

Junior League



Journal

The Junior League of Miami, Inc. Membership Newsletter

Vol. XIX No. 3 | Summer 2011

President's Message

"All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today."

— Author unknown

Writing my final President's message did not come effortlessly to me. Transitioning, planning the final Board and General Membership meetings and completing my year-end duties kept me preoccupied. I felt excitement about our accomplishments, pride in our membership for all of its hard work, and a little bittersweet about the year flying by so fast. Needing inspiration, I found myself alone at Headquarters on a rare evening when there was no meeting or activity. I was surrounded by history, not only of 2010-11, but of the 84 years this organization has dedicated itself to improving our community.



From my vantage point, especially after 12 months serving as President, I am even more in awe of how we continue to make a profound impact on the community we serve. We started the year conscious of the lean economic state we were in. We were focused internally on improving systems to increase efficiency. I had high expectations for myself and for the membership. Our accomplishments – too many

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JLM debuts two new projects

By Suzanne Viana Journal Committee

JLM's Community Council is gearing up for another great year with exciting projects that will make a tremendous impact in our community.

Our incoming Community VP Helen Picard is enthusiastic about what we can accomplish in the coming year to support women, children, the elderly and the homeless. Having previously served as chair of Inn Transition South and the UM Kalula Project, Helen has seen firsthand what an impact our community projects can have. Helen was excited to share that many of our members chose community projects as their first and second choice placements this year. She is looking forward to working with an energized corps of volunteers to make this year's projects successful.

In addition to JLM's signature projects – Inn Transition North (ITN), Inn Transition South (ITS) and Done in a Day (DIAD) – League members will participate in seven additional projects in 2011-12.

Community Partnership for Homeless (CPH) is one of two new projects. It will expand our work in the area of homelessness. League volunteers will assist in designing, coordinating and implementing monthly "Me and My Family" activities at CPH's downtown Miami shelter. These family nights are aimed at keeping family bonding alive and enriching the lives of homeless mothers and children. They will include activities such as photography or movie nights, a back-to-school night, and holiday events.

Our second new project for the coming year is Family Counseling Services (FCS). FCS offers an array of specialized mental health services for families and has a strong reputation for providing quality services and programs based on thoroughly researched and tested methods. Among those they serve are children with behavioral issues who are referred to them by par-

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The newly named JLM board members are already gearing up for an exciting year. All members of the 2011-12 Board of Directors are listed on page 4.



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

Vision Our vision is to empower Miami's women, children, and families to conquer tomorrow's challenges and to build a united community.

Reaching Out We reach out to women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism.

Focus Areas We concentrate on families at risk with projects and activities involving homelessness, family violence, children's and women's health, early childhood development and foster care.

Wish For Our Members We hope every member derives fulfillment as we focus the energy and volunteer resources of our diverse membership to attain our vision.

To Contact Us

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Katie Lane-Arriola steps into leadership role

By Kathleen McGrory Journal Editor

Katie Lane-Arriola knew only a few people when she moved to South Florida in 1996. So she joined the Junior League of Miami.

The decision changed her life.

Katie said the League enabled her to grow as a civic leader and professional, and helped her form scores of friendships.

This upcoming year, she will give back by serving as President Elect.

"It's a huge honor," Katie said. "I'm really looking forward to it."

Katie grew up in Needham, Mass. and attended Boston College. That's where she met Eddy, her future husband.

Katie later moved to Miami, Eddy's hometown. She loved her new life in the Sunshine State, she said, but something was missing.

"I was looking to volunteer and get involved," she said. "I also wanted to find some like-minded women who were interested in the community."

The Junior League provided those opportunities and more.

Katie's first placement was at the Gladstone Center, a residence for girls who had been taken out of abusive homes. Katie and others would make weekly visits to the South Miami

home to mentor the girls and work on art projects with them.

Later, Katie played an important role in resurrecting the Miami Magic fundraiser. She helped plan the event at Merrick Park in 2005.

"We wanted to re-create that signature event," she said. "We learned a lot about raising funds and the importance of having a formula that works."

Katie would go on to serve as Vice President of Development, Vice President of Membership Outreach and Vice President of Community.

"I've liked sitting on the board and being involved with the general direction in which the League is moving," she said.

Katie's involvement in the League has helped her to develop professionally, as well, she said.

"I stopped working after I had my son, but I don't feel like I've been out of the professional world," she said. "I've been in the community,

meeting people, planning events, raising money. It's kept those skills sharp and helped

to grow them."

There have been personal benefits, too.

"It's given me a lot more confidence and helped me to feel like part of the community," Katie said. "Some of my best friends are League members."

Katie says she's learned from being on the board for Lauren Harrison Genovese, Michelle Ramirez-Patricios, Erin Dolan Knight and Loretta Crews Nido. She looks forward to working with incoming President Dana Martorella, too.

"They've each brought such a different leadership style to the League," she said. "I hope I'll be able to bring the best of what I have learned from each of them into my new role."

Looking forward, Katie is hoping to get the word out about the Junior League of Miami.

"My goal has been to let the Miami community know what we're doing and who our members are," Katie said. "The demographics have changed. We're all ages. We're from all parts of the community. I want to break down the stereotype."

Katie has two children, Ben, 11, and Grace, 8.

Her husband Eddy is Chairman of Apollo Bank, a commercial bank in downtown Miami. ☎



Planting the seeds for tomorrow

By Dana Wolpert Martorella Incoming President

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant."

— Robert Louis Stevenson

At our Annual Meeting, I began my incoming address to our membership with a quote by E.B. White: "Before the seed, there comes the thought of bloom." Our membership and outgoing President Loretta Crews Nido are certainly entitled to recall this past year fondly as one which reaped a garden burgeoning with the growth of full-blown blooms. There is no doubt that the "seeds" are bound to produce abundant harvests for our League and demonstrable impact within our Community!

As the courageous landscape architect of this garden, Loretta graciously gave me the opportunity to listen to her, learn from her and exchange ideas, allowing me to envision my own goals for our League.

One of the features of the strategic plan that I intend to implement this year is the designation of a tri-board. There is so much to be learned from our past board members AND from the foresight of our

future board members. By instituting a tri-board, consisting of the previous year's board, the sitting board and the incoming board, we will be able to honor the traditions, lessons and challenges we have learned from our past and pave the way for the visions of our incoming future leaders. Ideally, this tri-board will convene three times this year – once at the beginning of the fiscal year (with the previous two boards present) and then again, after Nominating announces the new slate, and finally, again toward the end of the fiscal year. Through valuing our past board member's service, and the input of our sitting board, we can undoubtedly build structurally sound bridges to our future.

