



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Junior League of Springfield, Missouri Receives the 2010 Junior League Award for Community Impact

Innovative program provides a 24/7 tool to fight child abuse

Springfield, MO—April 23, 2010 – [The Association of Junior Leagues International Inc.](#) (AJLI) today announced that the [Junior League of Springfield, Missouri](#) (JLS) received its 2010 Junior League Award for Community Impact at AJLI's 88th Annual Conference in Orlando on April 17. Through its annual awards program, AJLI celebrates the outstanding accomplishments and significant contributions that Junior Leagues make both internally within the 293 individual Leagues and externally, working to solve some of the toughest and most urgent problems in their communities.

Together with the Junior League Award for Leadership Development, the Community Impact award is the Leagues' highest, carrying with it a \$10,000 prize.

"Community impact is the way that the Junior Leagues measure success in achieving our objective of civic leadership," said AJLI President-Elect and member of the [Junior League of Monmouth County](#), Delly Beekman. "Faced with local child abuse rates far in excess of the state average, JLS did something about it. By partnering skilled volunteers with community groups, their program achieved the measurable results that demonstrate how innovative volunteer-run programs can make a serious impact on large societal issues."

In 2005, after two years of assessment and research showed that child abuse rates in Greene County far exceeded the state average, Junior League of Springfield members partnered with local and regional agencies to establish a crisis nursery, a proven tool in preventing child abuse, called Isabel's House, Crisis Nursery of the Ozarks.

Isabel's House is a 24/7 residential care facility for children, ages birth to 12, seeking refuge from trouble at home. Families and caregivers in crisis receive education, support, and counseling services in an environment that resembles a comfortable home. Children attend school, play, work on computers, create art projects and participate in an assortment of other activities. They enjoy nutritious meals and a good night's sleep.

Rather than treat a child after abuse has already begun, Isabel's House stops abuse before it begins, providing preventative and early intervention programming to both children and parents. Since opening its doors, Isabel's House has served 845 children and 370 families. To date, 100 percent of JLS members have been involved in the success of Isabel's House, and some have even served on its board.

"Receiving the Junior League Community Impact Award is a crowning achievement. Our league has changed the face of the community for over 50 years. This award is the highest honor for our volunteers and the women who came before us," said Andrea McKinney, President of the Junior League of Springfield.

About The Association of Junior Leagues International Inc.

Founded in 1901 by New Yorker and social activism pioneer, Mary Harriman, the Junior Leagues are charitable nonprofit organizations of women, developed as civic leaders, creating demonstrable community impact.

Today, [The Association of Junior Leagues International Inc.](http://www.aikli.org) (AJLI) is comprised of more than 160,000 women in 293 Junior Leagues throughout Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States. Together, they constitute one of the largest, most effective volunteer organizations in the world.

For more information, please visit the Junior League of Springfield website at www.jlspRINGfield.org.

Since 1959, the Junior League of Springfield has contributed more than \$4.6 million dollars and more than 1.3 million hours of volunteer service to the Springfield community. JLS is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action of trained volunteers. Its purposes are exclusively educational and charitable.

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Junior League of Springfield, 2574 East Bennett, Springfield, MO 65804