Soroptimist International Northwestern Region presents the Annual Northwest Conference Against Trafficking

**Saturday, January 9, 2010**
9a.m. to 5p.m.

Breakout Sessions, Keynote Speakers, Exhibit Expo, and Award Luncheon

"Look Beneath the Surface"
Inform, Educate, Protect

Cathy Standiford
Jane Velez-Mitchell
Host of “Issues” on HLN

Dallas Jessup

For Information
626.644.3472

www.NWCAT.org
Registration Now Open!

Emcee: Priva David, KOIN6

William Hillar
For Immediate Release:
December 1, 2009

Media Contact: Helping Heroes
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Conference Contact: Rebecca Cook
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(503) 927-7630

Website: www.NWCAT.org

Who: The Northwest Coalition Against Trafficking (NWCAT) that was founded by Soroptimist International members and clubs will be hosting their annual public conference on Saturday, January 9, 2010 in Portland, Oregon. Speakers include:

- Emcee: Priya David, host of “Keep it Local” on KOIN6
- Jane Velez-Mitchell, host of “Issues” on HLN who will be awarded the Ruby Award
- Dallas Jessup, founder of “Just Yell Fire” and past CNN HERO
- Cathy Standiford, Soroptimist International of the Americas’ President
- William Hillar, whose story partially can be seen in “Taken”

What: The Northwest Coalition Against Trafficking is a coalition of many Agencies, Political Leaders, Community Organizations, Individuals, Media and Business Supporters throughout the Northwest working to Inform, Educate, and Protect the women and girls from the Human Labor & Sex Trafficking in the Northwest Region of the United States of America. One of the outreach efforts in accomplishing this is through a public conference and forum.

This year’s conference will offer breakout sessions, keynote speakers, exhibit expo, award luncheon, and child finger printing. The objective of the conference is to educate the public on this epidemic with the hope that more supporters and donors join our coalition to help us raise the funds needed to break ground on a future Trafficking Victims’ Shelter in the Northwest of the country. The coalition has identified Portland, Oregon as the location of the first shelter in the Northwest.

When / Where: The conference will be held on Saturday, January 9, 2010 at the Red Lion Hotel on the River in Jantzen Beach-Portland, OR from 9am to 5pm.

Cost/Registration: $50.00 per person. Go to www.NWCAT.org to register online.

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For Immediate Release:
November 22, 2009

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PRIYA DAVID AND JANE VELEZ-MITCHELL TO
HEADLINE HUMAN TRAFFICKING CONFERENCE JANUARY 9, 2010

www.NWCAT.org

Portland, OR – The Northwest Coalition Against Trafficking (NWCAT) that was founded by Soroptimist International Northwestern Region will be hosting the annual Northwest Conference Against Trafficking on Saturday, January 9, 2010 in Portland, Oregon.

NWCAT is a coalition of many Agencies, Political Leaders, Community Organizations, Individuals, Media and Business Supporters throughout the Northwest working to Inform, Educate, and Protect the women and girls from the Human Labor & Sex Trafficking in the Northwest Region of the United States of America. One of the outreach efforts in accomplishing this is through the annual public conference.

The conference will be held on Saturday, January 9, 2010 at the Red Lion Hotel on the River in Jantzen Beach-Portland, OR will offer breakout sessions, safety demonstrations, keynote speakers, a luncheon, and exhibit expo. The prestigious Ruby Award honoree this year is Jane Velez-Mitchell, host of “Issues” on HLN and the emcee for the conference is Priya David, host of “Keep it Local” at KOIN6.

Over twenty agencies are hosting this public effort and the committee is encouraging the public to visit www.NWCAT.org for registration and more information.

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For Immediate Release:
November 13, 2009

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JANE VELEZ-MITCHELL, HOST OF “ISSUES” ON HLN, TO BE HONORED FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR WOMEN!

Portland, OR – Soroptimist International Northwestern Region along with many other agencies will come together to host the annual Northwest Conference Against Trafficking on Saturday, January 9, 2010 at the Red Lion Hotel on the River in Portland, Oregon.

It was announced today that the Soroptimist Ruby Award will be given to HLN’s Jane Velez-Mitchell by two Northwestern Region clubs, Soroptimist International of Southwest Washington and Vancouver. A notable television news journalist, Jane Velez-Mitchell is the host of the TV show “Issues with Jane Velez-Mitchell” which airs on HLN every night at 7p.m. eastern and 4 p.m. pacific. Previously, Jane reported for the nationally syndicated Warner Brothers/Telepictures show "Celebrity Justice." She also frequently guest hosted for Nancy Grace on her widely watched HLN show.

-More-
The Soroptimist Ruby Award: For Women Helping Women (formerly the Soroptimist Making a Difference for Women Award) acknowledges women who, through their personal or professional activities, work to improve the lives of women and girls. The work of these women helps to promote the issues that are important to the Soroptimist organization. Honorees are ordinary women who have worked in extraordinary ways to benefit women and girls. Examples of the type of work honored include: spearheading an effort to open a domestic violence shelter, starting a mentoring program for at-risk girls, or lobbying companies to provide on-site child care. The program enables local Soroptimist clubs and the Soroptimist organization to thank these women and encourage others to explore ways to assist women and girls.

