

## Winners of Disability Matters Awards Announced

**LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla.**, Feb. 12, 2007 – Springboard Consulting and Work Life Matters magazine today announced the winners of the First Annual ‘Disability Matters Awards’. Six companies including **Ernst & Young, Ford Motor Company, General Motors Corporation, IBM,** and the **Walt Disney World Resort** have been selected for their ‘pioneering dedication to the Special Needs community by providing innovative practices and programs addressing their employees’ special needs,” says Lori Sokol, Founder and Publisher of Work Life Matters magazine. Nadine Vogel, President of Springboard Consulting and mother of two children with special needs says these six firms know firsthand that supporting employees who have a disability or family member with special needs and marketing to consumers in the special needs community means increased productivity, retention and revenue. They also know that for the affected employees and consumers, it means the world!

Honorees will receive their awards on April 4th at an event hosted by Lehman Brothers at its headquarters at 745 7th Avenue in Manhattan. The event, which will run from 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., will include three morning seminars focusing on Marketing, Diversity and Work Life issues affecting both consumers and employees who either have a disability or have a child or other dependent with special needs. Representatives of the winning companies, as well as experts from the non-profit and academic arenas, will serve as panelists. The event will culminate with an Awards luncheon beginning at 12:30 p.m.

A special Spring ‘07 issue of Work Life Matters magazine will also feature the winning companies’ special needs programs. Copies of the magazine will be distributed at the event.

In addition, artwork created by Lillian Graham, an artist with Down Syndrome, will be auctioned at the event. The proceeds from this auction will be donated to the National Down Syndrome Society.