

NEWS ABOUT HURDLE JUMPERS' FOUNDER



The Los Angeles Business Journal
CELEBRATES L.A.'S INSPIRATIONAL
WOMEN BUSINESS LEADERS

Women Making a Difference 2008

The LABJ held its seventeenth annual Women Making a Differences Awards Reception Luncheon on May 6, 2008. Over 200 prestigious nominees were submitted to the judges for consideration, including Hurdle Jumpers' Founder, Janet Halbert.

The celebration honors Los Angeles based women who "lead by example", successfully blending effective business vision with a passionate commitment to positively making a difference in both the world of business and in the communities they serve. These women have truly blazed a path of leadership and inspiration for all Angelenos. Hurdle Jumpers congratulates all of the nominees.

Twelve business colleagues submitted Janet's name for consideration. Following is an excerpt from one of the nominating essays:

I nominate Janet Halbert, a woman who has volunteered her time and applied her business acumen to help cancer patients solve real day-to-day problems on their road to recovery.



At the luncheon, HJ Advisors Daniel Giesberg and Carol Lifland, (R), Janet Halbert, and HJ supporter, Elise Spilker (L)

Two years ago, Janet founded a non-profit charity known as Hurdle Jumpers. As a cancer patient, Janet noticed that many over-the-counter remedies and basic tips helped alleviate side effects of her treatment, but she spent a lot of her precious and diminishing energy tracking them down. As a cancer survivor, she made it her goal to help solve those problems for others.

Her organization's mission is to provide free comfort kits to cancer patients to ease the side effects of radiation and chemotherapy. The kits contain brand name items donated by manufacturers, including products for dry eyes, mouth and skin, along with other practical items, like a gentle toothbrush and a humor book. Janet pulled this together quickly, with minimal overhead and a tremendous amount of love. Hurdle Jumpers has distributed over 2,000 kits directly to patients via a network of physicians and nurses who heard about the kits.

Janet recruited high caliber advisory boards, including some of the foremost experts in Southern California, and attracted seed capital from large and small donors. Janet's infectious spirit has brought out the volunteerism in many professionals who have devoted their talents and time (from providing legal and tax services to graphics and logo design, copy

editing, and website development) and from student volunteers who assemble the kits.

There are many organizations that serve the cancer community, but Janet does so in a unique way, helping to address real practical problems which cancer patients face. Janet receives incredible feedback from kit recipients, reinforcing that her efforts give them a helpful tool to combat the day-to-day issues while letting them know they are not alone in their cancer journey.

Hurdle Jumpers embodies Janet's values of caring for, sharing with and empowering others. She is an inspiration to all who know her – she has taken this "big" idea and made it a successful meaningful reality, and seemingly effortlessly.

In her professional life outside of Hurdle Jumpers, Janet has spent the past 28 years as a business consultant in Los Angeles, creating efficiencies in the accounting departments of for-profit and non-profit organizations including closely-held family businesses.

© 2008



HJ Board member Kathe Pilch (L), HJ Supporter Sandra Braun, Janet, and Marjorie Pressman, HJ Board of Advisors (R)

Hurdle Jumpers is a 501(c)(3) public charity.

To volunteer, donate securely or for more information, go to: www.hurdlejumpers.org

For business consulting services, contact Janet at JRH Consulting Group: janet@jrhconsulting.com