It is my solemn promise that this coming year, I will continue to sow the magnificent garden that, with great visionary foresight, was planted and that our past, present and future members will long reap its beauty and benefits!

I closed my address to our membership at our Annual Meeting by sharing one of my very favorite poems (which I am certain each of you have often heard)



Dana Martorella and Tracy Pottker-Fishel

which I shall repeat here. It has been erroneously credited to Ralph Waldo Emerson and Robert Louis Stevenson numerous times but, in fact, was written by a woman named Bessie Anderson Stanley, likely a community activist and civic leader by her own right:

"To laugh often and love much; to win the respect of intelligent persons and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest citizens and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to give of one's self; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to have played and laughed with enthusiasm and sung with exultation; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived—this is to have succeeded."

I look forward to serving with you in JLM's 85th year. ☪

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President's Message continued from page 1

to touch on here – were the result of true team effort.

Membership's approval of Closerware is a principal accomplishment which will improve so many aspects of managing members and conducting business. The arduous endeavor to update the website, from the remarkable amount of due diligence undertaken to the progression into implementation, will reap rewards for years to come. Congratulations on making that decision.

Fate stepped up and brought our politically oriented members, several of them Provisionals on Super Saturday, together to offer a resurgence of our Public Affairs committee. If the work they have performed to date is any indication of the future of the committee, I predict that JLM's collective voice will be heard across Florida for years to come.

We should also be especially satisfied with the \$39,999 increase in annual rent payment for ITN from Miami-Dade County to cover expenses of repairs, maintenance and insurance. The Strategic Planning committee engaged the membership in a year-long dialogue on JLM's future and presented an impressive final product to guide us for three more years. Additionally, Leadership University trained more than 100 women to be the future civic leaders and change agents for our community.

We held a few unanticipated yet excit-

ing events. Mary Kay International selected Miami as one of four cities in which to host a "Day of Beauty" holiday party for survivors of domestic violence. We hosted AJLI President Delly Beekman during her Florida swing with a meet-and-greet at Headquarters. The JLM Foundation inched closer to its \$1,000,000 mark by conducting several successful fundraisers.

Our trained volunteers could be found every day of the week serving the community. JLM served countless homeless women in the Emotional, Social & Health Enhancement Program of Camillus House. Our members' own Therapy Dogs "Paws to Read" program helped more than 150 children to build confidence in reading aloud, enhancing their reading skills in a non-judgmental and supportive environment. Our members continued to serve as mentors to homeless survivors of domestic violence and their families at our flagship projects, ITN and ITS. A small but powerful committee spent Wednesday mornings with the preschoolers at Linda Ray Intervention Center. JLM members moved dozens of homeless women from their temporary housing in Lotus House to permanent housing. We knocked on doors from Miramar to Perrine offering breast health education in partnership with the Women's Breast Health Initiative. JLM members mentored children at the Barnyard in Coconut Grove through the University of Miami's Kulula Project.

Our dollars made an impact, too. The grant funding to Community Smiles provided 413 women and children free dental care. The grant to Casa Valentina provided Welcome Home! kits to seven women transitioning from foster care to independent living.

The Development Council's extraordinary efforts made more than \$150,000 to support our programs and internal operations during our three event and two non-event fundraisers. Our Membership Council deserves a round of applause for not only managing the status of 317 Actives, 120 Provisionals and 463 Sustainers, but planning opportunities for all members to socialize, network and develop relationships with fellow members. The Finance team worked like a well oiled machine, keeping all of our committees on track to end the year with a balanced budget. The "can-do" Communications Council kept members and the public well informed about JLM happenings.

This is just a small sampling of the success your collective efforts created in furthering our mission. It has been my sincere privilege to serve as President of JLM. The experience is one I will cherish forever. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your dedication to JLM and the community it serves. Enjoy the summer and I'll see you on Sept. 13, 2011!

Loretta Nido

Impact continued from page 1

ents, teachers and other service providers. JLM members will be volunteering at the Sagrada Familia Child Care Center in Little Havana where they will collaborate with FCS staff to organize monthly meetings for children who have completed FCS's FAST Works program. The meetings will help review and reinforce the strategies and skills the children have learned, empowering them to be successful in school and at home.

JLM members will continue their work at Camillus House. Volunteers will create and implement monthly wellness programs on Saturdays. In addition, JLM will maintain donation drives that help secure items the women need such as clothes, shoes, personal care items and undergarments.

The Women's Healthcare Initiative project will be an exciting expansion of last year's work with the Women's Breast Health

Initiative project, a grassroots campaign to increase breast health awareness and provide free mammograms. Among the new issues to be addressed are women's heart health and HPV awareness. The committee anticipates bringing this important project to ITS and ITN where they will educate residents on selected women's and children's health issues as well as facilitate guest speakers on various health concepts.

Therapy Dogs will be back again for its fourth year. League members and their certified dogs will participate in programs at local libraries that are designed to ease anxiety of children who have difficulties reading.

Strong Roots Parent and Caregiver Program/UM Kalula Project, a collaboration with the University of Miami School of Education, will continue its youth and family empowerment program for at-risk

youth. The program is designed to enhance the ethnic identity and social skills of these children and their parents. It aims to manage, teach and model behavior to effectively and constructively respond to racism. JLM volunteers will develop and run programs for the children while their parents receive training from UM staff.

League members will also return to the YMCA of Greater Miami's innovative reading program in Allapattah. Volunteers motivate young children to read by reading books aloud and developing expressive ways to link the concepts of the books into drama, art, movement and writing. League volunteers will also participate in YMCA's Intergenerational Reading Program, providing seniors and other community members with meaningful volunteer reading sessions with children. ☪

Provisionals and mentors reflect on year

By Laura Isensee Journal Committee

No one donned caps and gowns, but there was much to celebrate at the Junior League of Miami Provisional commencement in April.

Just over 100 women successfully completed the 2010-11 Provisional year, after attending meetings, finishing a special mentor project and pitching in on community service. Of the 101 graduates, 94 will become new Active members of the Junior League.

"I have learned more about the South Florida community than ever," said Tasha Wells, a Texas native. Wells said she realized JLM women strive to make a difference in all communities. "They don't mind getting their 'hands dirty,' if it will help uplift one person, one home and one community," she said.

Wells was one of eight women recognized for their outstanding leadership in their respective mentor groups at the commencement on April 23. The others recognized: Kadie Black, Champagne Girten, Margaret Henderson, Gaby Prado, Deming Schulberg, Linda Sullivan and Jennifer Webb. In addition, Sullivan was named "Provisional of the Year."

