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For immediate release

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JCA AND INTERAGES TO MERGE ON JULY 1, 2011

Rockville, MD -- On July 1, 2011, Interages®, a local charity, will merge into the Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington (JCA®), the region's largest direct-service organization for community dwelling seniors. Interages' 200 volunteers, six staff and many programs will form the basis of the Heyman Interages Center that JCA will establish in July, named to honor Interages' leader and founder, Austin Heyman.

For 25 years, Interages has pioneered intergenerational programs that work collaboratively and creatively with schools and a wide range of human service organizations. Some programs have active older adults tutoring and mentoring at-risk students and others enrich the lives of health impaired seniors through their active participation with children and youth. Also, Interages holds meetings, workshops and provides training to ensure that each generation will have the opportunity to learn and benefit from the other.

Since 1973, the Jewish Council for the Aging® (www.AccessJCA.org) has been providing a full range of free and low-cost services to seniors and family caregivers of all faiths, ethnicities and income levels. Its programs, which are likely to serve 30,000 older men and women this year alone, include senior transportation, adult day centers, job-search support, computer training, and information and referral. All enable older adults to remain in the homes of their choice as long and as independently as possible.

“There are many natural synergies between JCA and Interages,” said David Gamse, JCA’s Chief Executive Officer. “Given the number of current and emergent human needs and given tough economic realities, those synergies will enable us to accomplish more with less. We are planning to combine volunteer recruitment and training initiatives, mount a significant public outreach campaign, and expand programs that improve communication and understanding between younger and older persons who far too often are segregated from one another.” Both Interages and JCA are

long time partners with the Montgomery County government in delivering services. County Executive Leggett praised the merger saying, “Montgomery County residents have been well served by each of these organizations separately. What a promising future is ahead as they combine in their efforts to promote intergenerational understanding and enhanced services for senior citizens. Their restructured organization is a fine example of innovation and efficiency for other nonprofit organizations.”

One out of every four Americans is 60 or older. Locally and nationally, the senior population is growing fast, and many of its members have limited opportunity to interact with children.

“Future generations will live even longer and perhaps even more isolated lives,” said Carol Croll, Interages Executive Director. “Aging impacts families as well as every facet of our community. Young and old alike will benefit greatly from the resources of the new JCA Heyman Interages Center.”

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Photo attachments:

1. The JCA Center on Aging in Rockville, MD will become home to the new Heyman Interages Center.
2. Interages programs foster intergenerational understanding.