

# Junior League



The Junior League of Miami, Inc. Membership Newsletter

# Journal

Vol. XVIII No. 2 | Winter 2009

## President's Message

### Leadership is Not in a Title

John Quincy Adams said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, do more and become more, you are a leader." Leadership is not in a title. It is in your actions.

The Junior League of Miami is a big organization. With over 400 active and provisional members, there are times when it is natural to feel like a small fish in a big pond. Despite that fact, I want to remind you that we could not accomplish all that you will read about in the coming pages without each member.

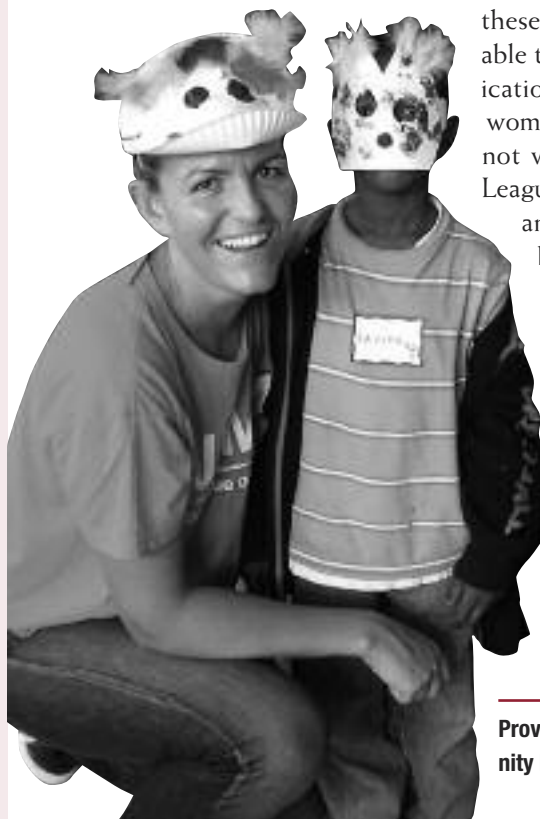
Our community impact is integrated throughout all six councils. Without the Planning Council, where would our future be? Without the Development Council, how would we afford to give? Without the Membership Council, how would we cultivate our women who are working to build a united community? Without the Finance Council, how would we analyze and maintain our resources? Without the Communications Council, how would we educate our membership on League activities and how would we educate the community about our achievements?

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## Provisionals as Powerhouses

By Michelle Austero Vidal Provisional Co-Chair

All over the country, nonprofit organizations have been struggling not only for funding, but also for manpower. Many people are unable to volunteer their time to help out organizations when they are feeling the weight of the economic burden that has befallen our nation. Although these are troubling times, you would not be able to see this by viewing the drive and dedication of our Provisional groups. These women are quickly revealing that they are just not willing to sit back and learn about the League; they are ready to muscle up, get dirty, and use every ounce of themselves to give back to our community during these trying times.



Our Provisional groups, under excellent guidance from their mentors, were quick to choose their Provisional Projects on Super Saturday. Within two weeks, they were fervently e-mailing one another, contacting the organizations they had selected to help, and coordinating and delegating tasks and responsibilities for each member of their groups.

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Provisional Simone Vazquez with child at Community Partnership for the Homeless

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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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And without the Community Council, how would we make an impact in the areas of homelessness, family violence,



**Katie Lane-Arriola bagging groceries at Whole Foods Shopping Day.**


foster care, early childhood development and women's and children's health? What does all this mean? Simply, that there is no one placement that is more valuable than another in this League. Everyone has a place in our council system. The work that has been done this year alone inspires me every day.

I encourage you to use your placement to inspire others to dream more, do more and become more...to be a leader.

You have that opportunity every day. I can assure you of two things. One, the Junior League of Miami sets out to make every community program, training, fundraiser, meeting and function as perfect as possible – perfect for both the community and our membership. Second, every community program, training, fundraiser, meeting and function does not turn out perfectly. Plans change, circumstances arise that are out of our control, and personalities come into play. That is



**Done In a Day Committee and volunteers painting mural at Linda Ray Center October 3.**

where your leadership comes in. We are a training organization. If something is not going exactly as planned, we can still make it work and find a way to make it even better. Let's communicate with each other. Our words and actions are powerful. Use them to support the women around us to achieve more. Thank you for your leadership. 

*Erin Dolan Knight*



### Wrap Up **The Perfect Holiday Gift** for Mom & Dad This Year

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Gift certificates available at: **www.gablesfoundation.org**, or by calling **305.443.4011**.

# Unlock the Magic of Miami

By **Monica Fernandez and Mari Novo** Miami Magic Co-Chairs

We invite you to join us in celebrating our beautiful city and the people that make it magical on December 11th at the Four Seasons Hotel. This fabulous event includes a wine and cheese cocktail, a delectable buffet-style dinner, and a tempting champagne dessert party. All of these can be attended in a progressive way, or can be attended individually at varying ticket prices.