Sullivan said one thing made the year worth it: "Being given the opportunity to be part of a network of amazing women whose diverse backgrounds enable each other to team up to succeed, while still being able to laugh and stay grounded."

Members said the year taught them a lot – not just about the community, but also JLM. "I learned there are so many amazing women in our community – many more than I had imagined," said Prado. "And that despite busy work and

family lives, they always find the time to help their community. To me, that is an admirable trait."

Like other Provisional members, Schulberg said her group's mentor project – a graduation ceremony for five teen girls

“ I have learned more about the South Florida community than ever... [JLM women] don't mind getting their 'hands dirty,' if it will help uplift one person, one home and one community...”

from Kristi House – made her very proud.

"I cannot think of a better way to be introduced to the Junior League. The mentor project is the very essence of what the League is about, touching others and helping those in need," she said.

Webb said the Provisional year gave her an opportunity to learn about the Miami community and issues, from early childhood education to relief from domestic violence. "Since I am not originally from Miami, the training sessions really gave me a wonderful

opportunity to learn about the composition of the area and how to help," Webb said.

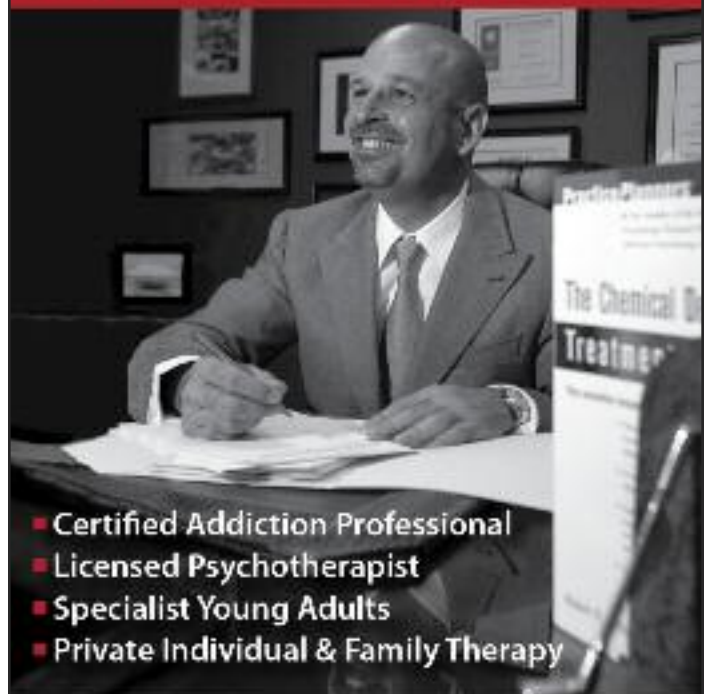
The Provisional year brought some mentor groups particularly close together. "With dynamic career paths, exotic travels, and no less than four births (and now four new moms) in our group over the last few months, we also had quite a bit to share in addition to our JLM lives," said Henderson.

For mentors, who guided Provisional members through requirements and projects, the commencement was a milestone, too.

"It amazes me every year the variety of women who want to become involved in JLM and the ways that they find their niche within the organization," said Maggie Atkins, who served as a mentor for a second-straight year. "I continue to believe that JLM offers something for everyone, no matter what their goals for membership," she said. ☎

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Provisionals make memories

By Megan McNally Journal Committee

Joining the Junior League as a Provisional is special for many reasons. It is a perfect introduction to becoming a member. You learn about the wonderful community service and volunteer opportunities the Junior League provides. But becoming a Provisional is also an opportunity to make new friends and bond with ladies who have similar interests and experiences.

There are many different types of Provisionals: mothers, young professionals, recent college grads, new arrivals to Miami, and sometimes, blissful brides to be. A perfect example is 2010-11 Provisional class member Deming Schulberg. Deming was a somewhat recent Miamian. She had moved to South Florida in 2008 from Kentucky and became engaged to Kyle, a native Miamian.

During Provisional group meetings,

Deming was happy to learn that her group was genuinely excited for her and eager to talk about her upcoming wedding plans. As the Provisional group grew closer, they accompanied Deming along with her future family on a very important dress fitting at Priscilla of Boston on Miracle Mile in Coral Gables. Then, while sipping champagne at a Provisional happy hour at Town Kitchen and Bar in South Miami, the girls learned that Deming did not have a bachelorette party planned because her friends live in Kentucky. Deming's fellow Provisionals decided to throw her a Miami bachelorette party and wedding shower.

Deming and Kyle were recently married at a beautiful ceremony on January 8 in her hometown of Danville, Kentucky. It is heartwarming to see how a Provisional class can become so close and be so sup-



Deming (center) and Provisional friends hang out in Mary Brickell Village.

portive during such a special time.

When I heard about Deming's wonderful Provisional experience, it made me realize how thankful I am to be a member of the Junior League. This June, I will be a Junior League transfer as I am moving from my hometown of Miami to Philadelphia. Moving to Philadelphia without any girlfriends is a scary thought. However, like Deming, I am confident that the Philadelphia Junior League will provide me the perfect opportunity to begin new lasting friendships and memories to last a lifetime. ☺

Graduates of the 2011 Provisional class share what made them most proud

Compiled by **Laura Isensee Journal Committee**

"Being part of an incredible group of women whose shared desire to get involved in community affairs and make new friends was nothing less than contagious." – **Linda Sullivan**

"I was most proud to see what a great response my Provisional group got from the community in our efforts to provide some holiday cheer to kids who may have not otherwise had a Christmas. The way the group worked together to accomplish our Provisional project goals and the way the community responded to our efforts was really heart-warming." – **Gaby Prado**

"I am most proud of my mentor group's project. Our group planned a graduation at JLM Headquarters for five teenage girls from Kristi House who participated in the Project Gold Program. Part of our project included using part of our budget to take them shopping for a

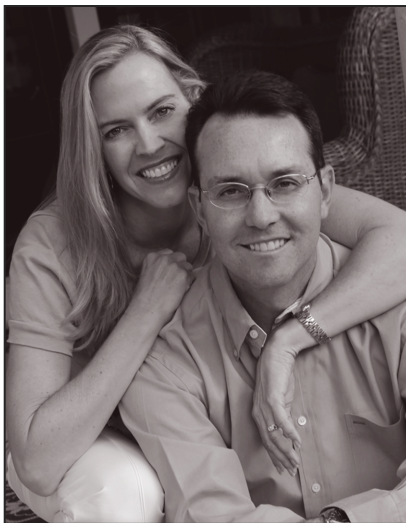
new outfit (including accessories) for graduation. The girls had such a good time on their shopping trip. We wanted them to feel special and pampered as they approached their graduation day. I'll never forget how happy and confident the girls looked upon graduation from their program. They stood before their families, foster parents, and friends as strong young women who were ready to embark on their life path, excited about what the future would hold." – **Deming Schulberg**

