



**The Junior League of  
Youngstown**

*Women building better communities*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Junior League of Youngstown Announces 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and  
Welcomes New Board Members for the 2009-2010 Year***

Youngstown, OH (September 11, 2009) – The Junior League of Youngstown marks its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of community service in Youngstown and throughout the Mahoning Valley by introducing its 2009-2010 Board of Directors. The Junior League of Youngstown is an organization of women volunteer leaders dedicated to making a positive impact in the Mahoning Valley. The Youngstown League is a part of The Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI), which represents 293 Junior Leagues with over 165,000 members across four countries. The Junior League of Youngstown is one of eight AJLI affiliate Junior Leagues throughout the state of Ohio which include the Toledo, Dayton, Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Canton and Akron Junior Leagues.

Established in 1929 as the Junior Service League of Youngstown by 10 prominent local women, its first project included the Youngstown Junior Service League Shop and Workroom for the Blind and Disabled. The Junior Service League of Youngstown was accepted into membership by the AJLI in 1932 and officially became the Junior League of Youngstown.

The League has initiated and supported a vast multitude of community projects which have impacted the Mahoning Valley over the past 80 years including “Wishing Well” Gift Shop at Northside Hospital, the Children’s Art Festival at the Butler Art Gallery, the Children’s Zoo in Mill Creek Park, The Steel Valley Home for Girls, “Highlights In Black” (a community arts collaboration

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with the Links and the Junior Civic League), Daybreak, Leadership Youngstown (Leadership Mahoning Valley), Bargain Bonanza, Ronald McDonald House, Town Hall Lecture Series, Hope House, Pink Ribbon Survivor's Tea and Children's Museum of the Valley (Children's Center for Science and Technology). Over time, the League office has been housed at St. John's Church, Stambaugh Auditorium and its current location at the Commerce Building in downtown Youngstown.

Newly elected Board Officers are made up of women from the Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley area and include Michele D. Grant (Boardman), President; Joanne Nohra Wagner (Howland), President-Elect; Anna Aey (Canfield), Vice President; Amy Banks (Poland), Recording Secretary; and Michele Merkel (Warren), Treasurer. Sustainer Representatives are: Patti Edwards (Youngstown), Suzyn Schwebel Epstein (Hubbard), Joyce Mistovich (Boardman) and Jan Strasfeld (Youngstown).

Board members include: Marketing and Recruitment: Helene Sinnreich (Youngstown) and Anissa Modarelli (Boardman); Fund Development, Susan Stewart (Boardman); Training and Education, Tee Berlin (Canfield); Research and Development, Melissa D'Apolito (Poland) and Shellie Sabel (Poland); Provisionals, Fran Curd (Boardman); In-League Communication, Tara Mady (Poland); Passport to Prizes, Liz Skeels (Boardman); Done-In-A-Day Projects, Debra Hartig (Struthers); Pink Ribbon Tea, Leilani Drake (Boardman) and Sustainers Sue Berny (Boardman) and Annette Camacci (Poland); Mother/Daughter Brunch: Barbara Banks (Canfield) and Sustainers Rose Memo (Poland) and Renee Gessner (Canfield); and Angel Ball, Melanie Angiuli (Boardman) & Sustainers Ingrid Lundquist (Poland) and Annette Camacci.(Poland).

The 2009-2010 League volunteer commitments include Day Break Golf Outing to benefit Family Services, The Down Syndrome Association of the Valley Buddy Walk, Harding Elementary (Youngstown City Schools), the Youngstown Peace Race, The Children's Museum for Science and Technology (Spooktacular), Hope House Visitation Center, The Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley, Second Harvest Food Bank and Fellows Riverside Gardens in Millcreek Park. This year, the Junior League of Youngstown's Provisional Class will partner with area service agencies to implement locally the *Kids in the Kitchen* initiative, a nationwide program of AJLI. The goal of *Kids in the Kitchen* is to empower underserved youth to make healthy lifestyle choices and help reverse the growth of childhood obesity and its associated health issues.

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### **About the Association of Junior Leagues International Inc.**

The purpose of The Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. is to add value to its member Leagues in their fulfillment of The Junior League Mission. Formed in 1921, the Association is a charitable nonprofit organization that provides continuity and support, guidance and leadership development opportunities to 293 Junior Leagues in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States. Through regional, national and international meetings, comprehensive resources, customized consultations, League and member benefits, AJLI adds value to its member Leagues in their fulfillment of The Junior League Mission. The Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. reaches out to women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism. Through the power of association, Junior Leagues strengthen communities by embracing diverse perspectives, building partnerships and inspiring shared solutions.

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