



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **The Junior League of Springfield Hosts the Community Summit: Focus on Poverty on October 8, 2015**

**SPRINGFIELD, MO, September 29, 2015** — On Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the Junior League of Springfield (JLS) in partnership with the Community Foundation of the Ozarks (CFO), and the City of Springfield, hosts the bi-annual Community Summit: Focus on Poverty. The event will be from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Springfield Art Museum. Media and interested community members are invited to attend.

This event will highlight the release of the 2015 Community Focus Report for Springfield-Greene County, the Impacting Poverty Commission's Report and Call to Action, and the City's Zone Blitz Report. The key focus this year will be poverty, with an aim to align and amplify our community's efforts through a collective call to action.

JLS President Ashley French will emcee the event and a panel of respected community members will explore the findings of the reports and discuss potential ways to address critical community issues. "The Junior League of Springfield is excited to partner with these organizations to present an event that will help facilitate a meaningful community discussion about how we can address very critical issues impacting our community, such as poverty. It is vital we come together and find solutions to the red flag issues raised by these reports," says JLS President Ashley French.

Additionally, Dawn Lockhart of the "1,000 in 1,000" program of Jacksonville, Fla., will be the keynote speaker for the event and CFO will announce a new, large-scale grant opportunity to pilot sustainable solutions to reduce poverty in Springfield.

This event is free and open to the public. Seating will be available on a first-come basis. Parking will be available at the Art Museum, National Avenue Christian Church, Perry Tennis Courts, Phelps Grove and Trinity Lutheran Church. Shuttles will be provided from Trinity Lutheran Church. In the event of rain, shuttles will also be provided from National Avenue Christian Church.

The Community Focus Report is published with support from the CFO, JLS, the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, the Springfield-Greene County Library District, and United Way of the Ozark's.

### **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.jlspRINGfield.org](http://www.jlspRINGfield.org).*