The program begins on the club level, where the type of recognition varies. Award winners at the club level are eligible for additional awards at other levels of the organization. The finalist receives a $5,000 donation to the charity of her choice.

Women who are improving the lives of other women or girls through their professional or personal activities are eligible for the Soroptimist Ruby Award. These women have identified and focused on a need in their communities, which has significantly contributed to the improvement of women and girls’ lives.

Past Making a Difference for Women recipients have included: domestic violence expert and advocate Elaine Weiss; former U.S. Congresswomen Patsy Mink and Patricia Schroeder; novelist and former district attorney Linda Fairstein; Princess Diana; former child actor and U.S. Ambassador Shirley Temple Black; former Philippines President Corazon Aquino; and marine biologist Dr. Sylvia Earle.

Velez-Mitchell will accept the prestigious award on January 9, 2010 at the Northwest Conference Against Trafficking in Portland, Oregon. Anyone interested in attending the conference can visit the website for registration information at www.NWCAT.org.
For Immediate Release:
November 4, 2009

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CNN HERO IS YELLING FIRE!
Dallas Jessup One of the Headliners for Human Trafficking Conference

Portland, OR – The Northwest Coalition Against Trafficking (NWCAT) will be hosting a public conference on **Saturday, January 9, 2010** in Portland, Oregon.

Among the confirmed speakers include Vancouver, Washington resident and 2007 CNN Hero **Dallas Jessup**. Jessup an expert martial artist, this 17 year old grew a community service project to fight predators into a Million Girl Revolution across 45 countries with her non-profit Just Yell Fire. At 14 she produced a film to teach teen girls to protect themselves from abduction and sexual assault; it was 1 of the 10 most-downloaded production length films worldwide in 2007. Her book, *Young Revolutionaries Who Rock, An Insider's Guide to Saving the World One Revolution at a Time* won the Best Books Award 2009 for Young Adult Non Fiction from USA Books as a Groundbreaking Call to Teen Activism.

“Dallas is a Young Hero” - CNN

-More-
Jessup was inducted into the Hall of Fame for Caring Americans, won the Jefferson Award for Community Service, the Caring Award, the Seventeen Magazine Mission Award and many others. She appears regularly in the national media including Good Morning America, the Today Show, Fox & Friends and elsewhere. She travels an average of 10,000 miles a month including a 12 city rural India speaking tour teaching girls how to avoid slave traders for the sex trafficking industry. Dallas has keynoted at the FBI National Academy, the Mensa national conference, and her program is a for-credit course at MIT. She is a freshman at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee as a McKelvey Scholar for Social Entrepreneurship.

**Dallas Jessup** will host a breakout session on January 9, 2010 at the Northwest Conference Against Trafficking titled “just yell fire!” To learn more about Dallas and Just Yell Fire: [www.dallasjessup.com](http://www.dallasjessup.com).

“The **NWCAT Conference: Look Beneath The Surface** will offer something for the entire family,” said Rebecca Cook, conference co-chair. The Emcee for the day is **Priya David**, Host of “Keep it Local” and anchor/reporter for KOIN6.


To register or more information please go to [www.NWCAT.org](http://www.NWCAT.org).

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**Media Contact:** Helping Heroes
helpingheroes@earthlink.net
(626) 644-3472
Keynote Speakers

**Conference Emcee:** Priya David, host of “Keep It Local” KOIN6. Priya David has traveled all over the world, but she decided she wanted to be home. Priya David hosts “Keep It Local” weekdays at 4 p.m. on KOIN Local 6.

She was a CBS News correspondent based in New York since 2008. She has covered high profile stories, including reports from Malawi, Africa on Madonna’s adoption of Mercy James and a world exclusive broadcast interview with the man who reportedly was Mercy’s father; an exclusive interview with Lorrie Sullenberger, wife of Captain Sully Sullenberger; extensive live reports from the New York Stock Exchange on the financial crisis; in-depth reports on the Supreme Court nomination of Sonia Sotomayor; the 20th anniversary of Pan Am flight 103; hurricanes Gustav, Hannah, and Ike; and several reports on energy, including alternate sources and gas prices.

David was a producer at KKFX-TV Santa Barbara, Calif.; Orange County News Channel and Garden Grove News in Orange County. She was graduated with honors from Westmont Santa Barbara College in 1997 with a bachelor’s degree in anthropology and with honors from the Annenberg School at the University of Southern California in 2002 with a master’s degree in broadcast journalism. Along the way, David also completed internships at CNN in London, the Foreign Correspondents Program in Finland and at ABC’s “Peter Jennings Reporting” unit. Her first foray into journalism was an article for the school newspaper in the fourth grade.

David was born in Chennai, India, and grew up in Falls Church, Va.; Yorba Linda, Calif.; Brussels and London, where her father worked for an American company that worked with NATO.

