



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
GREATER FORT LAUDERDALE**  
*Women building better communities*

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**Former Foster Youth Inspires Next Generation  
*Event Promotes Confidence, Goal-Setting in Young Women***

(Broward County)—Shenicka Bobrin, a former foster youth who has not let her past keep her down, recently brought together 25 young ladies in the foster care system for a very successful event called “It’s All About the Ladies,” which discussed politics, women’s rights, self esteem, goal setting, domestic violence, abuse and motivational ways to overcome obstacles.

Leading the Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> discussions and activities were power women Sandy Harris, executive director of the Broward Legislative Delegation; Tracy Wilson Mourning, founder of the Honey Shine Mentoring Program in Miami; and Kathleen Pena of Legal Aid. Bobrin was responsible for all coordination of the guest speakers and the day’s events, which were held at the Junior League of Greater Fort Lauderdale’s headquarters.

Bobrin approached the Junior League’s Transitional Independent Living (TIL) Resource Director Kristen Guerisse for assistance with some of the project. The Junior League, whose mission is to promote volunteerism, develop the potential of women and improve the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers, was happy to provide assistance.

“Transitional Independent Living issues are currently at the heart of what the league is doing, and this was such a great way to immerse ourselves in hands-on activities that make a difference in these youth’s lives,” Guerisse said. “Former foster children like Shenika are living examples of what can happen when the community puts its resources where they matter—as investments in the future of our children.”

Besides the location and assistance with coordination, the Junior League also supplied notebooks for the girls. Activities and supplies were provided by S.O.S. Children’s Village, ChildNet provided lunch and snacks and support was also given by the Volunteer Coordinator from Volunteer Broward. Bobrin also contacted local businesses and received donations for her event.

“I am so happy and feel so unbelievable that I was able to give back to this population that I know so well,” Bobrin said. “This really opened my eyes to all the people in the community who are working and fighting for the TIL youth everyday— a side of the system I was unaware of in the past. It means everything for foster children to know we are not alone in our struggles, that we do matter and have worth to others.”

When the 25 girls— ages 13 to 16— spoke of their hopes and aspirations with professional goals like becoming a therapist, nurse, veterinarian and more, they were encouraged that nothing should come in the way of their dreams.

Tasked with a community service project, Bobrin knew it was time to give back and help the young ladies that are going through the system now. Because she was once one of them, Bobrin knows all too well the struggles the young ladies who grow up in the foster care system face. She spent nine years of her life in foster care, “aging out” when she was just 18 years old. Now she is 22 and has proven that not all stereotypes associated with foster youth are true. As a full-time student at Broward College and part-time volunteer at Volunteer Broward, she has beaten the odds and is on a successful path to a bright future.

Bobrin, who is independent, strong and recognizes the need for positive role models for the younger generation, was hired by Volunteer Broward as part of a grant to find employment for TIL youth. The grant was funded by the Community Foundation of Broward.

Anyone interested in helping can call Kristen Guerisse, TIL Resource Director of the Junior League of Greater Fort Lauderdale, at (954) 462-1350.