



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES AND LA CITY'S COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN  
HONOR 15 WITH THE PIONEER WOMEN AWARD**

**COUNCILMEMBER JACK WEISS SELECTS JANET HALBERT AS HIS DISTRICT'S  
HONOREE FOR HER WORK WITH CANCER PATIENTS**

**HURDLE JUMPERS PROVIDES CANCER COMFORT KITS FOR THOSE UNDERGOING  
TREATMENT FOR CHEMO AND RADIATION**

March 31, 2009 – LOS ANGELES, CA – The City of Los Angeles together with LA City's Commission on the Status of Women honored 15 women for their significant contributions toward improving the status of women in Los Angeles. This year marks the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the award, which is presented annually by the L.A. City Council and the city's Commission on the Status of Women to one woman from each of the city's 15 council districts. The award presentation is the hallmark of the City's observance of National Women's History Month which occurs in March.

Councilmember Jack Weiss selected Janet Halbert to be the 5<sup>th</sup> District's recipient of the Pioneer Women Award for her exceptional work on behalf of cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy and radiation. She founded Hurdle Jumpers to provide cancer comfort kits to newly diagnosed cancer patients about to start treatment. Since its inception in 2006, Hurdle Jumpers has provided nearly 3,000 kits which contain a variety of donated sample products from nationally recognized pharmaceutical and consumer health companies, along with a humor book, Janet's personal survival tips, educational materials, a relaxation CD and other practical items known to help manage the side effects of cancer treatment.

"So many people are touched by cancer," said Councilmember Jack Weiss. "Janet Halbert founded Hurdle Jumpers to address the very real needs of cancer patients facing chemo and radiation. She has done an outstanding job bringing together charitable donors, corporate sponsors and volunteers of all ages to inspire and help patients and their families."

"I'm very honored to receive this award," said Janet Halbert, Founder of Hurdle Jumpers. "Nothing prepares you for the annoying side effects of cancer treatment...I designed both a chemo and radiation kit from a patient's perspective and filled them with the things that helped me get through cancer treatment."

**About The Commission on Status of Women**

The Commission assists in assuring to all women the opportunity for full and equal participation in the affairs of City government and promotes the general welfare of women in the Los Angeles community. The Commission is authorized to advise the Mayor and City Council on policy impacting women and girls in the City of Los Angeles.

**About Hurdle Jumpers**

Hurdle Jumpers provides free "Comfort Kits" with the information, products and tools that patients starting chemotherapy and radiation treatment need during such a time of distress. The kits include patient education materials on day-to-day issues that arise during treatment and practical advice from cancer survivors and healthcare providers; samples of products known to ease side effects such as a gentle toothbrush, dental products for dry mouth, mild soaps and lotions, and laxative; and supportive tools (a guided imagery/relaxation CD, humor book and others) to help patients soar over the physical and emotional obstacles of treatment. For more information, please visit our website: [hurdlejumper.org](http://hurdlejumper.org)

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