

Junior League



The Junior League of Miami, Inc. Membership Newsletter

Journal

Vol. XVII No. 1 | Fall 2008

President's Message

"Commitment is what transforms a promise into a reality. It is the words that speak boldly of your intentions. And the actions, which speak louder than words. It is making the time when there is none. Coming through time after time, year after year after year. Commitment is the stuff character is made of; the power to change the face of things. It is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism."

—Author unknown

Throughout my life, I have always found that it is in times of adversity when true character and commitment are revealed. We are living through one of those times right now, especially in our community where the mortgage and foreclosure crisis has touched the closest among us, where budget cuts have forced reduction of productive school programs and hot meals for our children, where the poverty rates are fourth in the nation. Is it a wonder that Miami ranked last in the country for rates of volunteering, when people are having a hard time just taking care of their own?

This is what makes your commitment to the Junior League of Miami all the more remarkable and necessary. It is what makes it more important for our league to recruit the best and retain more of our members in order to fulfill our mission. It is the responsibility of leadership to figure out how to do that in the face of grim statistics,

Continued on page 4

JLM Pets Help People, Too

By Tania Paredes, Co-Chair, Therapy Dogs

Do you remember your childhood dog? I do, his name was Oki, he was a mean-looking German Shepard/ Doberman mix, but to my brother and me he was as docile and sweet as a little puppy. When we were sad, upset at our parents or just having a bad day at school, Oki always cheered us up, by throwing a ball toward us, licking our faces, or just sitting with us.

This is the basic concept behind Therapy Dogs, a new Junior League of Miami project. The Junior League of Miami is proud to introduce the JLM Therapy Dogs, Inc. committee this year! With 13 members, each woman will work side by side with their beloved four-legged pup bringing smiles, comfort and laughter to those in need throughout our community. Lead by Co-Chairs Tania Paredes and her Lab Mix, Lucy (shown at right), and Nicole



Gema Santos and her dog, Ricky.

Brown and her Terrier Mix, Gus, the excitement over this committee has been overwhelming and much anticipated.

"We couldn't have done this without the help of Lucy Ulmer and her dachshund Smokey, for without her determination and persistence, this committee would have never gotten off the ground," said Nicole Brown.

All of our committee members' dogs have had to pass three necessary observations to become a certified therapy dog. This was no easy feat and had a lot to do with the dog's temperament, ability to tolerate loud noises and their comfort and friendliness with both strangers and other working

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Provisional News...page 9

Sustainer Spotlight...page 18

FUNDRAISERS MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE! See center spread...

5th Annual Golf Tournament, Crandon Park, OCT 2

2nd Annual Fine Wine Competition, hosted by South Florida Business Journal, NOV 21

Shopping Card for a Cause, discounts at participating stores OCT 25-NOV 2

INSIDE



We are excited to announce our new real estate partnership, The A-List, to our friends at The Junior League of Miami. We are proud of serving a combined 25 years of volunteering and look forward to making a difference in your next real estate transaction.

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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.

WANTED: Tropical Topics and Junior League Journals prior to 1995. If you have copies from days gone by, we are looking for issues to borrow for archival purposes. These will be returned to you. Please contact Sondra Space for information on how to help.

To Contact Us

The Junior League of Miami Headquarters is located at 713 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL 33134. Sondra Space, Office Manager.

Tel (305) 443-0160 *Fax* (305) 443-3849 *Email* HQ@jlmiami.org

Junior League Journal is published quarterly and is posted on the Web at www.jlmiami.org. The next deadline for submissions is November 15, 2008. Printed by Aquarius Press.



A member of The Association
of Junior Leagues International Inc.

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how to keep JLM relevant in our modern world of competing volunteer opportunities, one where you can technically "volunteer" sitting home alone at your computer, or donate money by the click of a mouse. What makes us different and more able to make an impact in our community?