"I'm actually most proud of the fact that I joined Junior League at all. I love volunteering and helping my community. That wasn't the problem. This kind of thing is really outside of my comfort zone when it comes to meeting and interacting with this many new people in an environment that isn't purely professional. I'm usually quite shy around large groups of

unfamiliar people, so I was very nervous, and it takes me awhile to relax. However, I met so many amazing, wonderful, friendly women, both in and out of my Provisional group! I look forward to meeting more of the great Junior League women next year, and taking a larger role in the organization!" – **Champagne Girten**

"I think we all appreciated the many opportunities to get involved in Miami social causes in new ways – ways that required many of us to leave our professional or social comfort zones and expand our personal horizons. I know from speaking to several women in our group that the event at Inn Transition South which focused on domestic abuse was particularly enlightening." – **Margaret Henderson** ☪

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JLM completes, celebrates successful year

By Kathleen McGrory Journal Editor

The Junior League of Miami closed out another outstanding year at the 2010-11 Annual Meeting.

This year's festivities were held May 10 at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens.

The first order of business was welcoming the 94 new Active members to the League.

President Elect Katie Lane-Arriola then recognized the 23 Active members becoming Sustainers. All told, the ladies tallied 227 years of community service, Katie said, drawing applause from the audience.

"The door is always open if you want to come back," Katie added.

Vice President of Community Bibi Cruz-Ledon Sears also had some impressive numbers to share with the group: This year alone, members serving on the Community Council donated more than 1,800 hours of service.

Two residents of Inn Transition South expressed their gratitude to the Junior League volunteers.

"Thank you so much for your time," one of the women said, her eyes welling up with tears. "Thank you for coming and showing me what success is, for showing me what a healthy relationship is. Thank you for making yourselves available."

Said the other woman: "All I can say is thank you."

The League's fundraising efforts also bore fruit. Treasurer Vivian Rodriguez congratulated members for a successful Miami Magic fundraiser in December. She also praised the ladies for the Golf Tournament, Shopping Card for a Cause and the 10th

annual Women Who Make a Difference luncheon, calling the downtown Miami affair "a once in a decade event."

But the highlight of the evening came when a handful of League leaders stepped forward to present the annual awards.

This year's Provisional of the Year award went to Linda Sullivan.

The recipient of the Rebecca Herndon Bush Award was Elena Luca.

In presenting the award, Katie Lane-Arriola called Elena "passionate about volunteerism and philanthropy."

"She has volunteered countless hours in local hospitals and has sent care packages for many years to U.S. troops serving overseas," Katie said, listing the wide variety of organizations to which Elena has donated her time and talents.

Katie added: "We are so proud to have you as a member of the Junior League."

Vicky Hucks was named the Volunteer of the Year award.

"She is organized, intelligent, forward thinking and vicious," said Past President Erin Dolan Knight in presenting the award.

"Additionally, her dedication and love for this organization and its goals – not her personal goals – allow her to serve without bias. Her approach is truly altruistic."

The Sustainer of the Year: Holly Troup.



JLM members catch up over wine and snacks before this year's Annual Meeting

With the meeting coming to a close, outgoing President Loretta Nido reflected on the past year.

"It's been an intensely rewarding experience that I'm going to cherish forever," she said. "I thank you for the honor and for putting your faith in me."

She then passed the gavel to incoming President Dana Matorella.

"Loretta, Provisionals, Actives, new and old Sustainers, I congratulate you and hope you will congratulate yourselves on, what was by all accounts, a successful year," Dana said. "I look forward to beginning another one with you as we embark on our 85th year together." 🍷



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Outgoing JLM President Loretta Nido and her parents at the Annual Meeting

JLM honors outstanding high school grads

By Etain Connor Journal Committee

Each year, the Junior League of Miami awards college scholarships to young women for outstanding academic performance and community service. The Kathryn Menke Miller Community Service Award & Scholarship recognizes two female high school seniors in Miami-Dade County who have exhibited superior community service involvement during their high school careers while maintaining high academic achievement. Recipients of the Kathryn Menke Miller Community Service Award are exceptional members of the Miami-Dade community who embody the spirit and mission of JLM.

Kathryn Menke Miller, a former Junior League member, was the epitome of a hard-working, caring and loving volunteer. Beyond her service to the Junior League, Kathryn is best known for her dedication to our public education system and assisting the children in our community.

The application process is not an easy one. Applicants are asked to answer three

important questions: What is the most meaningful lesson you have learned from your community service experience? Do you think your community service experience has had an effect on your future career choice? They must also describe the organization where they performed their community service hours and why they chose that particular organization.

This year the Junior League had the difficult task of reviewing applications from twenty outstanding young women. Two stood out from the rest. Both ladies went beyond their normal volunteer requirements in service to their community while maintaining high GPAs. Individually, each young woman saw an opportunity to create her own unique volunteer initiatives, and both young ladies succeeded in their missions.

The 2011 winners of the Kathryn Menke Miller Scholarships are Diana Davenport and Odalmy Molina.

Diana recently graduated from Miami Palmetto Senior High. Among her many


accomplishments: volunteering more than 500 hours at Miami Children's Hospital, Jackson South and Holtz Children's Hospital.

As part of her service, Diana created a children's library at Holtz. She collected more than 2,000 books and raised money for the bookshelves. In addition, Diana held monthly reading sessions at the library.

Diana will attend Florida State this fall. She hopes to become a pediatric oncologist.

Odalmy, who attended Hialeah High, volunteered more than 1,400 hours with American Cancer Society. She was instrumental in passing the Cancer Society's "Pass the Buck" legislation, a statewide tax on tobacco. She also organized the first annual Purple Hope Pancreatic Cancer Walk in Hialeah.

Odalmy will be heading to Brown University.

Congratulations, ladies! We look forward to hearing about you in the future. 

JLM to begin Closerware implementation

By Anita Uppaluri Technology Chair

As volunteers, we want to know the time we spend volunteering has the greatest impact on the community we serve. To meet that need – and to improve advocacy, our ability to raise funds and to enhance internal and external communications – the Junior League of Miami has made the decision to implement Closerware. Closerware is a web-based solution to our current and future technology needs. This implementation will help us to maximize the impact of all of our resources.