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**Jane Velez-Mitchell** - The *Soroptimist Ruby Award* will be given to Jane Velez-Mitchell. Jane Velez-Mitchell hosts HLN’s *Issues with Jane Velez-Mitchell*, a topical event-driven show with a wide range of viewpoints. A veteran television news journalist, Velez-Mitchell reported for the nationally syndicated Warner Brothers/Telepictures show Celebrity Justice and regularly served as guest host for Nancy Grace, another HLN program.

As a commentator on high-profile cases, Velez-Mitchell has appeared on CNN, MSNBC, Fox News and other national cable television programs. During the Michael Jackson molestation trial, she appeared daily on Nancy Grace and was featured on CNN’s Larry King Live on several occasions, including the evening of the verdict.

Her nonfiction book, Secrets Can Be Murder: What America's Most Sensational Crimes Tell Us About Ourselves, was published by Touchstone, a division of Simon & Schuster. The paperback version appeared in bookstores in June 2008. Velez-Mitchell previously spent more than a decade anchoring and reporting for KCAL-TV in Los Angeles. She also served as a reporter/anchor for eight years at WCBS-TV in New York City.

Velez-Mitchell is the recipient of a Los Angeles Emmy Award and a New York Emmy Award. The KCAL-TV newscasts she co-anchored won three Southern California Golden Mike Awards and an Emmy. She also wrote, directed and produced Dancing Through Life, an award-winning documentary. While working on Celebrity Justice, Velez-Mitchell’s reporting earned the show two Genesis Awards from the Humane Society of the United States.
Cathy Standiford of Garden Grove, Calif., is serving as president of the board of directors for Soroptimist, www.soroptimist.org an international volunteer organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world. As president, Standiford oversees strategic planning and program development for the organization. She will also help Soroptimist meet the goals of its Renaissance Campaign, a plan launched in 2004 to strengthen the organization’s brand.

Standiford is a member of Soroptimist International of Garden Grove, Calif., one of 3,100 Soroptimist clubs that exist to improve conditions for local women and girls. A member since 1989, Standiford has held several leadership positions including region governor and club president.

Standiford obtained a master’s degree in business and public administration from the University of California at Irvine. She currently works as a senior manager for Management Partners, a government-consulting firm. She has more than 25 years’ experience in the public sector, including serving as city manager and deputy city manager, and is also a credentialed manager for the International City/County Management Association.

William G. Hillar is a retired Colonel of the U.S. Army Special Forces. He has served in Asia, the Middle East, and Central and South America, where his diverse training and experiences included tactical counter-terrorism, explosive ordnance, emergency medicine and psychological warfare.

His military expertise led him not only to cross-train and serve with Special Forces from allied countries, but to advise governments and military organizations in several foreign nations. He holds a B.A. in Psychology, an M.A. in Education, a Ph.D. in Health Education, and an honorary doctorate in Intercultural Relations.

In 1988, while traveling with schoolmates in Southeast Asia, kidnappers pulled Bill Hillar’s 17-year old daughter off a train and forced her into the sex industry. Despite an exhaustive, multi-country search, her father, a Special Forces Colonel, was unable to save his daughter from the fate that ultimately took her life. The recent movie “Taken,” with Liam Neeson is partially based on Bill Hillar’s personal story.

Hillar provides training and consultation to law enforcement, firefighters, and other first responder organizations where quick reaction and rapid recovery are essential for survival. Hillar is also an adjunct professor at Monterey Institute of International Studies and the University of Oregon. His courses and workshops include: http://billhillartraining.com

- Transnational Drug Smuggling
- Human Trafficking
- Tactical Counter-terrorism
- Transnational Criminal Gangs
Dallas Jessup is a CNN Hero an expert martial artist, this 17 year old grew a community service project to fight predators into a Million Girl Revolution across 45 countries with her non-profit Just Yell Fire. At 14 she produced a film to teach teen girls to protect themselves from abduction and sexual assault; it was 1 of the 10 most-downloaded production length films worldwide in 2007. Her book, Young Revolutionaries Who Rock, An Insider’s Guide to Saving the World One Revolution at a Time won the Best Books Award 2009 for Young Adult Non Fiction from USA Books as a Groundbreaking Call to Teen Activism. CNN says she’s a Young Hero, InTouch Weekly calls her a Super Teen, People says she gets Big Results and Suite 101 calls her the Leading Voice of the Next Great Generation. She was inducted into the Hall of Fame for Caring Americans, won the Jefferson Award for Community Service, the Caring Award, the Seventeen Magazine Mission Award and many others. She appears regularly in the national media including Good Morning America, the Today Show, Fox & Friends and elsewhere. She travels an average of 10,000 miles a month including a 12 city rural India speaking tour teaching girls how to avoid slave traders for the sex trafficking industry. Dallas has keynoted at the FBI National Academy, the Mensa national conference, and her program is a for-credit course at MIT. She is a freshman at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee as a McKelvey Scholar for Social Entrepreneurship. To learn more about Dallas and Just Yell Fire: www.dallasjessup.com

SPONSORS INCLUDE:

- Soroptimist
- Alaska Airlines
- Multnomah County, Oregon
- City Club of Portland
- Red Lion Hotel On The River