Bring your friends, co-workers and family to help raise funds for JLM's community projects. Fancy an earlier happy hour event? Attend the Wine & Cheese. Craving some sweet relaxation after a hard week of work? Treat yourself to the luxurious Dessert & Champagne party. For the ultimate experience, purchase a VIP ticket and enjoy all portions of the event including an extraordinary buffet dinner at the breath-taking outdoor Palm Grove pool area. Any way you choose, you can meet with all your friends on the Sky Bridge for a cocktail!



Try your luck at one of the amazing raffle items by "unlocking" the Magic with your Miami Magic key. Raffle items include an extravagant Royal Caribbean cruise and the very popular A-Rod Experience, among other fabulous prizes.

What better way to start off the holiday season than to enjoy a spectacular night featuring an exquisite progressive dinner with marvelous selections, fabulous raffle items, and awe-inspiring views of our magical city. This year JLM is thrilled to be honoring three important leaders and philanthropists in our community, Chef Michelle Bernstein, Andrea Ivory, Founder of the Florida Breast Health Initiative and Jamie Rosenberg, Founder of Adopt a Classroom....That's Miami Magic.

## Miami Magic 2009

**Progressive VIP Dinner**  
**\$250 per person (8:00-10:30 p.m.)**

**Wine & Cheese Cocktail**  
**\$125 per person (7:00-9:30 p.m.)**

**Dessert & Champagne**  
**\$75 per person (9:00-11:30 p.m.)**

\* Progressive VIP Ticket includes Wine & Cheese, Buffet Dinner and Champagne & Dessert

\* All ticket prices include access to open bar in Sky Bridge from 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight

**Raffle Tickets**  
**\$100 | 3 Tickets for \$250**

Join us as a table host and invite 10 of your fabulous friends to celebrate the holiday season with you. What better time of year to help raise funds for the Junior League of Miami's signature community projects!

**VIP Table Host**  
**\$2,500 (Table seats 10)**

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**INSPIRED TO GROW.**



## St. Philip's Episcopal School



We offer a strong academic program and commitment to character development for Nursery through Sixth-grade students.

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St. Philip's is open to children of any race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin.



# Done In A Day visits the Ronald McDonald House with Halloween Treats

By Sarah Knight and Elvira Larrain DIAD Co-Chairs

On October 16th, several JLM volunteers, along with President Erin Knight and her son, visited the Ronald McDonald House, located on the campus of the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center. The morning was spent raising the spirits of 6 special kids.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Florida is a not-for profit organization dedicated to helping local children live happier, healthier and more productive lives by supporting healthcare and medical research programs, education and the arts, and civic and social programs. Their houses are set up to be a temporary "home" for families to receive support and refuge from the daily realities of hospital procedures and routine appointments in all Miami-Dade and Broward County pediatric medical facilities.

The JLM volunteers decorated the room before the kids arrived with all types of fun Halloween items, as well as tables covered with Halloween-themed tablecloths (all of which were left for the kids and their parents to enjoy through Halloween). Volunteer Ana Grill baked delicious cupcakes that everyone was able to join in to decorate. Ana also created some adorable

pumpkin faced goody bags filled with all types of sweets and chocolates for the kids.

In the craft/living room at the Ronald McDonald House DIAD Co-Chairs Sarah Knight & Elvira Larrain, as well as volunteers Kathryn Tappert and Ana Grill, were in charge of the arts and crafts projects for the day. Sarah Knight, using her knowledge as a teacher, planned some exciting crafts for the children, including decorating Halloween masks and painting Halloween themed pictures. The children, most between the ages of 3 and 8, participated in the planned activities, but the kids were also determined to use their imagination and did so by creating their very own personal masks and masterpieces. All of the JLM volunteers were hands-on working alongside the children, talking to them, and ensuring them that they were just like any other healthy child.

DIAD Co-chair Elvira Larrain was able to speak to many of the parents, and one particular mother explained to Elvira that her daughter had just undergone open-heart surgery and had not been feeling well due to issues with her lungs, and was unable to participate in the fun event. The mother was happy to take two masks for her daughter to the hospital to put a

smile on her face and cheer her up.

JLM is excited to have the Ronald McDonald house as a DIAD project this year. The DIAD committee will be returning to the Ronald McDonald House in the Spring, so please check the calendar listings so that you too can brighten the day of a child. If you want to get involved before the Spring, the Ronald McDonald House is in desperate need of canned goods. Please visit the Ronald McDonald House charities website at [www.rmhcouthflorida.org](http://www.rmhcouthflorida.org) to find out how to donate. ☺



Sarah Knight with Ronald McDonald House resident



Kathryn Tappert with Ronald McDonald House resident.



# Lotus House Thrift Shop Opening

By Susan Lerner Sustaining Member

On September 26, the Lotus House Thrift Shop celebrated its grand opening in the new Design District/Midtown Miami location, at 203 NW 36th Street.

