



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
FORT WAYNE**

Women building better communities

LEAGUE LORE

WOMEN BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES

JLFW Annual Dinner May 23, 2007 at the Landmark Conference Center



1st Annual New to You Sale - March 17, 2007 at the Scottish Rite Center



Summer 2007

Volume 4, Issue No. 1

The Junior League of Fort Wayne is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, to developing the potential of women and to improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. The Association of Junior Leagues International reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism.

Junior League of Fort Wayne

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2006-2007 Community Project Family Connections

JLFW Full Council 2006-2007

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Debbie Branfield Sr. SPAC Representative

A MESSAGE FROM OUR 2006-07 PRESIDENT



It's hard to believe an entire year has passed since I first took the gavel as the 2006-2007 Junior League of Fort Wayne President. What an incredible year!

Our theme this year was 006-007 Mission Possible. At every level of our organization, our members took this theme to heart and proved that we truly could accomplish our mission of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community. We have worked hard and accomplished much this year.

We successfully transitioned from our long-standing thrift store to a successful New to You Sale. We completed major changes in our internal structure, our finances, and our membership. We laid the groundwork for more in-depth training programs and a new process for adopting community projects. At the same time as we managed all this change, we also reinstated some great Junior League traditions including Sustainer Advisors for committees, and overnight retreats for our Board and our committee chairs. And we built on past success as we continued our second year of partnership with SCAN and Family Connections and the phenomenal growth of our Kids in the Kitchen program. To support these projects and our mission, we continued to demonstrate the strength of our existing fundraisers – our Blue Jeans Special Event, Stationery Sales, and President's Circle.

And so, I thank all of our members and community partners for your investment in JLFW this year. Thank you especially to the 10 wonderful women with whom I have had the privilege of serving as this year's Board of Directors - Ruth, Christine, Shelly, Stacy, Jennifer, Kathleen, Angela, Lisa, Melanie, and Jane. Each gave countless hours to help steer this great ship toward our goals. I have learned something special and different from each of them and I am a better person for the experience.

To Gloria, our extraordinary office administrator – you are the glue that holds us all together and keeps JLFW running smoothly. Thank you for your professionalism and your friendship to all of our members.

I know that as I pass the gavel this year, our League is stronger than ever because of all of you and all of your contributions. And I know that the incredible leadership team we have elected for the coming year will lead and guide us to even greater heights. I am proud of all of you and I am excited for our future.

Thank you for providing me with this once in a lifetime opportunity to learn, to grow, to work with you, and to serve as your President.

To all of you, I say -
Mission Accomplished!!!

Judy



Our outstanding 2006-07 Board of Directors!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR INCOMING PRESIDENT



The 2006-2007 Junior League year that just ended was full of accomplishments that further our mission. I congratulate Judy Thomas on completing her year as President of the Junior League of Fort Wayne. Judy has shown an unwavering ability to put the needs of the Junior League organization above her own. Her actions have embodied the Mission Possible spirit. I truly appreciated her leadership and friendship over the past year.

It's hard for me to believe that I now hold the Junior League gavel. Over the past fourteen years since I joined, Junior League has been faced with many challenges and had many accomplishments. Through all of it, our mission remained the same: ***promote the voluntarism, develop the potential of women, and impact the community through the effective action and leadership of our trained volunteers.*** That's what we do now and it is what we have done for the past 66 years. Over the next 12 months, we will continue to keep this *mission in motion* by building on the past:

- **We will continue to grow and retain our membership.** Recruiting and Marketing is already working to recruit another fantastic group of women interested in making a positive difference in our community while meeting new people and developing skills to be valued community volunteers. Junior League University will continue to expand. And, all committees will focus on the effective use of our member volunteers' limited time.



Ruth with the 2007-2008 Board of Directors

- **Each of our fund raisers will meet or exceed their budgets.** Special Event is trying a new venue and theme this year. I hope you will all be there with spouses and friends in tow for the Blue Jeans 70's Style on Saturday night, September 22nd. Resource Development will pave the way for a new method of sponsor and donor development. And, the New to You Sale will continue the success started by this year's inaugural committee. Now we know what to expect and will make changes as necessary to increase income and decrease committee stress.

- **We will broaden our impact on women and children in our community.** The third Kids in the Kitchen initiative will expand its reach again and continue to educate children about nutrition and healthy eating habits. As planned, we will transition out of our partnership with Family Connections and SCAN. Through the implementation of the new Request for Proposal process, we will start a new long term partnership with another non-profit organization focused on women's and children's issues.

The 2007-2008 Junior League year will be more of what we do best - learning from our past, trying new things, celebrating our victories and making changes in order to keep our *mission in motion – a forward motion*. Growing and changing. Developing, promoting and impacting. It's what the Junior League of Fort Wayne is all about.

Enjoy your summer and I'll see you in September!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth".



Ruth and Judy at the 2006 Fall Leadership Conference in Memphis

PROMOTING VOLUNTARISM

Provisional Class Project - Mad Anthony's Children's Hope House

Our Provisional Project at Mad Anthony's Children's Hope House was a long time in development, but well worth the efforts! We all started in October, planning for our big spring weekend. With over 30 women, we were so excited to undertake getting going!

Along the way, we took the opportunity to help CHH decorate for the Christmas holiday. With help from some of us purchasing decorations, we decked out doors with wrapping paper, decorated trees, wrapped presents, put up a huge Santa donated from



May 29, 2007

Dear Junior League of Fort Wayne Provisionals, Actives and families,

Thank you for all your time and hard work!! The "sprucing up" project for Children's Hope was a success because of ALL of YOU!

The board of directors and I are overwhelmed by the giving of time, talents, and passion to our mission by you all. We are so blessed to be able to provide our families with such a beautiful home.

Our families are in the middle of a crisis with their child and your help to keep our home bright and cheery is very much appreciated by everyone. In three years we have had over 940 families stay with us, which puts a lot of "wear and tear" on a house. Your project has provided us with a future to help another 900 families.

Please be proud of ALL your work! A house is not a home without LOVE, and the Jr. League of Fort Wayne, has provided Children's Hope with a beautiful home.

Thank you!

Debbie Meyer, Executive Director

Erin's House, and made pretty bows. For the whole holiday season, we provided them with weekly deliveries of goodies for their much deserving families.

