



## **Isabel's House, the Crisis Nursery of the Ozarks**

On June 25, 2007, Governor Matt Blunt and First Lady, Melanie Blunt joined The Junior League of Springfield and the leaders of the city of Springfield, to open the doors to Isabel's House, the Crisis Nursery of the Ozarks. A crisis nursery is a proven child abuse prevention tool and a recognized community need.

Isabel's House is a 20 bed residential facility that serves children ages birth to 12. Isabel's House provides 24 hour a day, 7 day a week care to children whose families are experiencing a unique crisis. Families will receive respite, empowerment, support and training services. Admission to Isabel's House is voluntary and confidential. The average stay at Isabel's House ranges from 3 days with a maximum stay of 30 days. There is no charge to stay at Isabel's House where children are nurtured in a safe environment with experienced and trained staff.

Isabel's House, the Crisis Nursery of the Ozarks, is the signature project of The Junior League of Springfield. The project was based on alarming child abuse and neglect rates in Greene County and in response to the community report card and various reports and summits exploring child welfare. Our community partners Burrell Behavioral Health, City of Springfield, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, CoxHealth, Missouri State University, St. John's Health System, Springfield-Greene County Park Board, and United Way have been an integral part opening the doors to this much needed service in Springfield.

Isabel's House, along with the support of the Junior League of Springfield, is in the midst of a capital campaign, an operating campaign, and an endowment campaign. Our total campaign goal is \$3.6 million. We are currently at \$2.6 million in pledges. We are aggressively pursuing pledges and community support and hope to be without debt on the building.

Community patronage of JLS fundraisers is important to Isabel's House's success. These fundraisers include Sassafras! and Women Who Can Dish It Out cookbooks, the Plaid Door Resale Boutique, Celebrate the Season holiday event, Charity Ball, and Charity Horse Show. The support of our city, state, and federal governments, coupled with private donations and awarded grants, helps ensure this safehaven for children in our community.

Take this opportunity to protect our community's greatest natural resource – our children. Your support and donation of money, time or talent will help to break the cycle of abuse in our community.

Please contact Brooke O'Reilly or Amy Pinegar with The Junior League of Springfield, 887-9422 or Isabel's House Executive Director, Gretchen Gambon at 865 – CARE (2273) for more information. Please visit our website at [www.isabelshouse.org](http://www.isabelshouse.org).