



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

## **THE HEART OF THE MATTER** **JLGFL AREAS OF FOCUS for 2009/2010**

### **WHO is the JUNIOR LEAGUE of GREATER FORT LAUDERDALE?**

The Junior League is an Organization of Women committed to improving the community. Organized in 1937, we now have over 600 volunteer members and only 2 paid employees.

### **WHAT does the JUNIOR LEAGUE do?**

**(1) Short Term, one day projects.** We refer to as Done-In-A-Day projects. For example, we'll assist in delivering meals one day and painting a community center the next day.

**(2) Long Term, issue based projects.** We extensively research community issues, needs, and challenges. Then our members select a project and dedicate resources to solving the problem.

**One focus area is Foster Youth.** We've responded by creating the Fort Lauderdale Independence Training & Education (FLITE) Center in partnership with the United Way & the Community Foundation of Broward County to assist "dependent youth" in their transition from teenager to young adult and ultimate independence. We opened the doors to FLITE in July 2009. Our Executive Director is also the leading coordinator with Broward County's Transitional Independent Living initiative.

**Another focus area is Childhood Obesity.** We've responded with our *Healthfully Ever After* 2<sup>nd</sup> grade nutrition education program. All second grade classrooms in Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) will receive our curriculum and a literature based resource kit to assist teachers in promoting healthy lifestyles. League volunteers make healthy snacks with students in the classroom. This program received Partner of the Year from BCPS in 2009. Children are also invited to participate in a Kids' Fun Run during the Junior League's annual Riverwalk Run to promote physical fitness.

### **WHY is the JUNIOR LEAGUE focusing on the issues of FOSTER YOUTH and CHILDHOOD OBESITY?**

**FOSTER CARE:** Estimated 120 youth age out of the foster care system in Broward County each year. Statistically without continued support, these young people have higher rates of unemployment, academic failure, homelessness, teen pregnancy, and incarceration. The National Governor's Association identified Florida as among three states nationwide to develop programs to help foster youth transition successfully from adolescence to adulthood. The Community Foundation of Broward and the United Way of Broward County initiated a Transitional Independent Living (TIL) task force and in September 2005; the Junior League was asked to participate. In April of 2006, the Junior League members approved a project to design and establish a TIL Resource Center, now known as the FLITE Center, where youth can access a variety of resources from life skills training to employment and financial services.

**CHILDHOOD OBESITY:** According to a 2006 report from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the United States has the highest prevalence of obesity among developed nations. The percentage of young Americans who are overweight has more than tripled since 1980. Among children and teens ages 2 to 19 years, 17 percent, or more than 12 million young people, are considered overweight. Up to 80 percent of children who are obese remain overweight as adults, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

### **HOW does the JUNIOR LEAGUE GET IT ALL DONE?**

On a yearly basis, our volunteer members donate more than 17,500 hours of volunteer time to community service projects (valued at more than \$316,000 in manpower). Financially we raise funds through our Fundraisers that consist of Casino Royale in September, Riverwalk Run in March, Cookbook Sales throughout the year, the 1937 Founders Circle: Leaving a Legacy Campaign and Grant awards. More than 50 organizations have benefited from the Junior League of Fort Lauderdale's assistance.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The Junior League of Greater Fort Lauderdale has **created** several of Broward County's top charitable organizations: Jack and Jill Children's Center(1942), Henderson Mental Health Center(1954), Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale(1958), Museum of Discovery and Science(1974), Kids in Distress(1978), SOS Children's Village(1988), OUR House(1993), Susan B. Anthony (1995), FLITE Center (2009). To learn more about the JLGFL, visit our website at [www.juniorleagueftl.org](http://www.juniorleagueftl.org).