Our big weekend started on Friday, April 20th. Friday evening's shift was from 6:00-8:30pm, and began with teams moving furniture away from walls, taking pictures down (pulling hard!), and painters starting their first coats of paint. We also took a quick break for pizza, donated by Oley's - yum!! It ended with two rooms with the first coat of paint, and all rooms ready for the morning shift of painters bright and early.

For Saturday morning's shift (8:30am-1:00pm), painting began in full swing, and we had 15 people working in force! By the end of the second shift (1:00-6:00pm), we actually knew what we were doing! Wow! Antigua Restaurant provided us with a Mexican feast for lunch, and we loved it all.

Sunday at 10:00am several Actives and Provisionals met to put back furniture, clean carpet spots, and hang artwork... and special thanks goes to Marty Thomas and Mark Heflin (Judy's and Connie's husbands), who worked all this time as well!!! Cleaning the laundry room, vacuuming carpet, and final touches on baseboards rounded out the day, and we all finished around 3:00pm on Sunday! WHEW! What an accomplishment!

We all learned first hand the value of volunteering, and how important it is to develop our trained "skills" as volunteers. Finally, we improved Children's Hope House by helping them update the guest rooms that needed painting, bedding, and general improvements! We all had fun, that's for sure!

- Beth Griffin, Provisional Class Member

The Provisional Class would like to thank our Project Sponsors for their generous donations:

- **Junior League of Fort Wayne** donated \$1500 to pay for a portion of the 11 headboards
- **Unity Sales** donated \$1000 to pay for all new bedding
- **Lincoln Financial** donated \$500 to help pay for the bedding
- **Medical Protective** donated \$500 to help fund the project
- **Hagerman Group** donated the remaining cost of the headboards, coordination of construction, and installation of the headboards
- **MSKTD** donated the design for the headboards
- **The Marriott** donated art, upholstered chairs, lamps, shower curtains, hair dryers, and an ongoing laundry service plan for the bedding at CHH
- **Maumee Paint** donated all the paint for the project
- **Brueggemann Lumber** donated \$200 in plants and material for the planters
- **Hilton Gardens** donated rooms for all displaced guests of CHH for the weekend of the project
- **Scott's Bakery, Antigua Mexican Bar & Grill and Oley's Pizza** donated food to feed all of the volunteers

Congratulations to the following members of the 2006 Provisional Class who were welcomed to Active Membership at the Annual Meeting:

Kristen Bender
Sarah Bercot
Mary Anne Berron
Blair Boles
Dottie Cole
Kelly Day

Jacqui Emberton
Kelly Floyd
Beth Griffin
Jennifer Griswold
Erika Halliwill
Carrie Harmon

Whitney Heitmeyer
Melissa Hull
Michelle Kearns
Katie Lancia
Haley Lawrence
Amy Marra

Amy Repp
Rachel Sadovsky
Anne Snook
Kate Virag
Deb Washler-Jackson
Jamie Watson

PROMOTING VOLUNTARISM

Admissions/Provisional Committee

The Admissions/Provisional Committee would like to thank the entire League for their recruiting efforts this year! This was a critical year for membership. Our numbers were falling and we needed to take action. Our Active, Sustainer and even Provisional members responded to the call for their help in recruiting a sizable and talented group of new members. Boy, what we can do when we come together for a cause...collectively we recruited 32 incredible women!

The 2006-2007 Provisional class started their year of mission based training by taking the Timberline Challenge last September. This was a ropes course which helped us develop our communication skills and better work as a team. It was clear at this very early point in the year that this Provisional class was filled with determined women who were going to go above and beyond. **Give me a "D"...developing the potential of women!**

Starting in October, we got to the business of selecting a Provisional project. We decided to partner with Mad Anthony's Children's Hope House. Children's Hope House is a nonprofit organization founded to serve families of children receiving medical care in Fort Wayne, Indiana and the surrounding area and is located on the Lutheran Hospital campus. CHH has six guest rooms where families of patients can stay for a minimal cost. Those six rooms were in need of a "face-lift" and that is exactly what we decided to do. We planned the details of the project and secured both in-kind and financial sponsors over the next four months.

On April 20 – 21, 2007, The Junior League of Fort Wayne gave approximately 218 volunteer service hours to Children's Hope House. Eighty percent of the Provisional class participated over the course of the weekend and we turned those six guest rooms from beige, beige, and more beige to warm and cheery. The scope of the project was huge! Once again, the 2006-2007 Provisionals went above and beyond. **Give me an "I"...Improving the community in which we live!**



The 2006-2007 Provisional Class

Twenty-four members of the Provisional class "graduated" and are going on to Active membership. This is a 75% retention rate. Membership Development will build on the successes of the past year and strive to continuously improve to meet the objective for JLFW to be the premier women's organization of choice in the Fort Wayne community. **Give me a "P"...Promoting voluntarism.**

It was an incredible year of getting to know each other better, growing as a team and understanding the potential of our members while improving the Fort Wayne community through the effective action of our volunteers.

- Connie Heflin, 2006 Admissions/Provisional Chair

Recruiting & Marketing Committee

Do you have a friend, relative, or neighbor that you would like to give all the benefits of Junior League membership? You would be giving them the gift of:

- Opportunities to learn more about the community
- Being a part of projects that have a lasting impact on Fort Wayne
- Gaining new insights into one's self
- Working with a group of dedicated and caring women
- Helping continue a rich legacy of women dedicated to community service
- Great Friendships and FUN

The Junior League of Fort Wayne is in the midst of our annual membership drive. Our past experience has shown that the majority of our new members join as a result of a relationship with an existing Active or Sustaining League member. Please think about ladies that may benefit from League membership, speak to them about our League, and then pass those names (and their contact info) along to Debbie Branfield at gobucks04@msn.com or 486-0225.

Your friends will be invited to our informational open houses to be held on July 19 and August 4.

Please contact any committee member with your questions – and thank you in advance for your potential member referral and support for the Junior League of Fort Wayne!

The 2007-2008 Recruiting & Marketing Committee: Debbie Branfield, Chair
Joni Dick Whitney Heitmeyer Michelle Kearns
Amy Marra Melissa Pate Kate Virag

PROMOTING VOLUNTARISM

Celebrating Volunteer Milestones...

