



For Immediate Release

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**Junior League of Fort Wayne to Unveil
Future Community Impact Commitment at Mardi Gras Extravaganza**

The Junior League of Fort Wayne (“JLFW”) will host a Mardi Gras Extravaganza on Saturday, March 8, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at Indiana Tech Law School, during which JLFW will unveil its future community impact commitment.

For over 70 years, JLFW has worked with numerous partners in the Fort Wayne not-for-profit sector to raise awareness of various issues and ignite local action. JLFW has spearheaded and engaged in over 85 community projects focused on building a better future for women and children, including Erin’s House, Science Central, Early Childhood Alliance, Pathways Youth Shelter and Kids in the Kitchen.

In concert with the Association of Junior Leagues International (“AJLI”), JLFW is re-inventing how it makes an impact in the Fort Wayne community. AJLI recognized that the Junior League organization model and volunteer base would best serve a community if a Junior League chapter focused its efforts on addressing a specific unmet or underserved need within its own community. JLFW is among 15 out of 293 Junior League chapters in the U.S. selected by AJLI to realize this new vision for the Junior League network. Over the past year, JLFW’s volunteer members have collaborated with community partners and leaders, higher education institutions, community foundations and local government officials to determine what area of need JLFW should commit to support through advocacy, community impact projects and partnerships with organizations whose efforts are aligned with those of JLFW.

“JLFW’s future work will be focused on Child Abuse and Neglect; Children’s Health, Nutrition, and Obesity; or Readiness for Elementary School,” said JLFW President Laura Antil. “Our research and work with various community stakeholders have shown that these are the areas in which JLFW can make a significant impact. We are excited to be announcing at our Mardi Gras Extravaganza which area our JLFW members have committed to make a difference in for the benefit of the community. We invite all of Fort Wayne to join us in celebrating this new beginning for JLFW.”

The Junior League of Fort Wayne’s Mardi Gras Extravaganza is open to the public. The event will feature heavy hors d’oeuvres, a cash bar, live and silent auctions and live entertainment. Event tickets are \$50 per person, and can be purchased online at www.jlfw.org or by contacting the JLFW office at (260) 425-3447 or office@jlfw.org. Funds raised will be used to further JLFW’s mission.

The Junior League of Fort Wayne is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Our vision is to be the leading force in building a better future for women and children. Our office is located at 101 Memorial Way, Suite 104, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805. For more information about JLFW, visit JLFW’s website at <http://www.jlfw.org>.

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