To ensure a smooth transition to Closerware, the JLM Board has created the Technology Committee. This committee has already begun its work, keeping the membership informed, meeting with key personnel and looking at ways to make the best use of Closerware.

All information currently on the website will need to be checked for accuracy, cleaned and catalogued prior to transferring it to Closerware. You as members can do your part by reviewing all your information on the cur-

rent site. This could be personal, related to your placement or anything to do with the League. Make sure it is accurate. Of special importance is your email address. Since Closerware is a web-based solution, much of the information will be coming to you via email.

Most of the conversion will take place over the summer. As you begin your new placements, you will start seeing changes, starting with a new website.


In Closerware, you will be able to update your personal information directly on the website. Additional information will be added that will help in the placement process – information such as your availability, education, professional skills, and so on. You can view and sign up for meetings and events online and receive RSVPs and reminders. At any time, you can view your requirements and see what you've already fulfilled. You can view the events and meetings you have signed up for. If you are a donor, you will also have the ability to view this information.

Each member will have a badge and a

unique barcode. You will use your barcode to sign in and out of meetings and events, and to update the system. We will also hold an online Placement Fair, and put our placement bulletin and submission forms on the Web, making the entire placement process significantly less manual. The system will also handle fundraising events. It can help manage registration, seating arrangements, purchases, volunteer shifts and much more.

Members in leadership positions will be able to manage their staffing requirements through the system. They can track query the system and generate reports rather than tracking and updating information manually.

To view a 15-minute overview of the system, click on www.jlmiami.org/administration-forms-intro.php, sign on and select the Closerware Overview Video.

If you have suggestions, questions or need additional information, contact Anita Uppaluri at appaluri@aol.com. 



Hats and high fashion abound at 10th anniversary WWMD

By Cynthia Archbold Journal Committee

The 10th Annual Women Who Make a Difference Luncheon had a dress code: Hats required. And hats abounded on Feb. 27 – flowery and geometrical, gigantic and tiny, ornate and plain, serious and outrageous.



Event co-chairs Amber Seidle-Lazo, Luly Sixto-Yero and Michelle McClaskey

The creativity of the "Hats Off!" theme did not stop there. Everything from the new venue at the elegant J.W. Marriott Marquis in downtown Miami, the innovative silent auction items and the inaugural JLM Tory Burch fashion show gave a unique cache to the tenth edition of the event, which raised \$105,000 and netted \$75,000.

The funds will support JLM's projects and grants.

"I thought the new venue was spectacular," event co-chair Amber Seidle-Lazo said. "It was a big factor in our event's success and it accommodated us as our event grew as well."

More than 430 people attended the event – one of the largest turnouts ever.

Amber was also responsible for forging JLM's partnership with Tory Burch. Not only did the designer hold a fashion show at the event, she donated a substantial portion of the silent auction items. Amber said the relationship began when she went to the Tory Burch store at Bal Harbor for the Shopping Card fundraiser.

"They are a wonderful organization to work with and they are very supportive of Junior League," the co-chair said.

It took a committee of sixteen JLM volunteers to round up the silent auction items, procuring an array of 250 coveted luxuries. Among the goods: gift certificates to some of the newest, trendy restaurants, glamorous vacations, jewels and other baubles. All told, the silent auction raised \$25,000. Some of the new and coolest items, Amber said, were the luxury, all-inclusive travel experiences. One was a shopping trip to New York, another a ski vacation in Colorado.

In addition to the silent auction committee, 30 additional volunteers worked to set up and produce the event, which featured moving, in-depth video interviews with the four WWMD honorees:



2011 Honorees: Mary Young, Marie-Ilene Whitehurst, Gina Russ and Risa Berrin

Risa Berrin, Gina Russ, Marie-Ilene Whitehurst and Mary Young.

Amber credits the hard work and dedication of her fellow co-chairs Michelle McClaskey and Luly Sixto-Yero, and all of the volunteers for the luncheon's success. She adds that the Tory Burch partnership is yielding another benefit: new members. One Bal Harbor store employee Medgine Mejido has just completed her Provisional year, and the store's general manager, Nat-acha LaMour-De Nahim, is planning to join the Miami chapter this year.

As for what made this WWMD luncheon so much fun for guests, luncheon veteran and Vice President of Membership Betty Lopez-Castro had this to say: "The venue really allowed JLM to showcase the incredible silent auction items. The Tory Burch fashion show was amazing and best of all, the room was filled with incredible women who really make a difference in our community and continue to support the Junior League of Miami." ☪



Lauren Harrison Genovese and Mary Faraldo



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What We're Reading By Junior League Journalistas

Grayson by Lynne Cox

This is a great story to share with your tween and teenager. Seventeen-year-old Lynne Cox swims every morning between a pier and a jetty near her home in southern Los Angeles. One particular morning, as Lynne is finishing her swim for the day, she notices something strange. The water around her is teeming with fish and a large shadow is swimming beneath her. At first she thinks it's a shark. But she soon discovers it is a baby gray whale that has lost its mother. Lynne names the whale Grayson. For several hours and with the help of a fisherman and a lifeguard, Lynne helps Grayson reunite with his mother in deeper waters. The story shows the connection between humans and nature and a young girl's determination to save her new friend.



— Etain Connor

Winter Garden by Kristin Hannah

This heartbreaking novel set on an apple farm in the Pacific Northwest is a family drama, love story and historical novel all in one. It tells the story of two estranged sisters with completely different lives who discover that their cold and distant Russian mother had a secret past they knew nothing about. Meredith, who stayed home and raised a family on her family's orchard, and Nina, her globe-trotting photojournalist sister, come together as their beloved father falls ill. The sisters set along on a quest that takes them from Washington to war-torn Leningrad to modern Alaska as they learn the truth about their mother's life before she was rescued from a German prison camp by their father during World War II. The tragic story-within-the-story that brings the three women together is beautifully told. Although the conclusion of the novel is arguably too neat and contrived, it doesn't take away much from this moving page turner.

