

## The Big Winners of The 2014 TGA Awards

Media Contact: Kate Ryan

[kate@kateryanpr.com](mailto:kate@kateryanpr.com), 774.929.5223

The 2014 TGA Awards Ceremony, held on the second night of [The International Travel Goods Show](#), was filled with excitement, surprises, and acknowledgement of the most influential people, innovative products, and giving organizations of the year.

So, who took home the Awards? Read on to learn more about the big winners of 2014 – the hot items honored with Product Innovation and Buzz Awards, and the industry leaders acknowledged with the TGA Award and Community Service Awards.

### *Acclaimed Products of 2014*

#### **Product Innovation Award**

The Product Innovation Award is presented annually to the manufacturers of three products which the TGA Awards Committee perceived to be new, meaningful, and innovative. This year, over 57 items were nominated by their manufacturers, ranging from convertible carry-ons and business cases which charge laptops to accessories like GPS tracking devices, portable washing machines and water filtration devices. Learn more about the TGA Awards Committee's selection process through this video.

The first place Product Innovation Award was awarded to the [Pivotal Soft Case Gear Bag](#), with its patented ergonomic Pivot-Grip handle that rotates 360 degrees to reduce arm and wrist strain during travel.

The second place Product Innovation Award was awarded to the [Delsey Chatelet](#), a carry-on featuring the unique Stop and Go brake system which acts like a parking brake to prevent runaway luggage.

The third place Product Innovation Award was awarded to the [Nap Anywhere](#) non-bulky, portable head-support pillow, designed by Dr. Ravi Shamaingar.

#### **Buzz Award**

The Buzz Award is presented annually to a manufacturer whose product generated the most “buzz” in the New Products Pavilion, an area where exhibitors can submit brand-new products to be showcased at the entrance to the Show floor. The winner is determined by votes from buyers and media, and awarded on the last day of The International Travel Goods Show.

The 2014 Buzz Award went to the [Piggyback Rider](#), the dad-invented standing child carrier which takes advantage of the natural instinct to carry a child on your back.

### *Standout Industry Leaders*

#### **TGA Award**

The TGA Award is the travel goods industry's most prestigious honor, and it's presented for outstanding contributions to the industry, community, and the Travel Goods Association. Michele Marini Pittenger, president of the Travel Goods Association, accepted the 2014 TGA Award after being selected by the TGA Awards Committee. Pittenger has contributed over 25 years of service to

the industry, has led the Travel Goods Association to the strongest financial position in its 75-year history, and continually helps members of the Association achieve success in the industry.

You can learn more about the Michele and the TGA Award through [this video](#).

### **Community Service Award**

The 2014 Community Service Award was presented to [it luggage](#) for their support of the Indiana Children's Wish Fund (ICWF), a single-entity statewide wish-granting organization that grants wishes to Indiana children who have been diagnosed with a life-threatening or terminal illness.

At the 3rd annual Indiana Children's Wish Fund Airplane Pull, "Pulling for Wishes," it luggage staff helped raise \$201,813 – more than double the amount raised the first two years the event was held. Over 40 Indiana children with terminal or life-threatening illnesses will be granted their wish as a result of the Airline Pull.

In addition, it luggage has donated 860 pieces of luggage to ICWF, which was given to Indiana children diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses and their siblings. Since 2011, it Luggage in partnership with their vendors has donated nearly \$150,000 to further the mission of ICWF.

Learn more about it luggage's good works and the Community Service Award through [this video](#).

### **Lifetime Achievement Awards**

There were two Lifetime Achievement Awards presented at this year's TGA Awards Ceremony for decades of service and impact upon the travel goods industry. The recipients were Richard Gibbs, founder of Ricardo Beverly Hills, and Jean Mori of Mori Luggage & Gifts.

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