rubicon Global.

“The volunteers of Team Rubicon are veterans who have found a new purpose after completing their military service, by stepping up to the plate and serving in their civilian life,” Mr. McNulty said.

After the suicide of a close friend and former Team Rubicon member who suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, Mr. McNulty and Mr. Wood wanted to build a support network for veterans that complemented the sense of community created by their collaborative disaster relief work. They launched a mobile app called Position Report (POS-REP) that uses GPS technology to connect veterans to one another in their own communities as well as to support services and peer groups. POS-REP also enables veterans to reach out to peers or support organizations in times of need. “We’re rewriting the false narrative that portrays veterans as victims who have to be treated with velvet gloves,” said Jacob Wood. “We’re proving to the world that we can challenge them, and that they will do great things. Team Rubicon is a microcosm of what society should be: people serving others, taking chances.”

Established to honor the memory of the late U.S. Senator John Heinz, the 20th Heinz Awards this year recognize those who have made significant contributions in five distinct areas of great importance to Senator Heinz: Arts and Humanities; Environment; Human Condition; Public Policy; and Technology, the Economy and Employment.

In addition to McNulty and Wood, the 20th Heinz Awards honored the following individuals:

- **Arts and Humanities: Roz Chast, Ridgefield, Conn.**
Roz Chast, best-selling illustrator and cartoonist, is being recognized for her body of work using humor to soften the anxieties, insecurities and neurosis of modern-day living.
- **Environment: Frederica Perera, DrPH, Ph.D., New York, N.Y.**
Dr. Perera, environmental health researcher at Columbia University, is being recognized for her pioneering research and advocacy efforts on the effects of air pollutants on the health of children in the pre- and postnatal periods.
- **Public Policy: Aaron Wolf, Ph.D., Corvallis, Ore.**
Dr. Aaron Wolf, geoscientist and professor at Oregon State University, is being recognized for spearheading a transformative approach to water disputes emphasizing cooperation over conflict.
- **Technology, the Economy and Employment: Sangeeta Bhatia, M.D., Ph.D., Cambridge, Mass.**
Dr. Bhatia, bioengineer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), is being recognized for her seminal work in tissue engineering, including the first cultivation of liver cells outside the human body.

Winners will receive their awards at a ceremony in Pittsburgh on May 13, 2015.

Now in its 20th year, the Heinz Awards has recognized 123 individuals and awarded more than \$21 million to the honorees. For more information about awardees visit <http://heinzawards.net/2015>.

EDITORS/REPORTERS: To obtain photos of McNulty and Wood or any of the other recipients, please contact Abby Manishor at amanishor@burness.com or 917-539-3308.

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About the Heinz Awards

Established by Teresa Heinz in 1993 to honor the memory of her late husband, U.S. Senator John Heinz, the Heinz Awards celebrates the accomplishments and spirit of the Senator by recognizing the extraordinary achievements of individuals in the areas of greatest importance to him. The awards, administered by the Heinz Family Foundation, recognize individuals for their contributions in the areas of Arts and Humanities; Environment; Human Condition; Public Policy; and Technology, the Economy and Employment. Nominations are submitted by invited experts, who serve anonymously, and are reviewed by an independent panel of jurors appointed by the Heinz Family Foundation. The jury makes recommendations to the Board of Directors, which subsequently selects the Award recipients. For more information on the Heinz Awards, visit heinzawards.net.

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