

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Major Event to Centralize Resources for Foster Youth

April 25 Day in the Park to Showcase Transitional Independent Living Options

Fort Lauderdale, Florida – Hundreds of children aging out of the foster care system will come together in one spot for a day of fun-filled activities, entertainment, food and most importantly a road map to the resources needed for the next phases of their lives. Sponsored by the Junior League of Greater Fort Lauderdale, Spring Fling will take place on April 25, 2009 at Snyder Park in Fort Lauderdale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“When most children turn 18, they have parents or mentors who guide them into the next stages of their lives, be it higher education, the workplace or finding a place to live,” said Tara McGinn, president of the league. “Children in the foster care system may not always be aware of the resources available to them or may not know how to access opportunities. We hope to eradicate that problem and open their futures to all possibilities.”

The Junior League of Greater Fort Lauderdale, along with the Community Foundation of Broward and the United Way of Broward County, are working to create a solution for the “aging out” issue. Though county resources are available, these resources are located in different parts of Broward County that are not always accessible to teenagers who use public transportation.

The goal of Spring Fling is to bring together in one location all pertinent resources, allowing the foster youth to learn about various options and meet people willing to help them without the worry of finding transportation to various offices.

Spring Fling’s mission mirrors the current Transitional Independent Living Project the Junior League has underway— The Fort Lauderdale Independence Training & Education (FLITE) Center. The ultimate goal of the FLITE Center is to secure a location to house all or most of the available resources in one facility.

“We need to help these youth, who at such a young age have already gone through so much, find their way with as little struggle and stress as possible,” McGinn said.

About the Junior League of Greater Fort Lauderdale

The Junior League of Greater Fort Lauderdale, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and to improving the community through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

For more information about the Jr. League of Greater Fort Lauderdale or the FLITE Center, please contact the league office or visit <http://www.juniorleagueftl.org/>

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