Congratulations to all our members who were recognized for their service to Junior League and the Fort Wayne community at our Annual Dinner on May 23.

10 Years of Service to Junior League



Janet Treadway

5 Years of Service to Junior League



| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Kristen Bass | Michelle Beary |
| Tina Bobilya | Kim Boyce |
| Heather Eracleous | Linda Hernandez |
| Jennifer Hunter | Kathleen Jackson |
| Jill Ramsey | Rose Saalfrank |
| Natalie Scruggs | Dana Weber |
| Jodi Weber | Lindsay Wolf |

President's Volunteer Service Award

Recognition by AJLI and President Bush's Points of Light Foundation for volunteer service in a 12 month period

Gold Award - 500 or more hours



Connie Heflin
Ruth Stone
Judy Thomas
Shelly Wright

Silver Award - 250-499 hours



Kathleen Jackson
Christine Stach

Bronze Award - 100-249 hours



Michelle Beary
Lisa Boyd
Jennifer Hunter
Courtney Waterman

Congratulations to our newest Sustainer...
Heather Eracleous!

Thank you all for your dedication and service!

Done In A Day Gets the Job Done

The Done In A Day committee was challenged this year to find meaningful projects that would have measurable impacts. We were especially eager keep up the momentum of the 2005-06 year, when the committee completed more than 65 projects to commemorate our 65th anniversary.

Although a small committee of three at first, Done In A Day benefited greatly from merging with Community Research in September, enabling five people to spread out the work. The committee was also tasked with coordinating Junior League of Fort Wayne's Kids in the Kitchen project, which was part of AJLI's nationwide initiative to fight childhood obesity (see separate article).

The committee coordinated five Done in a Day projects:

- **Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Light the Night Walk**, September 24, 2006: Seven JLFW members assisted in registering participants and serving hotdogs, water, and chips before the event.
- **Great Zoo Halloween at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo**, October 29, 2006: Nine JLFW members passed out candy and other treats to visitors at the zoo's popular fundraising event.
- **Turnstone Center for Disabled Children & Adults Holiday Party**, December 9, 2006: Nine JLFW members helped throw a party for the center's preschool class, handing out presents to each child. Before the November GMM, six members wrapped the presents for the children.
- **Ronald McDonald Family Room collection**, April 25, 2007: At the final GMM of the year, members donated two 30-gallon totes filled with toiletry and pantry items to the organization, which provides hospitality to parents of critically ill children and youths at Parkview Hospital.
- **Samaritan House spring cleaning and planting**, May 19, 2007: Eight members, along with a few little helpers, transformed overgrown flower beds into a gardener's delight. Under the guidance of Sustainer Kathy Roudebush, we weeded, mulched, and planted low-maintenance perennials at the hospitality house that serves family members of critically ill patients at area hospitals. A special thank-you goes to Kathy and to The Plant Center on U.S. 24, which gave JLFW a discount on the plants.

The completed projects involved 26 League members, with a large turnout from the New Member class. Thank you to Debbie Branfield, Michele Kadenko-Monirian, Chair-elect Michelle Beary and Co-Chair Courtney Waterman for all of your hard work this year.

- Sarah Hayes, Community Impact Co-Chair

IMPROVING THE COMMUNITY



The Family Connections Committee ends the 2006-2007 League year with feelings of success and much hope for the future. This year we kicked-off our Kids and Divorce class and started to see lives being changed. Overall we had six classes that served 12 children. According to SCAN, this is a good number for the first year of a project like this.

As we continue providing the classes, we could likely see our classes become court ordered for children in need of these services. This would be an excellent way to reach the children who could most benefit from our services.

We also had an overwhelming response from you, The Junior League of Fort Wayne, when we asked for new facilitators. You stepped up and added us to your long list of commitments and you will not be without rewards. The children of our community will benefit from your caring and wisdom.

Our committee focused not only on starting the classes, but on marketing the classes to the community. The League was also helpful in this endeavor by offering to distribute brochures around the community. We also anticipate that a newly formed relationship with Right Relations, an agency that offers similar classes, will increase the number of children we serve. They currently provide services to children as the court orders, so the other children who seek their services cannot be served due to an overabundance of court orders.

As we head into the final year of our collaboration with SCAN, we anticipate the completion of a project that will make our community a better one. And we have many people to thank. First, the Family Connections Committee - Sharon Charron, Linda Hernandez, Kim Staggs (Chair-elect), and Lori Wenino. These ladies have worked hard to teach classes, market the classes, and hone the process of teaching a quality curriculum. Our volunteers are supported by Kim Staggs who has worked diligently to coordinate facilitator trainings and schedule facilitators with the least number of your hours needed. Our Board has been very supportive and has helped work out glitches as they arose. And, again, our fellow Junior League members who stepped up and offered to work along side us to help the children of our community cope with divorce in their lives. Thank you for a great year!

- Jodi Weber, 2006-2007 Family Connections Chair

Summer is here and Family Connections is still in session. We are in need of volunteers to assist our committee by facilitating Kid's Divorce Classes. If you are interested in becoming a facilitator, please contact Kim Staggs at kimstaggs@comcast.net or by telephone at 249-8308. Here are the answers to those burning questions you have:

How do I become a facilitator?

You will need to attend an orientation class provided by SCAN/Family Connections (2 hours long), fill out paperwork for a background check, observe a Kid's Divorce Class (2 hours long), and facilitate with a "seasoned" facilitator (total of four (4) hours for both classes on two separate days).

When are orientation classes held?

SCAN will provide the Family Connection committee with dates and times. Orientation classes have not yet been scheduled.

How often will I be facilitating?

An email is sent to all "approved" facilitators and you sign up with the dates that work with your schedule.

What is the 2007 calendar of Kid's Classes?

Saturday, June 9th & 23rd, Fulton Street Location
Tuesday, July 10th & 17th, University of Saint Francis
Saturday, July 14th & 21st, Fulton Street Location
Tuesday, August 14th & 21st, University of Saint Francis
Saturday, August 11th & 18th, Fulton Street Location
Saturday, September 8th & 15th, Fulton Street Location
Tuesday, September 11th & 18th, University of Saint Francis

Where are the Kid's Classes held?