— Suzanne Viana

Retail Hell by Freeman Hall

Have you ever been shopping and found yourself arguing with another shopper over a sale item? Or waited in line while the customer in front of you is trying to return an item that has clearly been used? It is amazing how a simple shopping experience can trigger intense emotions like greed, impatience and anger. It is easy for onlookers to think: "What is causing such emotion? It is only clothes!" Not so, says Freeman Hall, the author of Retail Hell. Retail Hell will make you laugh out loud. He articulately describes his day-to-day life at "The Big Fancy" (a.k.a. Nordstrom) and his crazy experiences



behind the counter with rude customers, cat fights and questionable language. At the end of a long day or while traveling on an airplane for a few hours, Retail Hell is a fabulous companion. It won't challenge your intellect, but it is the perfect read when your mind has had enough stress and is ready to escape. Pick up the book enjoy and pass it along to a friend. I am sure you will find yourself chatting about some of the chapters as they remind you of some of your own retail encounters.

— Jennifer Lutton

The Hunger Games Trilogy by Suzanne Collins

There were a few months in 2008 when the Harry Potter books consumed my life. I couldn't put the books down. Next came the Twilight series, which I enjoyed just as much. So when I found out a new series of tween books was all the rage, I quickly downloaded the first book to my e-reader. The Hunger Games was not at all what I expected. It was far more. The book takes place in a post-apocalyptic North America. What was once the United States is now 13 districts run by a tyrannical Capital in the Rocky Mountains. Each year, the powerful Capital makes each district send two children to compete in the Hunger Games. There, the children must fight to the death in a gory battle that plays out on real-time reality TV. The heroine is Katniss Everdeen, a scrappy, self-aware 16-year-old girl who turns out to be quite crafty with a bow and arrow. Her story is an imaginative, well-crafted tale that you won't soon forget. It is certain to have you downloading the second book.

— Kat McGrory



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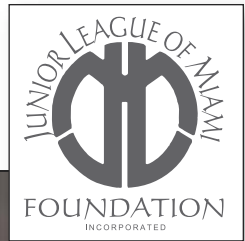
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JLM Foundation Happenings

By **Karelia Martinez Carbonell** JLMF President



It was a picture-perfect evening for the Junior League of Miami Foundation's fifth-annual Wine Walk held on March 2. More than 100 guests enjoyed a progressive-style dinner with champagne, wine, and port. Lamar Noriega, Meg and John Daly and Edith Huntley and Kemp Stickney graciously opened their homes in the historic Coral Gables French Village.

Current League president Loretta Nido and incoming president Dana Martorella, as well as many former League presidents, attended the Wine Walk. Among them: Mary Young, Lauren Harrison Genovese, Amy Sussman, Mary Lynch, Becky Matkov, Michele Ramirez-Patricios, Debbie Korge and Chris Mendoza. Past Foundation president Linda Johnson and current Foundation board members Sue Cesarano, Cathy Lorie, Ashley Cusack and Samantha Murphy were some of the many Foundation board members in attendance.




At the Annual 1926 Society Luncheon at the Genovese home.

taxation, wills and trusts, and estates from the law firm of Shutts & Bowen. Nostro returned as a guest of the JLMF to continue the conversation about the importance of creating wills and trusts, and forms of legacy giving. Estate planning is essential, he said, to create, protect and share wealth today by planning for tomorrow.

On April 26, JLMF held its annual donor recognition event. The event honored and recognized donors who join the 1926 Society (named for the year JLM was founded) with a gift of \$1,926 or more. Those individuals whose donations reach \$10,000 or more were recognized as Life Members. JLM Past President Lauren Harrison Genovese offered her home and Active Maria Maloof helped coordinate the event for more than 40 people. One of the highlights of the night was recognizing Karen Throckmorton as the 1926 Society's inaugural Life Member. The event was also a way to welcome the 14 new members of the Society and present silver logo pins to seven members who recently made an outright gift of \$1,926 or fulfilled their

multi-year pledge commitment. THANK YOU!

Monies raised directly benefit the Foundation in reaching its goal of \$1 million. Created in 2004 as a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization, the Foundation helps secure funding for the Junior League of Miami. Contributions at all levels are encouraged. 



Meg Daly, Karelia Martinez Carbonell, Lamar Noriega and Edith Huntley enjoy the JLM Foundation's annual Wine Walk.

The Foundation also hosted "The Estate of Your Affairs" at the Junior League of Miami Headquarters on April 6. The seminar, organized by past JLMF president Leslie Rivera, drew League members and their friends in the community. The guest speaker was Louis Nostro, a specialist in



Karen Throckmorton (left) recently became the first Life Member of the 1926 Society. She is pictured here with Past JLM President Lauren Harrison Genovese.

With Gratitude...

The JLM Foundation is most grateful to JLM Active **Isabella Henry** for once again procuring the "spirits" to benefit the 2011 Wine Walk. Champagne, wine, and port were generously donated by **Carisam-Samuel Meisel**

and **Kobrand Wines & Spirits**.

The JLM Foundation is most grateful to **Giancarlos Designs** for creating this year's 1926 Society silver pins and underwriting most of the cost in support of the Junior League of Miami's mission.

Giancarlos supports many local not-for-profits including Jackson Foundation's Guardian Angels, American Red Cross Miami, Carrollton and many others.

Calling all Sustainers! What advice would you give to your younger self?

Compiled by Katie Lane-Arriola President Elect

In the Fall Journal, we asked Sustainers to tell us how their experience as an Active member of JLM has impacted their life. We were thrilled by the thoughtful responses by our illustrious Sustainers, and would like to share them with you. Many thanks to all who participated!

Karelia Martinez Carbonell: (1996) I joined JLM in 1996. My good friend Susan Moll had just finished her tenure as JLM president and encouraged me to get involved. My Provisional year was a whirlwind of meetings. I was busy planning our big Provisional project: volunteering at the Sunrise Community, Inc. As a first year Active, I co-chaired the annual gala/auction, Casino Royale! It was a great ice breaker for me. I was certainly on the JLM express train, learning from great Leaguers who had come before me. I remember implementing a new auction software program with the help of incoming president Laurie Schobelock. Laurie did not give up on me or the program and the gala was a great success in many ways. Looking back, it was a lot of work and dedication for a newly minted Leaguer. In between the gala/auction committee meetings, I was also completing my MBA. But my League experience literally launched my professional career as a fund development professional. I credit the Junior League of Miami with helping me to develop as a professional and as a leader in my community.

Today, I am happy to give back to JLM as president of the JLM Foundation. I am in a unique position to lead a great group of women in stewarding nearly \$1 million in assets for the benefit JLM and its future programs.

