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A program founded by Soroptimist International Northwestern Region

SOROPTIMIST ANNOUNCES NEW AWARD FOR JOURNALISTS

The Jane Velez-Mitchell Journalism Award Opens June 1st



Portland, OR (May 17, 2010) – Soroptimist International Northwestern Region and the Northwest Coalition Against Trafficking announced today a new award geared towards journalists who are dedicated and consistent in keeping the “war on women” visible to their audiences throughout the year.

The Jane Velez-Mitchell Journalism Award is named after award-winning journalist Jane Velez-Mitchell, host of “Issues” on HLN. Velez-Mitchell was honored in January with the organization’s prestigious Ruby Award for her ongoing dedication and advocacy for women and girls. “We are hoping journalists throughout the country will be nominated for their great work in keeping the awareness and ‘issues’ on the violence against women a focus point of their reporting as Jane does five nights a week,” said Michelle Bart, the organization’s Human Trafficking Chairperson.

The Jane Velez-Mitchell Award recognizes excellence in coverage of news of local, national, and international significance, with a single award for either a print or broadcast journalist who uses the power of media and his or her position to highlight the ongoing violence against women and girls, whether domestic violence, human trafficking, kidnapping and abductions, hate crimes, or other despicable crimes and violence against women and girls.

The honoree(s) of this prestigious award will be recognized for her/his ability to keep women and girls a focus point in their messages to their audience and the public. Their dedication and support of Soroptimist principles will be acknowledged in an award presentation every year.

“The ongoing violence against women and girls has become an epidemic and unless the education, advocacy, and awareness remain strong and reported accurately in the media, the ‘war on women’ will continue. Jane is a perfect example of a journalist who takes her position and profession and uses it to have a voice for the voiceless. We hope putting the challenge out to journalists [in all areas of media], we will be honoring the best in the business who has a strong voice for women & girls as Jane does,” said Bart.

The JVM Journalism Award will be awarded on January 15, 2011 in Portland, Oregon during the annual Human Trafficking Conference by Ms. Velez-Mitchell. **“I am proud to support such an honorable and urgent cause by encouraging journalists to cover the critical issues affecting women. Fighting the “war on women” must become a priority in our society...this can be accomplished only by making it a priority in our national dialogue,”** said Velez-Mitchell.

Applications will be available on June 1st on www.NWCAT.org.

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