ALL Tuesday classes are held at the University of Saint Francis, Doermer Health Building (Room 232 unless otherwise specified) from 5:30-7:30pm

ALL Saturday classes will be held at the Family Connections Office (729 Fulton Street) from 8:30-10:30am.

Again, the Family Connections Committee would like to thank all of you who have assisted and facilitated classes thus far. Each one of you is helping to make an impact on the lives of these children. We truly appreciate your help and look forward to working with you!

- Kim Staggs, 2007-2008 Family Connections Chair



IMPROVING THE COMMUNITY



Kids in the Kitchen cooks up fun

When the Community Impact Committee was given the task of planning the Junior League of Fort Wayne's Kids in the Kitchen project, we had no idea how memorable it would turn out to be. The second annual Kids in the Kitchen, an initiative developed by the Association of Junior Leagues International to fight the epidemic of childhood obesity and to promote good nutrition in youngsters, was envisioned to be a modest event that would build upon the small, but successful inaugural event during the 2005-2006 year.

The Community Impact Committee contacted the Boys & Girls Club of Fort Wayne on Fairfield Avenue to find a location for the event, thinking the organization served 50-75 children. Little did we realize that the Boys & Girls Club had 175 members!

Following the model from the previous year's event, members worked with partner organizations to develop the following stations:

- Food-preparation demonstration: Chef Jimmy of Scott's Food and Pharmacy taught youngsters about making healthy snacks.
- Portion sizes: Scott's Foods Nutrition and Health Specialist Stephanie Rau R.D. showed participants what a proper portion size is and compared the nutritional values of various foods.
- Helmet-safety: A Parkview Bike Helmet Safety expert used visuals to explain to youngsters why they need to wear helmets at all times on both bicycles and skateboards.
- Fitness for life: A representative from the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne led kids in exercises and explained to them why they need to lead an active lifestyle.
- Fast-food facts: A Lutheran Hospital Weight Management Program intern spoke to youngsters about making smart choices at fast-food restaurants.
- Food guide and pyramid: JLFW member Dorie Fowls, who is a dietitian at Fort Wayne Community Schools, led participants in an activity to help them understand the need for a well-balanced diet.

In addition, we were able to put together goodie bags that had water bottles with the Kids in the Kitchen logo and nutrition tip, a cookbook, and food items donated by Scott's Food and Pharmacy. The cookbooks and water bottles were made possible through financial assistance from St. Joseph Community Health Foundation.

On February 26 at the Boys & Girls Clubs facility on Fairfield Avenue, 40 Junior League members worked three hours to assist 147 youngsters participate in the event.

Without a generous grant from the **St. Joseph Community Health Foundation**, Kids in the Kitchen would not have been as successful as it was. The grant funded the water bottles and cookbooks that Boys & Girls Club members received in the goodie bags, as well as tableware and posters for each of the stations. Special thanks go out to SJCH Foundation Executive Director Meg Distler, a JLFW Sustainer, for her guidance.



JLFW Actives Carey Roth and Dorie Fowls



Learning about portion sizes and nutritional values

The Community Impact Committee would like to thank the following community partners for their assistance with Kids in the Kitchen:

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Fort Wayne
- Lutheran Weight Management Program.
- Parkview Hospital Bike Helmet Safety Program
- Scott's Food and Pharmacy
- YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne
- American Cancer Society

- Sarah Hayes, Community Impact Co-Chair

IMPROVING THE COMMUNITY

2007 Donation Delegation Grant Awards

The Community Impact Committee was honored to award five Donation Delegation grants of \$1000 at Annual Dinner. Donation Delegation was created last year in honor of JLFW's 65th Anniversary to award grants to grass roots community organizations. The Committee chose the following, which are making important impacts on our community, to receive grants this year:

ASK Ministries – A free health clinic that provides health care, health education and pharmaceuticals to those unable to provide for themselves due to lack of insurance or low income. It is a clinic without borders and they have walk-in hours. The clinic is staffed by volunteers.

Autism Community Together of Northeast Indiana – Engages and supports those who surround individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families in Northeast Indiana. They provide information to parents, education on Autism, Awareness Building for Autism, and a Summer Camp for children with Autism.

Friends of Bethany – Provides mentoring, tutoring, training, and support programs to parents and children in need. They also have a clothing bank and work with women recently released from jail.

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Fort Wayne – Provides emergency shelter and assistance for homeless families in Allen County.

International House – This organization is committed to serving refugees who have settled in Fort Wayne from any country. They offer programs and services that provide ongoing contact. Programs include ESL classes, in-home ESL tutoring, Men's Outreach, Women's Club, Computer Lab, Children's Programs, Mercy Ministry, and International Library.



JLFW Looks for its Future Community Partners

The Community Impact Committee is excited to announce the JLFW Community Partnership initiative. JLFW has three primary ways it partners with other community organizations to impact the community.

Community Project Collaboration – This is a community organization's opportunity to start the "*great idea*" project they would start if they had a dedicated committee of trained Junior League volunteers and funding of up to \$5,000 per year for 3-5 years.

Community Opportunity Grants – By partnering with JLFW for funding, a community organization could accomplish their "*great idea*" with an extra \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Done-In-A-Day (DIAD) Projects – When JLFW sends out a group of 8-50 of our trained volunteers for a day, the partnering community organization will be able to get their "*great idea*" done! Our DIAD volunteers can provide hands-on support assisting with short term community events, projects or programs.

Our new RFP process streamlines and brings uniformity to the process used to identify partnerships. JLFW has invited 501(c)(3) organizations in our community to learn more about the Junior League of Fort Wayne as we institute our new Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Community Organizations with missions and programming compatible with the Junior League's mission and focus area are encouraged to contact us to find out how to partner with the Junior League of Fort Wayne as we promote voluntarism, develop the potential of women, and improve the community of Fort Wayne through the dedicated action and leadership of our trained volunteers. **If you have questions or would like an information packet on the RFP process, please call the Junior League office at (260) 425-3447 or email office@jlfw.org.**

- Michelle Beary, 2007-08 Community Impact Chair

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**Glad we can be of service to
the Junior League of Fort
Wayne in the year of 2007.**

DEVELOPING THE POTENTIAL OF WOMEN

AJLI Conferences and Training

The Junior League of Fort Wayne is one of 294 Junior Leagues located across the United States, Mexico, Canada, and Great Britain. As a member of the Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. (AJLI), we have the opportunity to attend a multitude of training and networking programs for League members at all levels. The following is an overview of conferences that we attended in the last twelve months:



Ruth Stone, Sandi Kemmish, and Judy Thomas at the 2006 Fall Leadership Conference in Memphis, Tennessee.