By noon on opening day, the pink-themed shop felt a bit like Filene's Basement – shoppers bunched up at the checkout counter, clamoring to buy designer shoes, Armani suits, vintage jewelry and the other specialty treasures at bargain prices – all for a good cause – to benefit the Lotus House Shelter in Over-

town. Shelter residents and alumni work the shop as part of an effort to create real world job training and hands-on work experience. On opening day, some of the residents even entertained shoppers with a beautiful rendition of "Lean on Me."

The buzz about town over Lotus House Thrift is impressive. "It's Zen and the art of wardrobe maintenance," says DailyCandy, Miami Edition [www.dailycandy.com](http://www.dailycandy.com) Lotus Thrift Shop is "guilt free retail therapy," says Liz Tracy of [www.abcmiami.com](http://www.abcmiami.com).

Lotus House Thrift Shop hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm. Donations are tax deductible. Pick-up of selected items is also available; contact [thrift@lotushouseshelter.org](mailto:thrift@lotushouseshelter.org) or (305) 576-4112.

Before you leave the house for our General Membership Meetings, please remember to clean out your closets and gather your clothing donations. The League is collecting women's, men's and children's clothing donations at all General Membership Meetings for the Lotus House Thrift Shop. ☺

## JLM and the Florida Breast Health Initiative

By Beth Halm DIAD Member and Sarah Knight DIAD Co-Chair

On Saturday, October 10th, the Done-In-A-Day committee, along with other Junior League members, worked with the Florida Breast Health Initiative. The Florida Breast Health Initiative is an outreach organization dedicated to educating women about the importance of breast health and providing them with the resources to beat the disease. The Initiative provides free breast health awareness, education, screening and referrals through neighborhood door-to-door outreach targeting underserved women. Their mission is fight breast cancer as a life threatening disease, one household at a time.

Andrea Ivory started the Florida Breast Health Initiative five years ago

**This nonprofit organization raises funds to pay 100% of the cost of these potentially life-saving mammograms and educational programs.**

while recovering from breast cancer. This nonprofit organization raises funds to pay 100% of the cost of these potentially life-saving mammograms and educational programs. (Andrea is a Magic City Honoree and CNN Top 10 Hero of the Year.)

The JLM volunteers distributed information door-to-door in South Miami about breast health and how to

schedule appointments for mammograms. The event was powerful and as we went door to door, we heard many stories about cancer. The most touching were the ones of survival through early detection. The volunteer event raised awareness about breast health, the different programs offered by the Initiative, and most of all, it raised hope. ☺



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## Provisionals continued from page 1

One of the Provisional groups, mentored by Cynthia Gay, finished their Provisional Project on October 16th. Cynthia's group hosted a Halloween-themed movie night at Inn Transition North (ITN). Eighteen children at ITN were treated to pizza and "a lot of candy" while they watched the film *Hocus Pocus*. Quoted from an e-mail the very next day, Provisional Cindy Costa said, "I found it remarkable that in the midst of so much negativity in their lives, you would never know it from their attitudes. It was a very rewarding experience, and I look forward to future events with ITN."

The Provisional group mentored by Shawn Libman was able to complete their project on October 17th. This group helped a Girl Scout troop earn their museum badge by taking them to the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in North Miami. The Provisional group packed healthy lunches (chosen by each girl via RSVP from invitations that the group sent out) and brought them to the museum the next day. After a guided tour of the museum, in which the tour guides sat the girls down and explained the different art pieces, the girls were able to create their own art and mail it to anyone they would like. The museum was kind enough to offer the girls free passes to return, since they lived in the area. Provisional Lia Dominique Andress said of her group, "I had a great time working on this project. I (kind of) wish we had another... Between the planning and actually getting together on Saturday, it was great."

Ashley Thornburg's group hosted a story-telling at the Barnyard Library on October 22nd. The women amassed a collection of children's books to donate to the library and also provided healthy snacks for the children to enjoy during the story-telling.

Tracy Pottker-Fishel's group held a Halloween Party on October 24th with the Community Partnership for the Homeless. Approximately 100 homeless children and their parents attended the festivities. The Provisionals decorated the shelter and set-up various stations for different activities with the children. The stations included; face painting, spooky cookie decorating, Halloween mask mak-

ing, story-telling, coloring, Halloween games and dancing. At the end of the party each child received a goody bag full of candy and items such as toothbrushes, healthy eating books and calendars, all of which were from donations the group worked hard to collect.



**“I found it remarkable that in the midst of so much negativity in their lives, you would never know it from their attitudes. It was a very rewarding experience, and I look forward to future events with ITN.”**

Maggie Atkins's group conducted a book drive for the South Florida Urban Ministries (SFUM). They set up a booth during one of the UM Soccer games and collected books from the attendees. They also teamed up with a local Girl Scout troop to collect board games to donate to the SFUM.

