

ST. CLOUD AREA SERTOMA CLUB



NEWS RELEASE

(Contact: Lori Cates – President, St. Cloud Area Sertoma Club / 320.202.6713 / lori@granitecountry.com)

February 22, 2011 -- Two trips to Peru, one as a teen and another as an adult, helped **Jan Hanson** of Sartell gain empathy for orphan children in need. Eventually Hanson would help found an organization that endeavors to help orphanages around the world. And for her humanitarian efforts Hanson has been chosen as the recipient of the **St. Cloud Area Sertoma Club's** annual “**SERvice TO MAnkind**” award.

Jan Skalicky was born in North Dakota and raised in Albany, Minnesota. During the summer of her sophomore year in high school her parents gave her the opportunity to spend three months in Lima, Peru in a student exchange program. The years passed...Jan graduated from St. Cloud State University, married Dennis Hanson, raised four daughters and worked for others and for herself (EE Marketing Strategies) in the field of marketing.

But in January, 2007 Jan traveled back to Peru on an international volunteer trip through a group called Cross Cultural Solutions. The work she did on that trip helped her to rediscover her passion for third world children in need – and it led her to co-found the organization **200 Orphanages Worldwide**. The group attained nonprofit status in July, 2008. The ensuing months involved awareness building and the start of fundraising, and by 2010 the organization was making tangible contributions to orphanages in places like Haiti, Uganda and Rwanda. Jan knows that her goals are lofty, but she plans to continue building awareness and funding for the immense international need in this area. Her organization's next St. Cloud area fundraiser is this coming Saturday, February 26th when the 2nd annual Spring Fever Charity 5K Run and Raffle will be held at Gold's Gym in Sartell.

Past winners of this award in recent years have been Joe Bauer of the Quiet Oaks Hospice House, Pastors Carol Jean and Geary Smith of Place of Hope Ministries, Patty Yarbrough – past board chair of the Central Minnesota Boys and Girls Club, Karin Reichensperger of the MESSAGE Program and community supporter Mary Weyrens Tasto.

Each year Sertoma clubs across the country pick one non-Sertoman member of their communities to receive the “SERvice TO MAnkind” award. Sertoma is a community service organization that was started in 1912. Local clubs in communities throughout North America work to aid people with hearing difficulties and to benefit other worthy causes in their areas. Two previously separate local clubs – the St. Cloud Downtown Club and the St. Cloud Westside Club – were merged in late 2010 to form the larger, stronger St. Cloud Area Sertoma Club. There are currently 77 members in the local club, which holds lunch meetings Tuesdays at the St. Cloud Holiday Inn.