Fall Leadership Conference

This annual meeting to provide Leadership training for League Presidents and Presidents-Elect only was held in Memphis, Tennessee in October. It included workshops, plenary sessions, formal and informal networking opportunities, and sharing around issues and concerns that affect League Leaders. Attendees have the opportunity to design their own learning agenda by selecting from a number of informative workshops at different levels. Some of the sessions attended were League Governance, Engaging Membership Meetings, and Corporate Solicitation Bootcamp. Judy and Ruth's heads were spinning with new ideas after this three-day conference!

Networking/Governance Meeting

This annual meeting provides League Presidents-Elect with the chance to share and learn from each other on a variety of organizational

development and AJLI governance issues. In addition, Presidents-Elect have the opportunity to attend a day-long Presidents-Elect "Bootcamp" focusing on the skills and knowledge they will need to bring to their presidential year. Even though the conference took place in Las Vegas, the "what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas" motto did NOT apply. Ruth returned with many ideas that have been shared with all of JLFW.

Annual Conference

AJLI's largest meeting and Annual Conference provides training, conducts Association business, and celebrates the successes of the preceding year. Outgoing and Incoming Presidents, Presidents-elect and Presidents-elect-elect as well as Sustainers and Leadership teams are urged to attend the AJLI Annual Conference. Ruth, President-elect, and Christine, President-elect-elect, spent many hours in training sessions on topics including "Owning the Stage, Honing Your Message", "High Performing Partnerships", and "Deliberating Differently". This was a fantastic learning experience that was especially exciting for three reasons: it was held in Boston, MA, where the Junior League of Boston was celebrating its 100th Anniversary; two past JLFW Presidents, Jan Lutz and Anne Hoover, were also there; and Ruth and Christine were able to cheer on Sandi Kemmish, current AJLI President and past JLFW President, as she skillfully presided over her first Annual Conference.

Organizational Development Institutes, or ODIs

Each ODI is designed to provide League Leaders with fundamental Mission-based training in the areas of Community Impact, Leadership Development, and Organizational Capacity Building through fund development. Since there was an ODI held in Indianapolis in March, JLFW was able to award eight members with the opportunity to further develop their potential by attending ODI. Our eight delegates were Michelle Beary, Joni Dick, Connie Heflin, Angela Herber, Linda Hernandez, Stacy Need, Rose Saalfrank, and Shelly Wright. This motivated group returned with a "now I really get it" enthusiasm for Junior League. If you have had the opportunity to attend any AJLI training session, you too have undoubtedly had that "Ah ha" moment when everything clicks and you truly understand our mission and how you can be a larger part of its success while improving the lives of women and children.

All Junior League members are strongly encouraged to apply for consideration to attend an ODI, or, if you have attended an ODI, think about being President of Junior League. Any past President will tell you that the AJLI trainings are equal to or even better than most corporate leadership training programs, and the friends that you will meet from all over the Association will enrich your experience beyond what you can imagine. Go for it!



Enjoying the 2007 AJLI Annual Conference (left to right) - Christine Stach, Jan Lutz, Sandi Kemmish, Anne Hoover, and Ruth Stone

DEVELOPING THE POTENTIAL OF WOMEN

The Education and Training Committee had a very busy and productive 2006-2007 League year. We started our venture with a training on how to Motivate Volunteers. This was well attended and we took away a lot of great ideas for the League year.

Education & Training

Our next outing was the popular "Bus Back to Us." We had a full bus that visited our past projects: The McMillen Center for Health Education, The Early Childhood Alliance, SCAN, and Erin's House. In January, we had the wonderful opportunity to have a hands-on training of Power Point at IPFW. It was great to see so many members use the training for presentations at the general membership meetings.

Public Speaking was our next adventure. This class was probably our best because it was structured as a workshop. We received many helpful tips to conquer the fear of public speaking. A few decided it was worth sharing at a GMM so others could benefit from the training. Our last class of the year, just in time for tax season, focused on Personal Finances. It gave us a lot to think about for our families and future.



Along with presenting great classes this year, the committee focused on the future League structure of education and training. We are proud to announce the development of the Junior League University at Fort Wayne (JLUFW). JLUFW has a logo, a class booklet with addendums each year of what will be offered, credit hours, transcripts, class certificates, and diplomas that will be awarded throughout a member's League years. We hope all levels of membership will take advantage of the wonderful classes that will be offered each year.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Education & Training Committee, as well as the Communications Committee that we merged with in November, for an awesome year. Great job everyone!

- Kelly Hagerman, Education & Training Chair

Thank You Advisory Future Planning Committee

The Advisory Future Planning Committee has an unusual role in JLFW. It is chaired by the President-elect (PE), filled with double-placed JLFW members invited to join the committee by the PE, and it is tasked with doing whatever cannot be done by another committee but is high on the JLFW priority list of things to be done. By-law changes are typical but there's more to do. This year's group ambitiously accomplished the following tasks:

- Assisted the Membership Council with the committee and council restructure that combined two councils and many committees to increase committee sizes and improve member satisfaction.
- Clarified the voting policy for Provisionals/New Members to prohibit New Members from voting until they have completed their New Member orientation and become full Active members.
- Wrote a Crisis Management Plan that provides guidelines for addressing necessary action and/or communication by Junior League Fort Wayne in the event of a crisis.
- Surveyed our Sustainers to see what they learned from JLFW and how they have used that knowledge to positively impact our community as a Sustainer. We learned that 48% of Sustainers have become board members in other community organizations, 39% of Sustainers go on to be Board Presidents of other non-profits and 20% of Sustainers obtained new employment opportunities. Our training works!
- Wrote fifteen (yes, 15) different Committee Action Timelines that provide board members and Committee Chairs with a week by week checklist of tasks/events important to their Committee. It is hoped that these Timelines will significantly ease the transition process from year to year.
- Moved to replace the word "Provisional" with "New Member" in the JLFW By-laws, Operational Policies and all other written JLFW written documentation. The motion passed.