Lee Crabtree's group assembled eight gift baskets for the women of Lotus House. They collected eight laundry baskets and filled them with necessities such as towels, toiletries and kitchen accessories. They conducted a tour of Lotus House in November and donated the baskets at that time. The group also helped one of the women move into her new home.

Lorrie Martin's group coordinated with Inn Transition South (ITS) to create a healthy Thanksgiving Day meal. The Provisionals provided cooking demonstrations on how to cook a healthy stuffed turkey as well as healthy side options. The women of ITS were provided a Thanksgiving Day Gift Bag (including canned pumpkins and roasting pans) as well as recipes so that they may recreate this Thanksgiving feast.

Erin Blumer's group will be aiding one of Alonzo Mourning's Charities by assembling gift bags for children who will be attending "Zo's Holiday Party." This group will be assembling the bags for 450 children and handing them out during the holiday party.

Anika Allen's group will be working with W.I.N.G.S. by donating a much-needed library to the W.I.N.G.S. facility. The women will be donating some parenting books as well as teen-interest novels. The ladies will help to organize the library as well as aiding the W.I.N.G.S. committee with a holiday party for the teens.

Kelli Blake's provisionals will be helping the First United Methodist Church South Florida Urban Ministries After-School Program. Kelli's group will be donating board games for the children. They will also be attending a holiday party where the Provisionals will be able to socialize with the kids and play the games with them.

The Provisionals have proven to be quite capable of leading, communicating and delegating projects. As an Active, we can forget what it is like to feel so excited about a project. Just take a look at this year's Provisional class. Talk to them and ask them about their projects. The excitement they feel is contagious, and this is the attitude that we should all have – especially when our community needs us the most. ☺



# Rundown of Holiday Events

## Sustainer

Miami Magic is the premier holiday party for the Sustainers to be held Friday, December 11 at the Four Seasons Hotel.

Contact Holly Troup  
for additional details  
[troupholly@yahoo.com](mailto:troupholly@yahoo.com)

## Provisional

Holiday Party will take place on Tuesday, December 8th at JLM HQ from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Contact Alexandra Page or Michelle Austero Vidal [jlmprovisionals@gmail.com](mailto:jlmprovisionals@gmail.com)

## Actives

Active JLM are encouraged to attend Miami Magic as the ideal way to connect and celebrate with fellow Junior Leaguers. Contact Monica Fernandez [mbfdez@aol.com](mailto:mbfdez@aol.com) or Mari Novo [mari\\_novo@yahoo.com](mailto:mari_novo@yahoo.com) to reserve your tickets!



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**SCHOOL TOURS FOR 2009**

NOVEMBER 6	FRIDAY	DECEMBER 4	FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 16	MONDAY	DECEMBER 14	MONDAY

**TOURS BEGIN IN THE CHURCH AT 9:00 A.M.**

# Aiming High: Junior League of Miami's Annual Golf Tournament

By Lauren Hunt and Jane Bhatt Golf Tournament Co-Chairs

Once again, League members, sponsors and friends showed up to participate in the 6th Annual Junior League of Miami Golf Tournament. This year's tournament was held at the famed "Blue Monster" golf course at Doral Golf Resort & Spa, which has played host to prestigious PGA Tour events for the past forty-five years.

The golfers teed off at 1:00 p.m. after enjoying a delicious lunch provided by the Doral Golf Resort and perusing the silent auction tables, containing notable golf and other sports memorabilia, travel excursions, photography packages and more. Following play, players and guests were treated to a cocktail reception at

Doral's Champions Pavilion from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. hosted by Rums of Puerto Rico along with beer and wine courtesy of Republic National Distributing Company.

The players took aim at the hole-in-one contest to win a Williamson Cadillac SRS, but unfortunately, none were successful. The winning foursomes of the "longest drive" contest and "closest to the pin" contest were treated to generous prizes donated by the Doral, Callaway Golf and Alf's Golf Shop, among others.

The golfers, guests and friends also tried their luck at winning fabulous raffle prizes such as a one-week stay at Bimini Bay Resort & Casino, including round trip

charter flight provided by Noble Air. Other raffle prizes included a one-week stay at an Interval International Resort in Central Florida and a 3 day/2 night golf and hotel package from PGA National Resort & Spa. All golfers received a complimentary Bullet Line gift bag filled with golf towels donated by Group Ivy, golf balls donated by Costco, hand treatments donated by Crabtree & Evelyn and myriad other golf and sports related treats.

The tournament was an overwhelming success for the players, sponsors and League alike. The small, yet tremendous, Golf Tournament Committee of eight raised more than \$35,000 to benefit Junior League of Miami's community projects. 🍷



2009 Golf Committee - Jamie Tompkins, Gloria Lerma Lopez, Lauren Hunt, Amy Robles, Raymie Walsh, Tracy Friedlander, Kadisha Phelps, and Jane Bhatt.



