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Contact:  
Michelle Pollak  
(202) 659-9709  
[michelle@thewellnesscommunity.org](mailto:michelle@thewellnesscommunity.org)

## **The Wellness Community's *GroupLoop.org* Receives Outstanding Website WebAward from The Web Marketing Association**

*Website Receives WebAward for Third Year in a Row*

**WASHINGTON, D.C. – October 3, 2006 –** For the third year in a row, The Wellness Community® (TWC), an international, non-profit organization dedicated to providing free support and education for all people affected by cancer, and its *Group Loop: Teens. Talk. Cancer. Online.* website were honored by The Web Marketing Association. This year, *GroupLoop.org* received the Outstanding Website WebAward in the 2006 WebAwards competition organized by The Web Marketing Association, a Boston-based international organization dedicated to setting a high standard for Internet marketing and web development on the Internet. In 2004, *GroupLoop.org* was recognized with the Outstanding Website Award for a Non-Profit Organization and in 2005, it received the Standard of Excellence Award.

This international award is in recognition of *GroupLoop.org*, which was launched by TWC in March 2004. Designed by DLC Solutions, developed in collaboration with Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and funded by a generous grant from The Amgen Foundation, *GroupLoop.org* is an innovative resource for teens with cancer to connect online with other teens living with cancer.

"Each year, approximately 50,000 teens in the United States are diagnosed with cancer. In the last year, we reached a significant number of those teens," said Mitch Golant, TWC's vice president of research and development. "Through *Group Loop*, teens with cancer connect with others across the United States and around the world in nine other countries."

*GroupLoop.org* is a safe place for teens to get away from the daily pressures of classes, job and family responsibilities, and demanding treatment schedules. In addition to online support groups and 24x7 Discussion Boards for teens, there are also online support groups for parents. By visiting [www.grouploop.org](http://www.grouploop.org), teens and parents have access to topics such as "Find-A-Friend," where teens can connect with others according to cancer type and other interests; InfoZone, a resource page with information related to being a teen living with cancer, and more. *GroupLoop.org* also gives teens the opportunity to participate in a research study to evaluate the effectiveness of these online support groups on their quality of life.

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## **ABOUT THE WELLNESS COMMUNITY**

Celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June 2007, The Wellness Community is an international non-profit organization dedicated to providing free support, education and hope to people with cancer and their loved ones. Through participation in professionally-led support groups, educational workshops, nutrition and exercise programs, and mind/body classes, people affected by cancer learn vital skills that enable them to regain control, reduce isolation and restore hope regardless of the stage of their disease. Today, there are 21 Wellness Communities around the United States plus 43 satellite and off-site programs, two centers abroad in Tel Aviv and Tokyo, five centers in development, and online at The Virtual Wellness Community. For more information, visit [www.thewellnesscommunity.org](http://www.thewellnesscommunity.org)