It was a busy and successful year for Advisory Future Planning. I would like to thank the committee:

Michelle Beary
Peggy Carlisle
Michele Herald

Jill McAllister
Terri Stumpf
Courtney Waterman

Dana Weber
Lori Wenino
Shelly Witmer

for their enthusiasm and dedication to Junior League. It was a pleasure working with each of you!

-Ruth Stone, 06-07 Advisory Future Planning Chair

SUPPORTING OUR MISSION



The Beginning... We started our '06-07 League year with nothing but racks and hangers. As soon as we asked for donations, they poured in from members and the community! So then we started packing and stacking, packing and stacking, packing and stacking! We filled tubs and boxes from floor to ceiling!

Get Ready, Get Set, GO!! From the generosity of North American Moving & Storage, we enjoyed the help of a nine member crew, a 50' semi van, one straight and two box trucks that were loaded, moved, and unloaded into the Scottish Rite in one DAY! In the couple days before the event, Super Sustainer Kathy Roudebush and her 16' Penske Truck drove four trips around Fort Wayne to collect lots of furniture our other super Sustainers donated as well as general community donations. We started with a 15,000 square



foot empty Scottish Rite room and after 32 hours of work, work, work on Thursday and Friday, we had the signs in place, and the items laid out and hung up.



We were ready, or so we thought... By 7:30am, we had a few customers outside. By 8:30am, customers were lined up around the block!! We had the doors opened at 9:00am with a rush of people and by 9:20am we were running out of the 500 shopping bags that were being handed out!! The Committee jumped to action, and off went one member to get more - just in time, resolution!

The check out lines grew and grew, and so did we! There were action plans in place with flexibility to continuously adapt to the needs of our customers. The League members came and went to accommodate as well.

The New to You Sale Committee has so many people to thank for helping make this a successful fund raising event for Junior League. There were those who provided us with an array of clothing, housewares, furniture, toys, and sporting equipment. Those who worked to keep things flowing and working at the storage unit throughout the year. The family members who also came out to help! Our sponsors and the general public who really came out in support.



The New to You Committee was an awesome committee. These ladies gave their heart, soul, and backs for this fundraiser. They invented creative ways to box, hang, move, set up, and promote the New to You Sale, all while having fun. We bonded as a committee. We pulled in 20 Sustainers, nine past presidents, family, and co-workers to support the event. We thank them all, but please take time to thank the committee who worked long and hard to assure this event would be the success that it was and that the Junior League would not only hit but exceed our budget by raising almost \$19,000! Please thank Kara Squires, Melissa Pate, Kathy Roudebush (sustainer/active this year), Vicki Heckman, Tina Torres, Natalie Scruggs, and Amanda Filus.

- Norine Martin, 2007 New to You Sale Chair

And from the 2008 New to You Sale Chair...

As of June 1, the 2008 New To You Sale Committee has assumed its' role. Our first meeting was on June 11. I was very excited to meet the committee and get started on our event.

We are scouting locations for storage and for the sale. Storage will be available very soon and we will be accepting our first donations on July 11th.

More information regarding location, drop off times, donation criteria, and other pertinent information will be in a mailing soon. Any questions may be directed to Jennifer Griswold, 2008 New to You Sale Chair, at home - 637-7531 or via email at jchUNKYmonkey22@verizon.net.



SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

Finance Committee

This has been a very busy year for the Finance Committee. The year started with a lot of uncertainty with the closing of the Bargain Box but as the year progressed it continued on a very positive trend. Many exciting things happened...

- The JLFW Board and members approved a transfer of \$50,000 to the JLFW Endowment Fund held at the Community Foundation. With this transfer, the Community Foundation matched 20% and an additional \$10,000 was put in our account.
- The New to You Sale was a success, making over their budgeted income.
- Presidents Circle continues to be successful and exceeded its budget.
- Members paid close attention to their budgets and remained fiscally responsible.
- Our Provisional class was very large, with 31 new members...19 more than budgeted!
- On top of all these things our investments continue to do very well.

We are in outstanding financial shape right now. We have two strong fundraisers and we have an increasing membership. It's very exciting and we all look forward to seeing what great things the Junior League of Fort Wayne plans on doing in the upcoming years.

- Kathleen Jackson, 2006-2007 Finance VP

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SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

2006 Blue Jeans & Margarita-ville

On September 16, 2006 we held Blue Jeans & Margarita-ville at Headwaters Park East. This was the fourth year for League's largest special event fundraiser. The event made almost \$21,000 for the Junior League with over 250 people in attendance. This year's event was held under the permanent pavilion of Headwaters and the space proved to be a good fit with our new theme.



With beautiful weather, great entertainment, and a fun-loving crowd, we dined on Cheeseburgers, drank margaritas, bid on fantastic silent and live auction items and danced to the tunes of the live band. We were surrounded by vibrant colors and palm trees specially made for the event. This year, the event saw an increase in attendance, sponsors and Sustainer and New Active participation. We thank everyone who participated to make Blue Jeans & Margarita-ville a great success!

- Stacy Singleton, 2006 Special Event Chair

◀ Tropical decorations welcome attendees to the 2006 Blue Jeans & Margarita-ville Special Event!

Right: One of the packages up for bid in the Silent Auction, which helped to make the event a success. ▶



Blue Jeans 70s Style: September 22, 2007



Break out your funky bell bottoms and platform shoes! The Special Event Committee is psyched to bring you an evening that is outta sight! Hope you will boogie on down to the Scottish Rite for a far out night of funky music, great food and drinks, silent auction and raffles. Catch my drift? Be there or be square!



Actives ♦ Sustainers ♦ New Members How Can You Get Involved?

