



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Junior League of Springfield Announces Scholarship Winners

SPRINGFIELD, MO, February 17, 2016— The Junior League of Springfield (JLS) is proud to announce the recipients of "The Building Better Communities Scholarship". The scholarship is a brand new opportunity for non-traditional female students and is awarded to a female student participating in a program eligible to receive a degree or license upon graduation.

The inaugural recipients of the JLS "Building Better Communities Scholarship" are Rissa Merold, Nana Owens, and Kelsi Kelley. They each receive a \$500 scholarship.

Rissa, is a fulltime student, single mother of four young children, and part-time lab coordinator at OTC while maintaining a 3.0 GPA. She spent four semesters completing prerequisite courses before entering the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program. **Nana**, is a single mother and will graduate in May from the Occupational Therapy Assistant program. She currently has a 4.0 GPA, and previously earned her CNA to support her son as she pursues her OTA. She eventually wants to earn a Masters in Occupational Therapy. **Kelsi**, is a single mother of two under the age of four, and maintains a 3.7 GPA. Her career goals are to graduate in May from the OTA program and find a job to support her children.

"As an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism and improving the community through effective action and leadership, we are so proud that our organization has the opportunity to support these deserving women in their educational endeavors," says JLS President, Ashley French.

JLS is currently seeking applicants for The Mary Riley Wolfe Memorial Scholarship which will be awarded this Spring. This scholarship has been awarded annually since 1995 and was established as a tribute to Mary Wolfe, a JLS past president, who lost her battle to cancer. Mary was a teacher and dedicated volunteer.

JLS is seeking applicants who are well-rounded individuals involved in their school and the community. Applicants must exhibit leadership qualities and a strong volunteer history.

The Scholarship Committee will be focusing on the following criteria when making its decision

1. Community Involvement and Volunteer Impact
2. Essay
3. Extracurricular Activities and Employment
4. Scholastic Achievement and Honors including leadership roles.

JLS anticipates awarding two scholarships in the amount of \$1,250.00 each. The deadline for submission is **March 25, 2016**. The scholarship winners will be honored at the JLS Annual Meeting on May 3, 2016. Funds will be paid directly to the designated institution and are to be used only for tuition, books or lab fees.

Eligibility Requirements (included but not limited to):

- A resident of Springfield or one of its surrounding communities
- Attending secondary school full-time
- Anticipating high school graduation in the 2015-2016 academic year
- Planning to pursue a degree at an accredited U.S. post-secondary institution for the 2016-2017 academic year
- Maintaining a minimum unweighted GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 point scale
- Immediate family members of current, one-year prior, and next-year incoming members of the Junior League Board of Directors and League employees are NOT eligible to receive a League Scholarship.

For more requirements and general scholarship information, please visit our webpage at www.jlsspringfield.org. If you have further questions, please email jlsscholarships@outlook.com.

About the Junior League of Springfield

The Junior League of Springfield is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. The Junior League of Springfield reaches out to women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and a commitment to voluntarism. Its purposes are exclusively educational and charitable.

Since 1959, the Junior League of Springfield has contributed more than \$4 million and more than 1.3 million hours of volunteer service to the Springfield community. For more information, please visit the Junior League of Springfield website at www.jlsspringfield.org.