Golf Committee Treasurer Gloria Lerma Lopez selling raffle tickets and mulligans





Stephanie Fink, Stephanie O'Day, Mary Allraum and Mari Novo.



These sustainers retained their 2008 title as "Best Sustainer Foursome" again this year: Natalie Brown, Meredith Mills, Peggy Hudson and Sheri Shoup. Peggy also won the Women's Longest Drive contest.



Tracy Friedlander and Catherine Veinovic



Junior League of Miami

# GOLF TOURNAMENT

Special thanks to our generous  
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\*\$1,000 and above are included in this list.



# Race for the Cure 2009

By Alise Johnson VP Planning

On October 17, many members of the Junior League of Miami and approximately 16,000 others participated in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in Bayfront Park. The three-mile course was conquered by all in an effort to raise funds for the Komen organization's fight against breast cancer.

This year, Race for the Cure raised over half a million dollars and as a team, JLM raised more than \$1,500 for this event. The top JLM fundraisers for Race for the Cure were Meghan Clark, Tara Mathena, and Isabel Zarama. 75% of the Race's net proceeds are used in South Florida to support local breast cancer programs, and the remainder of the funds raised in Miami will support the Komen Research Grant Program, which

is one of the country's most innovative & responsive breast cancer grant programs.

## Just a few statistics:

- There is no known cure for advanced breast cancer.
- Detection of breast cancer at an early stage provides a greater chance for a cure and more treatment options.
- When the disease is confined to the breast, the 5-year survival rate is more than 95%.
- More Caucasian women than African American women develop breast cancer, but more African American women die of the disease.
- Approximately 80% of breast cancers occur in women 50 years and older. The



mortality rate would decrease by 30% if every woman over 50 was informed and followed the early screening guidelines.

- Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths for women between the ages of 40 and 59.
- The majority of all breast cancers occur in women with no known risk factors.
- 6.5% of new cases are found in Florida, while only 5.2% of the U.S. population lives in the state.
- Miami-Dade County has the highest rate of late-stage breast cancer in Hispanic women in the United States. •

# Shopping Card for a Cause 2009

By Amber Seidle-Lazo and Luly Sixto-Yero Shopping Card Co-Chairs

The Junior League of Miami presented its second annual Shopping Card for a Cause fundraiser with a kick-off party at the JCrew store in Aventura Mall on October 22, 2009. The Shopping Card committee members started working in the Spring to plan and solicit participants for this wonderful two-week long event.

The idea behind the Shopping Card For A Cause came from the Junior League in Dallas, Texas, who came up with the concept of their "Partner's Card", a program which is now in its seventeenth year. The concept is simple. Shoppers purchase a Shopping Card for \$50, and 100% of the card's sale proceeds go directly to the League. The card entitled shoppers to a 20% discount at participating retailers and restaurants around Miami-Dade County from October 24 to November 8.

The kick-off party at JCrew was a huge success. Attendees enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres while shopping and mingling at this private event, as well as enjoying dessert and cocktails at the Stu-

art Weitzman and Theory stores nearby. Tory Burch also hosted a shopping and cocktail event to promote JLM's Shopping Card for a Cause on November 5, which was a great success and attended by several members.

Participating retailers and restaurants included Saks Fifth Avenue, The Con-

tainer Store, Tory Burch, Banana Republic, Lily Pulitzer, the Ritz Carlton Hotel, Spa Key Biscayne, and many more.

We thank all of our members for making this fundraiser a success and we look forward to making the Shopping Card for a Cause a tradition in our community, one year at a time! ♡



# Fundraiser Proposal Application Process

By **Samantha Murphy** Fund Development Chair

Each year, the Junior League of Miami, Inc. reviews Fundraiser Proposal Applications and selects fundraisers for the upcoming two years, enabling the League to fund community projects and provide community grants. It is the membership's responsibility to submit ideas for future fundraisers, and successful fundraisers are crucial to our ability to fulfill community needs. Please contribute your fundraising ideas for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 Fiscal Years by submitting a Fundraiser Proposal Application by December 18, 2009. Only with your active participation will we have successful events and the necessary funding for our projects.

## Selection Process

Completed fundraiser proposal applications are due no later than 5:00


p.m. on Friday, December 18, 2009. For more information or to obtain an application, please visit [www.jlmiami.org](http://www.jlmiami.org) or contact Cia Mackle at (310) 270-5123 or via email, [ciahmackle@gmail.com](mailto:ciahmackle@gmail.com).

The League's Fund Development Committee will conduct an initial review of all proposals to ensure applications are complete. Proposed fundraisers will be presented to the membership at the February 9, 2010 General Membership Meeting, and members will have the opportunity to give feedback on the proposals and rank them in their order of preference. If it is necessary for a proposer to give a presentation at the GMM, the Fund Development Committee will contact the respective proposer.

