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For immediate release

***NCJW 2010 Hannah G. Solomon
Awards for community leaders
dedicated to teens at risk***

***Susan Tortolero, PhD and Houston's former First Lady,
Andrea White, accept NCJW's highest honor
championing social change.***

Houston (Feb. 22, 2010)— National Council for Jewish Women's Greater Houston Section bestowed the Hannah G. Solomon Award to two deserving community leaders on Sunday, February 21, 2010 at the Junior League of Houston.

With an introduction by **Planned Parenthood's VP of Education, Meryl Cohen**, also past award recipient, the 2010 Hannah G Solomon Award was given to Susan Tortolero for her work with teens and reproductive health.

Susan Tortolero, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Behavioral Science and Health Promotion, and Epidemiology at the University of Texas School of Public Health. She has over 20 years of experience conducting research on risk and protective behaviors regarding adolescent physical and mental health.

Dr. Tortolero and colleagues developed "It's Your Game" an HIV, STD and pregnancy prevention curriculum that is now being used in schools. The evidence-based content provides a strong argument for delaying sex among teens.

Houston's **Former First Lady Andrea** White has focused on deepening community bonds with her work

in education. Past award recipient and **State Representative of District 134, the Honorable Ellen Cohen**, introduced **Andrea White** and honored her for her work with *Expectation Graduation*. To help keep kids in school, Andrea and Bill, in partnership with HISD, founded *Expectation Graduation* to reach drop outs. Volunteers knock on doors and personally ask kids to come back to school. Thousands of students have returned to school since the program started in 2004 and now includes 18 cities in Texas.

The Hannah G. Solomon Awards are presented annually to outstanding individuals who have worked to bring about social change. The award commemorates the spirit of Hannah G. Solomon who established NCJW in 1893. As an early social activist, she led the organization in its landmark battles for laws restricting child labor, child welfare programs and for improved housing, education and health care for the poor.

About NCJW

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.