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For Immediate Release

Senator Schumer Applauds New York City Event for Promoting New Treatments for Brain Condition

The Hydrocephalus Association's inaugural Vision Dinner will raise awareness for this incurable brain condition and the association's efforts to drive the research agenda forward for the 1 million Americans currently affected.

New York, NY, October 9, 2013: U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) congratulates the Hydrocephalus Association for uniting politicians, neurosurgeons, scientists, advocates, and business leaders at a special event to raise the public profile of hydrocephalus, a chronic neurological condition that can affect anyone at any stage of life. On the eve of the association's first annual Vision Dinner, "A Time for Awareness; The Hope for a Cure," the Senator praised the event's focus on empowering the latest research around better treatment options and a cure. Hydrocephalus made national headlines in 2011 with the shooting of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, who acquired the condition as a result of her injuries. The incident was a wake up call for many, and it affirmed the critical need for the Hydrocephalus Association.

Hydrocephalus is a condition in which cerebrospinal fluid accumulates in the brain. There is no cure and the only treatment option requires brain surgery. The prevalent treatment is the implantation of a shunt, a medical device developed over 50 years ago that has a high failure rate, relegating patients to a lifetime of brain surgery. It is estimated that the medical costs for treating hydrocephalus are over \$1 billion per year in the U.S. alone. Despite the financial burden on the healthcare system, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) invested less than \$6.5 million last year in hydrocephalus research; less than \$1 per patient.

The First Annual Vision Dinner, which takes place on October 10, 2013, is hosted by Craig and Vicki Brown, major benefactors of the Hydrocephalus Association, the nation's largest and most widely respected non-profit patient advocacy organization dedicated to eliminating the challenges of this

condition. Renowned pediatric neurosurgeon and 2012 MacArthur Foundation Fellow, Dr. Benjamin Warf, will serve as the keynote speaker. The Senator also acknowledged the event's three award recipients for their tireless dedication to working toward eliminating the challenges of hydrocephalus through their affiliation with the Hydrocephalus Association. The event will honor Paul Gross, Senior Vice President, Geospatial Technologies, INRIX, recipient of the Inspiration Award; Marion Walker, M.D., Professor, Neurosurgery, Primary Children's Medical Center, recipient of the Service Award; and Emily and Russell Fudge, Co-Founders, Hydrocephalus Association, recipients of the Leadership Award.

The event will be held at the Apella Alexandria Conference Center located within the Alexandria Center for Life Science in New York City. For more information about the event or about hydrocephalus, please contact visiondinner2013@hydroassoc.org.

The [Letter of Recognition from U.S. Senator Charles Schumer](#) can be found on the Hydrocephalus Association website (<http://www.hydroassoc.org>) under Press Releases.

About the Hydrocephalus Association

The Hydrocephalus Association (HA) is a charitable organization dedicated to eliminating the challenges of hydrocephalus by stimulating research and supporting people who are affected by this condition. Incorporated as a non-profit in 1986, HA is now the nation's largest and most widely respected organization dedicated solely to serving those affected by hydrocephalus. HA has been instrumental in creating a community of individuals, families and health care professionals addressing the complexities of hydrocephalus in all age groups.

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