

CONTACTS:

Christine Hoek

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital
(616) 662-9241

christine@articulate-pr.com

David Swearingen

Johnson & Johnson
(732) 524-1744

Dsweari@corus.jnj.com

Tony Bianchini

Holt & Germann
(609) 656-0225

tbianchini@hmgpa.com

**FORMER DETROIT LIONS GUARD MIKE UTLEY TO HEADLINE
DISABILITY EVENT AT MARY FREE BED**

Event Will Highlight Hospital's Unique Programs for People with Disabilities

GRAND RAPIDS, MI – April 19, 2006 – Since he was paralyzed in a football game on November 17, 1991, former Detroit Lions offensive guard Mike Utley has sought to raise awareness for spinal cord injuries through the Mike Utley Foundation.

Utley will continue to raise awareness of the therapies, programs and products that are available for people with disabilities when he speaks at **an April 25th open house event at the Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital. The event will be held from 5 – 8 p.m.** that day in the Mary Free Bed Professional Building at 350 Lafayette SE in Grand Rapids.

“I’m honored to have the opportunity to share my story at Mary Free Bed and to talk about therapies that are available to people with disabilities,” said Utley. “I have focused all of my energy towards rehabilitation and through many hours of therapy I now live a fully independent life.”

The event, which is being sponsored jointly by Mary Free Bed and Independence Technology, a Johnson & Johnson company, is focused on providing further information on programs and services that enhance the lives of people with disabilities. In addition to a motivational speech by Utley, the event will highlight the capabilities of the stair climbing iBOT[®] 4000 as well as other high-tech program/service offerings, which are unique to Mary Free Bed including: Neuromuscular Biofeedback; Adaptive Sports; the Intense Fitness Therapy Program; Para Step; Rehab Technology; and Driver Rehab.

The Mary Free Bed event will also include featured artists from the Mary Free Bed Fine Arts Exhibition, a performance from the Living Light Dance Company – a dance troupe comprised of individuals with disabilities – and demonstrations of the iBOT[®] 4000 by former Mary Free Bed patient and iBOT[®] owner Dan Wedge. Refreshments will also be served.

“We are excited to have Mike Utley speak about his ongoing rehabilitation from spinal cord injury,” said Meg Derrer, Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital spokesperson. “Mike’s presence at our event can only help to raise greater awareness of the programs and services that Mary Free Bed provides to help people with disabilities regain independence in their lives.”

Utley will hold a media briefing at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25th to discuss the Mike Utley Foundation and his dedication to finding a cure for spinal cord injury. The briefing will be held at the Mary Free Bed Professional Building at 350 Lafayette SE in Grand Rapids. Media who are interested in speaking individually with Utley after the briefing are encouraged to contact Tony Bianchini at (609) 656-0225 or Christine Hoek at (616) 662-9241 in advance of the event.

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In addition to Utley's speech and Mary Free Bed program exhibits, event attendees will also have the opportunity to see multiple demonstrations of the iBOT[®] 4000. The iBOT[®] 4000 is unlike any mobility device on the market today as its combination of innovative functions allows wheelchair users to go places and do things not possible with any other single mobility device.

The iBOT[®] 4000's unique functions include:

- 1) The *Balance Function* elevates the user to move around at eye level and to reach high places independently. In this function, the front wheels rotate up and over the back wheels, while the user remains seated at an elevated position.
- 2) The *Stair Function* enables the user to safely climb up and down stairs, with or without assistance, allowing accessibility to previously inaccessible places.
- 3) The *4-Wheel Function* enables the user to climb curbs as high as five inches and to travel over a variety of uneven terrain, such as sand, gravel, grass, thick carpet and other surfaces.
- 4) The *Standard Function* enables the user to operate the device in the same manner as if in a traditional power chair. While operating in the Standard Function, users are able to easily fit their Mobility System under a table or desk.
- 5) The *Remote Function* allows the user or an assistant to drive the mobility system unoccupied into a vehicle.

After the event, consumers interested in the iBOT[®] 4000 Mobility System can contact the Independence Technology Customer Zone toll-free at 866-204-6126 for a test drive at the Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital. The next scheduled test drives at the Hospital are on May 18th and June 15th.

"We are pleased to work jointly with Mary Free Bed to raise awareness of the therapies, programs and products that are available today to help people with disabilities regain their active lifestyle," said Ola Abou-Sabe, vice president of marketing, Independence Technology. "Assistive technology devices like the iBOT[®] 4000 can help to positively impact the lives of wheelchair users and their families."

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About Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital is an 80-bed, not-for-profit, acute rehabilitation center. Its mission is to restore independence, hope, and freedom through rehabilitation to people with disabilities. Programs include brain injury; spinal cord injury; stroke and orthopedic; pediatric/adolescent; amputee; lymphedema; vestibular; motion analysis center; rehab technology center; orthotics and prosthetics services; and driver rehab. For more information about Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital please visit www.maryfreebed.com or call (800) 528-8989.

About Independence Technology

Independence Technology, a Johnson & Johnson company, is dedicated to helping people with disabilities live their lives with greater freedom. The company, headquartered in Warren, NJ utilizes the latest technologies to develop cutting-edge products and services. The iBOT[®] Mobility System was invented by Dean Kamen, founder of DEKA Research and Development. Johnson & Johnson partnered with DEKA in 1995 to develop the iBOT[®] Mobility System. Through continued development of the iBOT[®] Mobility System, Independence Technology is helping change the way people with disabilities view the world and the way the world views them. Using a unique combination of electronics, sensors and software, the iBOT[®] allows users to raise themselves to eye level, climb stairs and gives them a greater sense of independence and freedom to go where they want to go. For additional information about Independence Technology and the INDEPENDENCE[®] iBOT[®] 4000 Mobility System, please visit: www.ibotnow.com or call: 866-204-6126.