Following the GMM, the Fund

Development Committee will thoroughly review all applications, taking into account membership feedback and preferences, and will make their recommendations to the Junior League of Miami, Inc. Board of Directors. If a presentation by the proposer of a fundraiser is needed for the Board of Directors meeting, the Fund Development Committee will contact the respective proposer.

On March 2, 2010, the Board of Directors will review the proposals and recommendations of the Fund Development Committee. Applicants will be notified by March 27, 2010 if their fundraiser has been approved.

We welcome and encourage your participation in this important process. 



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# Passing the Torch: Teaching our Children to Give Back

By Jennifer Herskowitz Journal Editor

Aside from my family and my career, the volunteer work that I do in my community is the most rewarding part of my life. I often find myself running out the door to a “meeting”, and kissing my kids goodbye, without giving them any real explanation of where I’m going and why. Sometimes my children and I talk about why we are so fortunate to have the things we have and I explain to them that many, many people do not have even the most basic things they need: food, clothing, a place to call home.

Recently, our JLM President, Erin Knight, gave me an article about teaching

children to love humankind? The first thing we can do is to talk to our own children, or to other children, about what we ourselves are doing to help others. Instead of telling my children that I am going to “a meeting”, I now make it a habit to tell them that “mommy is going to figure out how we can help other people who don’t have a safe place to live, or enough food to eat, or shoes to wear to school.” Of course, my children are very young, and their level of understanding is limited. But, as they get older, I can be more specific about what I will do at each outing. When children see parents and other significant adults help-

people who didn’t have food to eat, and that we are very lucky to have so many cans of food at our house. I told them that the cans we put in the bag were going to feed a lot of people who would otherwise be very hungry. Even my 2-year-old daughter picked out her favorite can of beans to give away, explaining that the hungry people would “love these beans”!

On an annual basis, we also make it a habit to sit down with our kids and sort through their toys, books and games, to determine what we can give away to children who don’t have such things of their own. Even at the age of six, my son feels really good about himself when he is able to give away the things he no longer plays with to someone who will enjoy them.

Finally, every Friday my children take all of my spare change and some dollar bills, and they put it in the “tzedakah” box in their classrooms at school. Tzedakah is the Hebrew word for the acts we call “charity” in English. However, the nature of tzedakah is not exactly the same as charity, which suggests a magnanimous act by the wealthy and powerful for the benefit of the poor and needy. In Judaism, giving to the poor is not viewed as a generous, magnanimous act; it is simply an act of justice and righteousness, the performance of a duty, giving the poor their due. ([www.jewfaq.org/tzedakah.htm](http://www.jewfaq.org/tzedakah.htm))

In short, there are many ways to help our children understand philanthropy and to make it a part of their own lives. And isn’t it our responsibility to teach kids that giving is better than getting? Surely, as the ancient Greeks believed, these valuable lessons will promote “the fullest development of [our children’s] body, mind and spirit”, and by passing this torch we will at least be able to contribute to making our world a better place for others in the future when we are no longer here to see to it ourselves.

For additional resources on teaching children about philanthropy please visit websites such as [4-H.org](http://4-H.org); [scouting.org](http://scouting.org); [girlscouts.org](http://girlscouts.org); and [idealist.org](http://idealist.org). A great children’s book is *Quarters & Dimes & Nickels & Pennies* by Baila Olidort. ♡

**So how do we go about teaching children to love humankind? The first thing we can do is to talk to our own children, or to other children, about what we ourselves are doing to help others.**

children the importance of philanthropy, and it really opened my eyes. After doing some research on the history and meaning of “philanthropy”, I discovered something that really resonated with me: philanthropy is essentially born out of a “love of humanity”. Over two thousand years ago, the Greeks adopted this “love of humanity” as an educational ideal, whose goal was excellence – the fullest development of body, mind and spirit. (Wikipedia, Philanthropy). When I read of its origins, I realized that this “love of humanity” is exactly what drives me to give my time and resources to helping others, with no financial gain in return. And if this “love of humanity” is, and should be, an educational ideal, then why aren’t we doing more to teach the next generation – our children – the importance of philanthropy? As members of the Junior League, we are certainly promoting philanthropy, but it is equally important to make sure that legacy continues in the future.

So how do we go about teaching chil-

ing others, it will become a naturally learned skill for them.

In addition, we can find ways to incorporate our children into the work we ourselves are doing. Last year, I took my two older children to a Junior League event at Whole Foods to shop for Thanksgiving dinner for needy families. Not only was it a fun activity for them to find all the items on our list for an appropriate meal, but they also learned why we were not taking the food home ourselves. The kids got to meet some of my JLM friends, and got a more tangible understanding of what it is that I do with the League.

Another important way to teach our children is by letting them be involved in their own philanthropic activities. There are plenty of age-appropriate ways that any child can learn the importance of giving to others. For example, in October, my three children, ages 6, 4, and 2, helped me clean out canned goods from our cupboard. We packed the cans into paper bags and they came with me to drop them off at their school for a food drive. I explained to them that there were lots of



# Community Projects in Need this Holiday Season

The Community Council is in full swing with its Annual Holiday Gift Drive for the many women and children participating in JLM projects. We need your help in making the holidays brighter for these deserving families.