Karen Corlett McCammon: (1977)

One of my favorite areas was the Volunteer Training Committee. We were taught how to lead groups and keep them focused, and how to listen and respond thoughtfully. The Junior League of Miami then became facilitators for a Governor's Conference on Crime and a Governor's Conference on Education. We were tasked with keeping state and community leaders on point. That experience has helped me in my career in real estate. Most of all, it gave me the tools I needed to be involved at my church, St. Thomas Episcopal Parish. I served on the Vestry and was Sr. Warden and on the School Board. My experience in the League also gave me the tools to lead classes such as EFM, Education for Ministry and DOCC, Disciples of Christ in Community, where my work was mentoring and getting others to speak. I loved my time in the League.

Sarita Courtney Baigorri: (1995) I loved the Junior League for all the leadership training it gave us and for teaching us how to work well with others as well as in the community. More than anything I made many great friends and contacts through the Junior League. The training helped me in my career in the law and civic organizations by giving me the leadership skills needed to serve on boards. In addition, it taught me to not be afraid to serve. I was chair of the board at Plymouth Preschool, served on the board of Beaux Arts for many years and chaired many other committees at my children's schools and at my church. For me, as a young mother and professional, the Junior League was a great place to learn volunteerism and leadership.

Gail Scott: (1995) As we all know, the

Junior League of Miami is a training organization. We train volunteers both inside our organization and in our community through our programs. My training and interaction with Kristi House during my JLM Active years sparked my interest in serving on the board at Kristi House, where I now head up the public relations committee. We are making a difference in the lives of so many children in Miami-Dade County and it all started with JLM members in the very beginning when Kristi House was created. I am merely following in their footsteps.

Karen Boyd: (1981) As a former Active member of JLM and a current Sustainer, one bad experience in one of my first committee placements influenced me greatly. I learned to never ask someone to do something that I would not do. I also learned how important it is to work alongside those of which you are asking something, and not to place yourself above the rest. This has been etched in my memory for many years.

Cheryl Goldstein: (1999) Being an Active in JLM gave me the opportunity to meet and work with women who share my interests and values. I met many of my close friends through the League. Being an Active in JLM connected me with the community. I see a Junior League person almost every day and it always puts a smile on my face!

Keith Landon: (1995) JLM provided me the ability to be trained areas other than that of my chosen career path, which at the time was communications. I was also new to Miami when I joined the League and I was thrilled to join a vibrant Provisional class and do our famous "bus tour" of the city and surrounding communities. I then proceeded to

Congratulations to Actives going Sustaining

Robin Wood, 1996
Sara Engel, 1998
Jessica Lancaster, 1998
Katie Landsea, 1998
Leanne Tellam, 1998
Heather Almaguer, 1999

Meredith Aziz, 2000
Erin Dolan Knight, 2000
Nickelle Crowley, 2001
Tina Boresow, 2002
Belinda Bacon, 2003
Melisa Chantres, 2003
Tere Hernandez-Acosta, 2003

Jen Klaassens, 2003
Jocelyn Koch, 2003
Renee Lopez-Cantera, 2003
Jennifer Lutton, 2003
Kabrina Means, 2003
Ali Nason-Aymerich, 2003
Jennifer Press, 2003

Migna Sanchez-Llorens, 2003
Linda Schmidt, 2003
Kimberley Thompson, 2003
Veroushka Volkert, 2003
Zaria Walter, 2003

immerse myself in all the terrific community placements in JLM, and it allowed me to expand my vision of our community. I still rely on my JLM "classmates" to help me navigate the Miami volunteer scene – and I continue to be in touch with the folks at ITS. Most of all, JLM instilled in me the confidence to be a life-long volunteer, and to realize that every person can make a difference in our community.


Jeannett Slesnick: (1977) The Junior League has been the most important organization I have ever belonged to, and I have been a member of numerous organizations. Not only have I made lasting friendships with women who are positive, upbeat, well-organized and brilliant volunteers, but I have consistently found that the projects supported by the League make a difference in our community.

The League is well run and makes the most efficient use of time and funds. It is an especially great source in providing training so that the members feel confident in belonging to and presiding over boards, corporations, political groups, etc. I have always appreciated the parliamentary procedure course the League offered in my first year as an Active as I have used that and other training for over 30 years while serving on civic boards. The Junior League is the BEST!

Julia Rea Bianchi: (1990) JLM Past President 2001-2002: My years as an Active member were filled with fond memories of collaborative accomplishment. I vividly recall how we spruced up ITN through sweat equity, grant money and hard-earned fundraiser dollars. Collectively, we researched and authored grant proposals, and traveled to Tallahassee to lobby our state lawmakers to help fund the Emmy award-winning film *Our Miami: The Magic City*. A dedicated committee worked tirelessly to debut the film to a sold out crowd at the Gusman Center. We also wrote numerous grants for the acquisition and renovation of JLM Headquarters, which were ultimately awarded by the state, numerous foundations and individual donors. Training in all of these areas provided a rock solid base of volunteer experience and fundraising skills which I have been able to apply to other non-profit organizations in which I have subsequently become involved.

Andria Hanley, (1997) JLM Past President 2005-2006: For the first few months of my new job as executive director of the Coral Gables Community Foundation, virtually every fantastic woman I introduced to the chairman of the Foundation (a.k.a. my boss) was someone I met through the League. Once we knew each other well

enough and I would introduce someone, he would say, "I know, you know Andria through Junior League!"

When I first moved to Miami I thought had arrived in such a big city that I'd never see anyone I knew in the grocery store. Much to my surprise, I always see a few people, most of whom I know through the League. Aside from being an RA in college, the League is the place where I learned the most, fine-tuned my people skills, and learned how to do work and have fun at the same time. I also made tremendous connections. I use those skills all the time in my job. I observe board meetings and compare them to League board meetings. I have to say we know what we are doing. I know when to second a motion and when it is not needed. I have a strong sense of organizational structure, based on how the League is structured. My public speaking skills improved as I took on greater roles within the League, something that I use at work as well. I am really grateful for the friends I made in the League. (For a while, I thought that was all I got out of it – and that's a lot and so I was thrilled!) As I did more, and learned more about myself and applied it to other parts of my life, I learned I gained a lot more. 



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Sustainer Spotlight

Leanne Frazee Tellam

By Jennifer Lutton Journal Committee

I decided to write about Leanne because since joining the League, our paths have continually crossed. It is ironic how this played out. Leanne recently lost her father-in-law, and so our interview time was limited. But we found ourselves walking into the Annual Meeting together and had a chance to reflect as we both waited to be welcomed into Sustainer status.

