



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **RHI PRESENTS WELLPONT’S MARJORIE MAGINN WITH 2008 TRAILBLAZER AWARD**

(Indianapolis, Ind.) – The Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana Sports Program (RHISP) recently presented Marjorie Maginn of WellPoint, Inc. with its 2008 Trailblazer Award.

Maginn, of Indianapolis, was chosen to receive the Trailblazer recognition because of her vital role in helping pass legislation to establish the Indiana Spinal Cord Injury/Traumatic Brain Injury Research Trust Fund.

Generated from a 50-cent surcharge on all personal vehicle registrations, the trust fund will provide approximately \$1.8 million annually to support research on brain and spinal cord injury – research that can only be conducted in the state of Indiana.

“Without Marjorie’s skills, leadership and encouragement, we would not have been successful,” said Jim Graham, RHI Foundation’s executive director, during the award presentation at WellPoint. “All of the participants and volunteers in the RHI Sports Program, as well as other individuals living with these injuries, are grateful for her efforts.”

Angela Braly, president and CEO of WellPoint, the nation’s largest health benefits company in terms of medical membership, was on hand for the celebration of Maginn’s achievement.

“We’re very proud of Marjorie. This is so important because this trust fund will not only benefit injury victims, it will also advance Indiana’s economy by establishing continued funding for new research, much of which will ultimately attract federal grant money to the state,” Braly said. “Marjorie has always had a passionate interest in helping others and making a difference in people’s lives.”

Maginn, WellPoint’s staff vice president of Industry and Political Affairs, worked closely on the development of the fund with both Annette Seabrook, who conceived the initial idea, and State Rep. Carolene Mays, who sponsored the legislation. Maginn helped write the bill and educated volunteers on successful lobbying to help publicize its need.

Research topics considered by the trust fund will range from basic science to translational research designed to improve treatment. RHISP has already submitted five proposals; its research agenda is focused on treatment protocols that will increase self-sufficiency, improve post-injury health to avoid further hospitalization and get patients back to work.

Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana Sports Program (RHISP) is an independent, self-funded, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization of the Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana Foundation. Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana (RHI) is a community collaboration between Clarian Health and St.Vincent Health.

RHISP is dedicated to providing competitive and non-competitive athletic and recreational activities to individuals with disabilities to enhance quality of life, promote physical and emotional fitness, introduce recreational and wheelchair sports and challenge participants to perform at a competitive level. To learn about the program, please go to [http://www.rhin.com/page/RHI\\_sports\\_program](http://www.rhin.com/page/RHI_sports_program).

- END -