1. **Be a Table Captain.** It is so much more fun if your friends are there! All you need to do is invite your friends and family to sit with you at your table. (They can be Junior League friends, neighbors, co-workers, family, etc.) Each table seats eight (8) people. If you have more than eight we will give you two tables next to each other. You give us the names and addresses of the people that you want to invite. We will send them an invitation. It is that easy! This will also fulfill a commitment from the menu if you have six non-League members at your table(s). Contact Jill at tjramsey@aol.com
2. **Donate an Auction Item.** Do you have a connection to someone who owns or works at a business that would be willing to donate to our auction? Do you make a unique item or have a friend that does? Do you own a second home that could be donated for a great vacation getaway? Do you have a unique talent that would make a good auction item? We would love to add it to our auction. As an added bonus a \$50 donation fulfills a commitment from the menu! Please contact us for an auction request letter if you need one. Contact Kim at kcboyce@verizon.net
3. **Donate an Item to your Committee's Basket.** Each of the new committees will be putting together a basket to be auctioned off the night of the event. Your committee will decide on a theme for your basket. Each committee member can donate to the basket something that fits the theme. You are welcome to get your donation donated or purchase the item...it is your choice. The committee that brings in the most money for their donation will win a fabulous prize! Good luck! Contact your committee chair for details or Jill at tjramsey@aol.com

We would love to hear your questions, comments or suggestions!
Contact Jill Ramsey, 2007 Special Event Chair, at 637-4236 or tjramsey@aol.com

WE APPRECIATE OUR DONORS

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Jeanette D. Schouweiler
Christine Stach
Carrie Stuckey
Wendy Stein
Tina Torres
Ann Wallace Troutman
Courtney Waterman
Dana Weber

Melanie T. Hall... in honor of Barbara R. Thexton
Barrie Hooley... in honor of Sandi Kemmish
Christine Tremper Later... in honor of Barrie Tremper
Nancy P. Stewart... in honor of Sandi Kemmish
Ruth & Robert Stone... in honor of Judy Thomas

Judy Thomas... in honor of the incredible women of JLFW
Carol Popp Bennett... in memory of Lucile Franke Popp
Patricia Parker... in memory of Weezie Doermer
Charline Rehner... in memory of Connie Sowers
Betty Thieme... in memory of Sheila Danehy

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Carmike Theaters
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Clown Connection
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Fort Wayne Philharmonic
Fort Wayne Physical Therapy
Fort Wayne Vehicle Auction
Fort Wayne Wizards
Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
Frame Art Gallery
Fresh Market
Gladieux Consulting
Hagerman Group
Hilton Gardens
Holiday World and Splashin' Safari
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Spiece Lifestyle Medical Center
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CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS

Member Choice Awards

As a fun and unusual way to recap the year, the Education, Training and Communications Committee asked each committee chair to name three significant highlights from their committee for the year. The entire membership then voted on their top choice for each committee. Our Member's Choice Awards were announced at the Annual Dinner on May 23.

And the winner is...

| | |
|--|---|
| Communications Committee..... | Red Junior League shirts given to members |
| Education & Training Committee..... | Bus Back to Us |
| Advisory Future Planning Committee..... | Committee Action Timelines for committees and Board |
| New to You Sale Committee..... | Huge community turnout on sale day |
| Blue Jeans & Margarita-ville Committee..... | New Theme and location |
| Family Connections Committee..... | Training lots of new facilitators |
| Stationery & Cookbooks Committee..... | Member discounts throughout the year |
| Finance Committee..... | M&M theory Money & Mission Budget presentation |
| Nominating/Placement..... | Eight members chosen to attend ODI |
| Admissions/Provisional Committee..... | Over 20 new members! |
| Community Impact Committee..... | Kids in the Kitchen |
| Resource Development Committee..... | President's Circle Campaign exceeded budget |
| Board of Directors..... | Mission Possible Theme |
| Most Inspirational Moment..... | Rebuilding New Orleans |
| Favorite After Meeting Location..... | Club Soda |
| Favorite after meeting Activity..... | Socializing with other members |
| Favorite Guest Speaker..... | Sustainers at the September GMM |
| Favorite Ice Breaker..... | Personality Profile |
| Biggest Reason for a Massage..... | New to You Sale |
| Favorite Just for Fun..... | Wine Tasting party at Christine's home |
| Sustainer Best Impersonating an Active Member... | Kathy Roudebush |

She's All That!

Connie Heflin Named 2007 Active of the Year

At our annual dinner celebration, Connie Heflin, Admissions/Provisional Chair was recognized as our 2007 Active of the Year. Connie exemplifies all of the characteristics for this award. She and her committee made a huge impact on our League this year. Charged with one of the key objectives of our strategic plan, they exceed the plan's goal of recruiting 20 members - by recruiting 32 new members! This helped our League achieve overall membership growth and is one of our most important and exciting highlights of the year. Following Connie's leadership and enthusiasm, the new member class has made a tremendous difference in our League and also completed a great community project in the process. After a year of training, the new member year culminated in 218 hours of volunteer time spent painting, decorating, and landscaping at Mad Anthonys Children's Hope House.

Connie personally contributed more than 500 volunteer hours to the Junior League this year. In addition to her own committee responsibilities, she participated in several Done-In-A-Day Projects and JLFW University Classes. She attended two AJLI regional meetings and the Organizational Development Institute. Her service and commitment to JLFW are outstanding.

Connie is diligent and effective, yet always finds time for a smile and a laugh. In nominating Connie, members noted "You never leave a meeting or a conversation with her without feeling uplifted and encouraged. For those of us who have had the opportunity to work with her, she has become a good and trusted friend. She is respected and admired throughout our League."

In fact, when we asked the membership for their nominations for our Active of the Year, we received nominations for Connie from every level of our organization as well as from a community partner!

On behalf of the entire League, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. **Congratulations, Connie!!!**



CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS

A Letter to Junior League of Fort Wayne Membership...

We have had the privilege of serving as sustaining advisors to the Junior League of Fort Wayne board this year. We want to take this opportunity to publicly recognize Judy Thomas for her extraordinary leadership during this unusual but very successful year.

Judy's calm and thoughtful leadership style was just what the League needed in a year with much change. Active membership was at an all time low, but with her encouragement and support, JLFW has had a large and enthusiastic Provisional class that successfully implemented an exciting project at Children's Hope House.

The Bargain Box, a long-time Fort Wayne institution, closed its doors in May 2006, replaced with a brand new fundraiser that challenged and at the same time energized the membership. The *New to You* sale was a resounding financial success for JLFW and continued to provide quality next-to-new items that the community had grown to expect from the Junior League.