Now underway, the Holiday Gift Drive enables League members to reach out to the help families involved in JLM community projects. Your participation during these trying times will enable the JLM to give a gift to every woman and child in our community projects. For many of them, we are the ONLY source of gifts for the holidays.

Registries are set up for:

- Inn Transition North - complete!
- Inn Transition South
- Lotus House (Project Lift)

Please visit: [www.target.com/lists/find](http://www.target.com/lists/find)  
Search by Organization: Junior League of Miami, State: Florida

Three registries should appear!

Happy Shopping!

**Inn Transition South** is requesting toys, games, gift cards, and clothing for the children. Gift registry available online at Target (gift will be sebt automatically to JLM HQ) or in store. Registered under first name: ITS and last name: JLM (List ID: 012399301784349). Contact Helen Picard.

**Project Lift - Lotus House** is requesting small household items such as full size bed sheets, pillows, pots and pans, or bath towels. Contact Marcia Monserrat.

**Inn Transition North** has a special appeal as it is in need of significant repairs. Do you know of a kind-hearted contractor? If so, please contact Erin Knight at [erin.knight@regions.com](mailto:erin.knight@regions.com).



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# Healthy Meals and Clean Living at Inn Transition South

By Helen Picard Inn Transition South Co-Chair

**Clean & Healthy: Moms were trained on food budgeting, meal planning, grocery shopping, and meal preparation, all with an emphasis on the food pyramid. Children were engaged in personal hygiene activities.**

The Inn Transition South (ITS) committee kicked off a productive program year, starting with programs focused on Healthy Eating and Clean Living.

In September, the moms at ITS were treated to a session on "Healthy Cooking on a Budget". The moms were trained on food budgeting, meal planning, grocery shopping, and meal preparation, all with an emphasis on the food pyramid. At the completion of the training, each of the moms received a grocery bag filled with essential food staples to add to their pantries.

While the moms focused on healthy eating, the children were engaged with an informative session and activity on "Personal Hygiene". Each of the children decorated a basket to house their personal care products and received an assortment of basic hygiene products including shampoo, body wash, tooth brush, tooth paste, and deodorant.

In October, the moms focused on clean living with a Speed Cleaning seminar conducted inside one of the apartments at ITS. The sessions were broken down into 10-minute cleaning

of the bathroom, kitchen, living room, and bedrooms. Each of the moms received a cleaning bucket stocked full of cleaning supplies for their homes. The children participated in Fall arts and crafts activities. The older children decorated trick-or-treat bags for Halloween while the younger children

created lovely Fall trees using their own foot print as the tree trunk and their hand prints and the branches and leaves.

And this is only the beginning. In November, the level of activity increased as the committee launched its annual toy drive for the children. With over 150 children in residence and a goal of more than 450 total gifts, this was not a small task. By Christmas, all the donated gifts will be sorted, wrapped, and delivered to the individual apartments. In order to accomplish this, the Committee is requesting donations from all JLM members. The donations make a big difference to the children at ITS, because for many of them, the gifts they receive from JLM will be the only Christmas presents they will get.

Donating is easy and you can do it online through the Target online gift registry. All purchases will be sent directly to Headquarters where volunteers will sort, wrap, and label all the gifts. The deadline to donate through the registry is December 12, and the sooner the committee receives the donation, the better. The registry is listed under first name: ITS and last name: JLM (List ID: 012399301784349).





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# General Membership Meetings get off to a great start in 2009-2010

By Jennifer Herskowitz *Journal Editor*

JLM's first General Membership Meeting (GMM) was held on September 8, 2009 and for the first time, it was held at Temple Judea in Coral Gables. Thanks to the Meetings and Hospitality committee, co-chaired by Bonita Whytehead and Sandy Nojaim, the transition to our new venue was seamless. It was a very



**Amber Seidle-Lazo, Shopping Card for a Cause Co-Chair**



**Mary Snow and Lucienne DeNunzio**

exciting evening, with our new JLM President, Erin Knight, welcoming members, sustainers and provisionals alike. The Fall Journal and the 2009-2010 Member Directory were handed out, and Mary Louise Designs sponsored the meeting. In addition to Temple Judea being a more cost-effective meeting place for our GMMs, we were also able to bargain with Johanna's Marketplace for them to provide food for our meetings in exchange for advertising in JLM publications.

The buzz word of the evening was "impact". Erin Knight stressed to the members how important it is to know what JLM's impact is in our community and to be able to tell others about the impact JLM makes as a group.

Debbie Korge spoke about Informed Families and Family Day. The purpose of Family Day is to encourage parent-child communication. It is also encourages parents to make meal-time a real part of their lives. Parent-child communication promotes adversity to risk taking behavior. Mrs. Korge provided certain statistics and correlation to how many nights a week a family has dinner together.



