



THE HSC HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The HSC Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Eva Fowler
202.480.2341, efowler@cscn.org

2014 Advocates in Disability Award Winner Announced

National program honors young filmmaker dedicated to sharing stories to encourage social action

Washington, D.C. (June 13, 2014) – The HSC Foundation is pleased to announce that Alexander Freeman is the 2014 recipient of its [Advocates in Disability Award](#). Alexander, 26, has been a strong advocate for people with disabilities, particularly individuals with a passion for story-telling so that those who are perceived as invisible are seen and heard.

Alexander, who was born with cerebral palsy, is a writer, producer, director and editor of short and feature documentary and narrative films. Making films since he was 14 years old, Alexander's recent documentary [The Last Taboo](#) was awarded Best Screenplay at Bosifest 2013 in Serbia and chosen for Official Selection at the 10th European Film Festival: Integration You and Me in Poland. *The Last Taboo* follows six individuals with physical disabilities who share their perspectives on intimacy and relationships. It has been featured on NPR, ABC NEWS and mtvU, and is being distributed in the United Kingdom by Community Channel.

"Alexander is the definition of a true advocate," said Thomas W. Chapman, EdD, MPH, president and CEO of The HSC Foundation. "He is a strong role model for young people, with and without disabilities, and we thank him for his vision and thought-provoking stories."

Alexander will receive \$3,000 for his advocacy on behalf of individuals with disabilities, and an additional \$7,000 towards a project to benefit the disability community. He plans to use the \$7,000 to embark on a new, feature-length documentary entitled *The Soldier*, where he follows a wounded warrior returning home and adjusting to a new lifestyle. The film will explore the change in perspective and evolution of attitudes by family and friends who knew the young veteran before and after war.

"I want this film to call attention to the tremendous sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, as well as the families who support them," said Alexander Freeman, 2014 Advocates in Disability Award recipient. "My goal is to demonstrate that whatever someone's circumstances, there is always a way to make a relationship work."

Originally from Chestnut Hill, Mass., Alexander is also the founder and CEO of [OUTCAST PRODUCTIONS](#), which is devoted to sharing stories on disability, sexuality, identity and diversity that encourage social action. He is currently a senior at Emerson College in Boston, where he studies film production.



The HSC Foundation 2013 H Street, NW, Ste 300, Washington, DC 20006 202.454.1220 www.hscfoundation.org
Health Services for Children with Special Needs, Inc. 1101 Vermont Avenue, NW, Ste 1201, Washington, DC 20005 202.467.2737 www.hscsn-net.org
The HSC Pediatric Center 1731 Bunker Hill Road, NE, Washington, DC 20017 202.832.4400 www.hscpediatriccenter.org
HSC Home Care, LLC 1731 Bunker Hill Road, NE, Washington, DC 20017 202.635.5756 www.hsc-homecare.org

The Advocates in Disability Award program honors an individual between the ages of 14 and 26 who is dedicated to positively affecting the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families. The award is open to applicants from across the United States, and made possible by [The HSC Foundation](#). The HSC Foundation is the parent organization of The HSC Health Care System.

Past Advocates in Disability Award winners have achieved many accomplishments, from establishing a contest to commemorate the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, to eliminating outdated and stigmatizing language from Virginia state code and being appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as a member of the National Council on Disability.

The award is a project of the [National Youth Transitions Initiative](#), a signature program of The HSC Foundation. A major focus of the Initiative brings together the collective resources of multiple organizations, known as the [Youth Transitions Collaborative](#), to concentrate on transitions-related services, research, public policy and best practices.

Overall, its goal is to help young people and young veterans with disabilities build paths to independence and its physical building, the [National Youth Transitions Center](#), serves as a hub for regional and national disability organizations. Visit www.thenytc.org to learn more, or follow it on Twitter at [@The_NYTC](#) or Facebook at www.facebook.com/thenytc.

###

About The HSC Foundation

The HSC Foundation is dedicated to improving access to services for individuals who face social and health care barriers due to disability, chronic illness or other circumstances that present unique needs. Along with supporting operating companies, it places a particular emphasis on transition-age youth and young veterans. To learn more, visit www.hscfoundation.org.

About The HSC Health Care System

The HSC Health Care System is a nonprofit health care organization committed to serving families with complex health care needs and eliminating barriers to health care services. The System combines the resources of a [care coordination plan](#), [pediatric specialty hospital](#), [home health agency](#) and [parent foundation](#) to offer a comprehensive approach to caring, serving and empowering individuals with disabilities.

