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## **The Wellness Community's Group Loop Receives Outstanding Website WebAward from The Web Marketing Association**

***Website Provides Free Support and Information for Teens with Cancer and Their Parents***

**WASHINGTON, D.C. – September 15, 2004** – The Wellness Community® (TWC), an international, non-profit organization dedicated to providing free support and education for all people affected by cancer, announced today that its *Group Loop: Teens. Talk. Cancer. Online.* website received the Outstanding Website WebAward for a Non-Profit Organization in the 2004 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.

This international award is presented in recognition of TWC's *Group Loop* website, 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, *Group Loop* is an innovative resource for teens with cancer to meet and communicate virtually with other teens living with cancer.

*Group Loop* is a safe place for teens to get away from the daily pressures of classes, after school activities, job and family responsibilities, and demanding treatment schedules. In addition to online support groups for teens, there are also online support groups for parents of teens with cancer. By visiting [www.grouploop.org](http://www.grouploop.org), teens and parents have access to online topics such as "Find-A-Friend," where teens can connect with others according to cancer type and other interests, InfoZone, a resource page with links and information related to being a teen living with cancer, and more. *Group Loop* 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.

Previous winners of the WebAwards include ABC.com, Eastman Kodak, IBM, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Sony, and The Wall Street Journal Online.

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**ABOUT THE WELLNESS COMMUNITY**

The Wellness Community® is an international, non-profit organization dedicated to providing free support and education as well as hope to people affected by cancer. 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 across the United States, five in development, 28 satellites, two centers abroad in Tokyo and Tel Aviv, and a community online at The Virtual Wellness Community. For more information, visit [www.thewellnesscommunity.org](http://www.thewellnesscommunity.org)