**Michelle Austero Vidal, Shawn Libman and Alex Page**

There were brief presentations by Samantha Murphy on Fund Development, Shopping Card for a Cause by Luly Sixto-Yero and Amber Seidle-Lazo, and the Golf Tournament by Lauren Hunt and Jane Bhatt.

Super Leaguer awards were presented to Lauren Hunt for the month of June, Michelle Austero Vidal and Alex Page for the month of July, and Vivian Rodriguez for the month of August. A Leadership award was given to Shawn Libman for the month of August. ☪



**Emilie Goldman, Marlene Fernandez-Karavetsos, Bibi Cruz-Ledon Sears**



# Sumptuous Sustainer Social

By **Candace Vassillion** Sustainer Liaison

On September 16th, Amy Sussman hosted our first sustainer gathering, which was a fabulous wine and cheese party at her lovely home on Santa Maria Street. There were over 50 ladies in attendance, and everyone was excited to get the Junior League year started. Tasty wine coupled with delicious hors d'oeuvres flowed throughout the evening, and Amy was a fantastic hostess.

Sustaining Co-Chairs Gail Scott and Holly Troup were excited to greet the guests and discuss the upcoming calendar of events for our members to attend. The event also served as a perfect venue for our President, Erin Knight, to voice a few of her goals for the Junior League. One of her goals is to educate our community on our projects and grants and the impact that each has on the lives we touch. A second goal is to re-engage our sustaining members so that each is excited to be involved and feels a strong connection to our mission and collective goals and events. Erin discussed several of our existing and new projects for this year.

In addition, the Golf, Shopping Card and Miami Magic Fundraising Chairs welcomed the sustainers to JLM's upcoming fundraising events. President Erin Knight also pointed out that our fundraising chairs and their respective committee members play an important role as serious negotiators when requesting donations and sponsorships, because each dollar saved has a direct impact to our programs.

The night was a huge success and we thank Amy for, once again, being such a gracious hostess and we also thank our sustaining members for attending.

We look forward to a full Sustainer calendar this year. All future events will be posted to the Junior League calendar and will be communicated through the on-line calendar. We hope to see you there! Please feel free to contact Candace Vassillion with any questions at [cdv2@ntrs.com](mailto:cdv2@ntrs.com).



**Sandra Fairman, Betty Wohl  
and Amy Sussman**



**Anna Elhert, Betty Brody and Jeannett Slesnick**



**Claudia Kitchens**



**Katie Lane-Arriola and  
Susan Adams**



**Maria Figueroa Byrd,  
Lauren Harrison-Genovese  
and Betsy Harper**



**Christine Connor and Betsy  
Hoover**

# Join the 2010-2011 Leadership Team

By Loretta Nido President Elect

It is hard to believe, but now is the time to evaluate your interest, your availability, and your realistic level of commitment to League leadership for the 2010-2011 League year.

*Do you enjoy your current placement so much that you feel you are prepared to lead the committee as its chair, co-chair or chair-elect?*

*Do you wish to learn more about certain aspects of League operations?*

*Do you have (or wish to sharpen) the leadership skills to support and develop a member's strengths, to encourage members to develop their own qualities of leadership and to invest positive energy into a collective effort?*

Once the nominating committee has completed its job of slating the top positions, we begin the process of selecting the chairs and non-slatted leaders for the

next League year. Now is the time to discuss your position of interest with the current chair and/or the VP of the Council under which the committee or position falls. You will find a list of current committee chairs and leaders and their contact data on the website. You may also find the Leadership grid in the membership directory to be a helpful tool to assess the overall organization of JLM. Feel free to contact me also with your interests and questions (lcnido@aol.com or 305-215-4064). The selection process begins in late January 2010, and continues until all leadership positions are filled.

As League Leaders, you will be asked to attend a Leadership Training on a Saturday in early May 2010. You will work in May and June 2010 with the Vice Pres-

ident of your Council to transition with the 2009-10 committee chair and her Council VP. You will also be asked to attend a Mid-Year Leadership Training on a Saturday in mid-January 2011.

Look for the "Willingness to Serve" form on the JLM website and in hard copy at the January and February 2010 General Membership Meetings.

My goal is to assemble a team which is prepared to address complex present day situations, honor the contribution of our predecessors, and make a strong impact on the community we serve, all while supporting the mission and vision of the Junior League of Miami. The 2010 - 2011 League year promises to be a true team experience. Join us! ☺



## Upload and Enjoy your Favorite JLM Photos on SmugMug!

Do you have pictures of a JLM event that you would like to share with others? Our new Smugmug account allows members to upload photos at high resolutions for proper photo sharing. Simply go to [smugmug.com](http://smugmug.com). The email address is [photos@jlmiami.org](mailto:photos@jlmiami.org) and the password is juniorleague.



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