Leanne and I have done numerous placements together over the years. We've participated in the Chili Cookoff and completed various community service projects. For multiple years, Leanne opened her home to dozens of Junior Leaguers so we could wrap gifts and make gift baskets for the families at Inn Transition North and South. During one wrapping party, I received a call from my sister telling me that my dad had fallen ill and was in intensive care. My family lives in Massachusetts. I felt far away and helpless, but I did not feel alone. Leanne and my other friends from the League embraced me and helped me through it all. We wrapped gifts for those in need and quietly said prayers for my father.

Today, I write for Leanne and pray for her and her family in this difficult time.

Leanne started in the League in 1998. She has since been a beacon in the League. Her long blond hair, radiant smile, and can-do attitude leave a lasting impression on those around her. Leanne started on our Public Affairs committee and then soon found the placement where she would leave her heart. As she prepared to have her first of three children, she volunteered to help build Inn Transition South. She told me that watching ITS take shape hooked her on providing service in South Dade and forever kept her grounded. She went on to serve on our board three times: as recording secretary, parliamentarian and, her favorite position, as vice president of community. Next year she will return to the Community Council as Sustaining Advisor, so her track comes full circle and her JLM service continues.

Leanne credits the League not only with life-long friendships, but with the development of many of her skills as a non-profit volunteer and leader.

"I could not do what I do for my com-

munity, my kids' schools and public education in general without the training I received in JLM," she said.

She went so far as to say that her skills as a legal mediator stem from managing League volunteers over the past dozen years.

"There is a special skill set you develop when trying to inspire friends and colleagues to give more of their time without the incentives that come with paid positions," she said. "I feel so fortunate to have had that opportunity and will not squander the skills the League has given me."

As Leanne takes a step back and goes Sustainer she will be missed. I am sure she has inspired every woman she served with to adopt the attributes for which she is so well admired.

Thank you, Leanne, for all your years of dedication and service. 🍷



Leanne Tellam working at Inn Transition South event in 2007.

JLM Class Notes

Kimberly Haring was honored with was honored with Dartmouth's Young Alumni Distinguished Service Award.

Merdochey T. LaFrance won the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's Difference Maker Award. She received the honor as part of this year's HYPE awards, which recognize Miami-Dade's brightest young professionals. She was also recently appointed to the 2011 Board of Directors for the YWCA of Greater Miami-Dade.

Elvira Larrain and Alfonso Zavala (below) were married on March 11 at St.



Hugh Catholic Church. Their reception was held at Grove Isle Resort and Spa. The happy couple now resides in Washington, D.C.

Manjula Jegasothy married to Stephen Hooper on March 26 in Palm Beach. Stephen hails from Nashville, Tenn. and Atlanta, Ga. (a true Southerner!) and is in enterprise sales for AT&T. The couple plans to reside in both Miami and Delray Beach. Manjula will be continuing her involvement in JLM and her dermatology practice on Brickell Ave.

Emilie Goldman and Steve Wernick were engaged in January. They look forward to a spring wedding in April 2012.

Julie Nance gave birth to a baby boy named Pierce Autry on Dec 9.

Lauren Gutierrez and husband Patrick welcomed Sophia Grace into the world on Jan. 24. Sophia had to spend a week in the newborn ICU ward, but is now home with her parents and doing



fine (above). Her grandmother, Sustainer Cathy Dee, couldn't be happier!

Tere Hernandez-Acosta and her husband Ernesto had a baby boy Ernesto Eduardo Acosta (below) on Feb. 7. 🍷





— JLM Annual Campaign — Clip a Coupon • Make a Difference!

You don't have to leave home to help a woman or child

Dear Members and Friends,

This year's Junior League of Miami Annual Campaign is focused on examples of what every dollar raised can do to help women and children in community projects where JLM volunteers are devoting their time and talent.* In these difficult times, it's important for each of us to reflect on what even a small donation can mean to families in need.

Plus, this fundraiser is super-easy! No fancy dress needed. . .No babysitter to find...You don't even have to leave home! Just clip a coupon(s) in whatever way you want to help!

The "savings" might be the lifeline that someone is desperate for right now.

All donors to the Clip a Coupon campaign will be recognized as part of JLM's Annual Campaign (formerly Community Partners) program, and receive:

- Special recognition at all fundraisers and general membership meetings.
- Invitation to private social functions throughout the year.
- Honorable mention in all JLM publications including the membership directory, event programs and quarterly membership journal.
- Logo and company listing on JLM web site if applicable.

If you prefer, make your secure **donation online at www.jlmiami.org.**

Yes! I want to Clip a Coupon for our Community!

Clip the coupon(s) from the right and enclose, or check your choice(s) below

DONOR

Name _____

Company (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone(s) _____

Email _____

Name(s) exactly as you wish to be listed _____

CHOOSE YOUR COUPON/CAUSE:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help a Woman Get a Job | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Start a Child Off on the Right Foot | \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keep a Belly Full | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Save a Woman's Life | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protect the Family Unit | \$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Celebrate Life | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broaden Children's Horizons | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Additional Amount | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Total Amount | \$ _____ |

GIFT IN HONOR ☐ I would like to make this donation in someone's honor. Please send them a letter celebrating the following occasion:

Name _____ Occasion _____

Address _____

METHOD PAYMENT

☐ Check (payable to JLM)

☐ Credit Card:

☐ Visa

☐ MasterCard

Card # _____ Expiration _____

Signature _____

*Coupons are examples of the impact your dollars can make. All donations are unrestricted. For more information, contact Meg Lee at 305-668-7903 or at Mgriffinlee@gmail.com

\$20

Help a Woman Get a Job
Supply job search training
materials for a woman in need

\$30

Start a Child Off on
the Right Foot
So that an at-risk child can
begin school with a book bag

\$50

Keep a Belly Full
Provide dinner for an Inn
Transition South family

\$100

Save a Woman's Life
Provide a breast cancer
screening and education kit
to a woman in need

\$150

Protect a Family Unit
Sponsor a family bonding
experience for a
homeless family

\$250

Celebrate Life
Sponsor a celebration
for an elderly resident
living at home

\$500

Broaden Children's
Horizons
Send Inn Transition North
families on a field trip

Thank you!



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terracotta floors, updated kitchen,
lovely backyard, covered patio.
12,500 foot lot and 1-car garage.



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New listing in the Gables, great value. 3 or
4 bedroom/3 bath home with two Family
rooms, eat-in kitchen. Screened pool. North
of Sunset on corner of Alfonso.



1209 Cordova \$450,000

3 bedroom/2 bath just west of Granada.
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floors. Gourmet kitchen. Fenced yard. A
well-priced Coral Gables home.