Kids in the Kitchen gave JLFW great visibility in the community and at the same time addressed a national issue of obesity in children by providing healthy nutrition ideas.

When faced with a good problem of what to do with excess funds in the treasury, League members enthusiastically said "DEAL" and increased the endowment.

As Judy's presidency draws to a close, the JLFW can look back with pride on substantial progress toward strategic goals, and at the same time look forward to even greater success in the future. It is particularly gratifying to the two of us, who share a similar quiet but strong leadership style, to have been associated with Judy's presidency.

Congratulations to Judy, the Board, and the entire JLFW membership on a wonderful year. We can't wait to see what comes next!

Jane Wilks and Melanie Hall
Sustaining Advisors

We Welcome our little Leaguers!



Braydon Chase ... born to Jen and Chris Hunter on March 10

Benjamin Paul ... born to Shelly and Bryan Meyer on March 28

Kyndall Layne ... born to Michelle and Dave Kearns on March 22

Hayden Leigh ... born to Jodi and Shaun Graham on February 26

Tabitha Aaron, Ella Jean and Adeline Jo - born to Lindsay and Brandon Wolf on March 7



You've got the cutest little Baby Face...!!

We Also Welcome...

... Our newest transfers!

Kristin Bass and Tina Bobilya have both transferred to JLFW from the Junior League of Indianapolis.

Mariah Vogelgesang will be moving to Fort Wayne soon, and has transferred her membership to JLFW from the Junior League of Dayton Ohio.

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SUSTAINING OUR SUSTAINERS

Sustainer of the Year

This year's Sustainer of the Year is a truly exceptional woman who embodies the skills, talents, and commitment of a Junior League member working to improve her community. Meg Distler has been a member of Junior League since 1982, and was active in the Leagues of Chicago, Sacramento and Fort Wayne. While in League, Meg served in many roles from community projects to fund raising to in-League committees. In 1998, Meg Distler was President of JLFW, and since transitioning to a sustaining role, she has served as a member of the Junior League Community Advisory Board. She will be one of our League's two Sustainer Advisors for the 2007-2008 League year.

But, Meg's commitment to our community does not rest solely with Junior League. Meg volunteers at her parish church, is active in the Southwest Allen County Schools Education Foundation, Healthier Moms and Babies, and the YMCA's Pioneering Healthy Communities initiative. And, of course, as the mother of two very active daughters, Meg is involved in swimming and other activities as a parent volunteer. In addition, as Executive Director of the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation, Meg works tirelessly to improve both access to health care and quality of care for the underprivileged in our community. She is a visionary who provides guidance to those in the non-profit world who seek to improve the health of our poor and she works to ensure efficient use of resources to that end.

In addition to all of these laudable tasks, Meg still finds time to serve as a mentor, who instructs by her actions as well as by her words. Even with her multiple commitments, she always finds time to nurture others and to encourage those in whom she sees leadership potential. She is an extraordinary Sustainer and a true treasure of our League and our community. Congratulations, Meg!



Garden Club Recap

The 2006-2007 Garden Club year was a resounding success! We have restructured the group, which is now open to ALL Sustainers in JLFW, and we're working to ensure that everyone who would like to join us to catch up with League friends or reconnect with JLFW has the chance to do so. And, all Sustainers will now receive an invitation to every luncheon. So, even if you haven't previously joined the group, you can attend if your schedule permits!

At our spring luncheon, which was held at the Summit Club, we heard updates regarding growth in membership, the change in how new projects will be undertaken, and the incredible success of the New to You one day sale. We also determined that we will have a speaker at our September meeting this fall, and an update from Active leadership of League at our May 2008 luncheon. Please consider joining us for a noontime reunion.

The chair of the Garden Club will be the Board of Directors' Sustainer Advisor each year. Next year, this position is shared by Meg Distler and Terri Stumpf.

If you have questions regarding Garden Club this summer, please feel free to contact Kathy Roudebush, 2006-2007 Chair.



2007-08 Sustainer Advisor Terri Stumpf (r) chats with Sustainer Polly Hagedorn (l) and former Sustainer Laura Smitson at the 2007 Annual Dinner.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

League Lore Submission Guidelines

1. All submissions must be approved by your Council Vice President.
2. Electronic format only.
3. Microsoft Word documents only with text in Arial 10 point font.
4. No formatting (color, bold, highlight, etc.)
5. Attach a Word document to your email - do NOT put the text in the body of the email - and name the document with the subject, your name, and the month of the issue (i.e. DIAD Smith Sept.doc)
6. Send digital photos, preferably in JPEG format.
7. If critical content is missing (date/time/location of event), it is your responsibility to get that information when notified by the LL editor. It is not her job to follow up for you or to send out e-mails to others looking for that information.
8. **All information is due to your VP by the 15th of the month. No exceptions can be made due to editing time constraints. Thank you!**
9. All submissions are subject to editing.

League Lore Deadlines

Editing: Gloria Baals, JLFW Office
Phone 425-3447

E-mail: office@jlfw.org

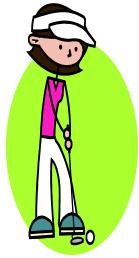
All submissions for the September 2007 issue of League Lore must be received by VPs no later than August 15.

Send submissions via e-mail per the League Lore submission guidelines.
Senders will receive a confirmation of receipt by e-mail.

Our Deepest Sympathies ... are with Sustainer Dorothy Lazoff on the recent death of her husband Luben



Our Sympathies also ... are with the friends and family of JLFW Sustainer Cornelia Sowers who passed away in December of last year.



Attention golfers!

Anyone interested in getting together for a fun round of golf please contact Carey Roth at 637-4939 or carey@aegisparts.com. I am trying to get an idea of how many golfers we would have. Everyone is invited. Details will follow.

The format will be similar to last year, 9-hole Florida scramble with food and socializing after. All ability levels are welcome - all you need is a set of clubs and the desire to have some fun!



Where adults store their toys

Junior League would like to thank John Smitson and Brad Noll for donating a Toyshed to the 2008 New to You Committee. We appreciate your generosity as we transition between storage sites.

For information on Toyshed Storage Condominiums, please contact:

Brad D. Noll
Office: 260.421.1955
Email: bnoll@martingk.com

