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# news release

4300 Marsh Ridge Road • Suite 114 • Carrollton, TX 75010  
972.267.1111 • 972.267.3535 (fax) • www.alarryross.com

## FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:

[A. Larry Ross Communications](#)

Melany Ethridge 972.267.1111

[melany@alarryross.com](mailto:melany@alarryross.com)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **‘Diamonds in the Dust’ inspirational radio show wins national award Host Joni Eareckson Tada shares encouragement daily on 700 outlets**

**AGOURA HILLS, Calif., Jan. 14, 2010** – With suffering and tragedy seemingly everywhere in the headlines and on the airwaves, one radio program uses its 60-second daily spot to uplift and encourage, to help listeners understand and accept this part of life, and to find those “diamonds” in their “dust.”

Hosted by Joni Eareckson Tada of Joni and Friends International Disability Center, “Diamonds in the Dust” was named the National Religious Broadcasters 2011 Radio Program of the Year – Short Form. The award will be presented at the February 26 Radio Reception at the NRB 2011 Convention and Expo held in Nashville at the refurbished Opryland Hotel.

A diving accident in 1967 left Joni Eareckson, then 17, a quadriplegic in a wheelchair, unable to use her hands. After two years of rehabilitation, she emerged with new skills and a fresh determination to help others in similar situations. [Joni and Friends International Disability Center](#) was founded in 1979 as she and her friends responded to the many questions and needs pouring in from families affected by disability who had read Joni’s books or had seen the movie of her life. Tada began a radio program in 1982 as another avenue for sharing encouragement and inspiration, and this past year introduced the one-minute format to reach even more listeners worldwide.

"I'm keenly aware of how precious radio time is, and that God wants me to make the best use possible of the moment," Tada said. "With ‘Diamonds in the Dust’ only being one minute long, I'm always asking God to help me say something succinct, yet significant from His Word. And judging from many letters and e-mails from listeners across the country, we're doing just that!"

NRB President and CEO Dr. Frank Wright agrees. "God has blessed Joni Eareckson Tada with an amazing ability to speak directly into our hearts through years of personal struggle and unwavering faith," he said. "As a result, she connects with her listeners by providing fresh insights that drive us deeper into our relationship with the Lord."

Tada is honored for her show to be selected for this award in its first year, recognizing what that says about the program’s impact in just a few short months. "With

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the explosion of so many new forms of media, there are literally hundreds of good one-minute features on the radio and Internet these days," Tada said. "That the National Religious Broadcasters would honor mine is huge. I am deeply honored and humbled by this special award and it's my prayer that God will keep using what I'm learning from His Word in my wheelchair to draw every listener closer to Jesus!"

For more than 30 years Joni and Friends has worked to accelerate ministry to the disability community, offering a wide array of life-affirming ministries to people with disabilities around the world. Joni and Friends does this through the International Disability Center; the Christian Institute on Disability; international radio and television programs filled with inspirational stories; Wheels for the World, which every year sees thousands of individuals receive wheelchairs and the life-giving message of the Gospel; and Family Retreats held in the U.S. and around the world, where families affected by disability learn that they are not alone. More information can be found online at the ministry's new website, [www.joniandfriends.org](http://www.joniandfriends.org).

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**Note to Editors: For more information or to arrange an interview with Joni and Friends representatives, please contact Melany Ethridge of A. Larry Ross Communications at 972.267.1111 or [melany@alarryross.com](mailto:melany@alarryross.com).**