We hope the following pages reveal just a bit of what sets the Junior League apart. We are different from other organizations that raise funds for a specific cause. We leverage the funds we raise by partnering our financial resources with our volunteer hours to multiply our impact. We provide priceless volunteer experiences like the smile on a child that has just learned to read, or the relief on the face of a woman who has found a safe place to live in one of our homes. We provide training in areas such as leadership and organizational development, community needs assessment, advocacy, and fundraising. Equipped with this training, Junior League members know their communities well. When other nonprofits in the area need quality board members,

they call us. We provide pride in the history of belonging to an organization that is known internationally for getting things done. As one community leader put it, "Every time I work with the Junior League, I feel like the Marines have landed."

I have already witnessed so much commitment from our members during these summer months, evidenced by the planning necessary to organize the events and fundraisers highlighted in this issue. From the board of directors, who are busy implementing the annual plan, "the words that speak boldly of our intentions." From the Public Affairs committee, chaired by one of our youngest members Mary Snow, who showed actions speak louder than words. From our sustainers, like Natalie Brown, who redesigned our new, "edgier look," and Karen Throckmorton, who have come through, time after time, year after year.

I look forward to forging new friendships while continuing this legacy, to making time where there is none, and to witnessing the continued commitment of

all our members, provisionals, actives, and sustainers, all of us women with the power to change the face of things. The Marines have landed!!

Thank you for the privilege to serve.

Yours truly,

Michelle Ramirez-Patricios

Therapy Dogs continued from page 1

dogs. From Shi Tzus, Maltese, Mini Pins, Labs, to mutts, our group is a mix of many different wonderful dogs who are ready to work and represent JLM.

The Therapy Dog, Inc., committee will be working in Heartland Health Care Center, a nursing and hospice facility in Kendall, as well as in the program C.A.R.E., which works hand-in-hand with the Miami-Dade schools helping children with learning disabilities become more confident and stronger readers. We look forward to introducing the JLM dogs to the community and helping educate others on the value of pet therapy.



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Family Dinner Serves Relationships and Values

By Kathleen Duran and Mara Karlinsky, Co-Chairs, Step Up to the Plate Committee

On Monday, September 22nd we will be sitting down to dinner with our husbands and our children. On this day this routine activity will have special meaning. We will have pledged to have dinner together as a way to support and promote Family Day – A Day to Eat Dinner With Your Children.

Family Day is a national initiative that was launched in 2001 by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, otherwise known as CASA, to remind parents that the most important items served at the dinner table are relationships and values. CASA's research shows that children who share in family dinners three or more times a week are less likely to engage in the risk taking behaviors of smoking, drinking, or using drugs. When a family takes the time to eat together its members have an opportunity to explore such civic virtues as moderation, conversation, tolerance, generosity, and conviviality.

More than 25 years ago the Junior League of Miami founded the organization Informed Families/The Florida Family Partnership. The mission of Informed Families is to help kids grow up safe, healthy and drug free. Debbie Korge is a Junior League past president and is currently Vice President of Development for Informed Families. Debbie tells us that Informed Families is a statewide sponsor of CASA's Family Day. As a statewide sponsor, Informed Families helps CASA promote the Family Day initiative. One of their key roles is to gather pledges and forward them to CASA. Participation through pledging ensures that CASA will retain funding for the initiative. Informed Families and CASA need our support. Our Junior League website will feature a link enabling all of us to make an electronic pledge on the website of Informed Families. Reminders to look for this link will be featured in all-member emails in September.

We invite all of you to pledge and to join our celebration. JLM members are encouraged to invite JLM Community Project participants to observe Family Day by having dinner together with loved ones. City of Coral Gables officials will urge participation of our community-at-large through Civic Proclamation. 



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Project Lift /Sundari Fdn. Marcia Monserrat & Shawn Libman
Step Up to the Plate Kathleen Duran & Mara Karlinsky
JLM Therapy Dogs Nicole Brown & Tania Paredes

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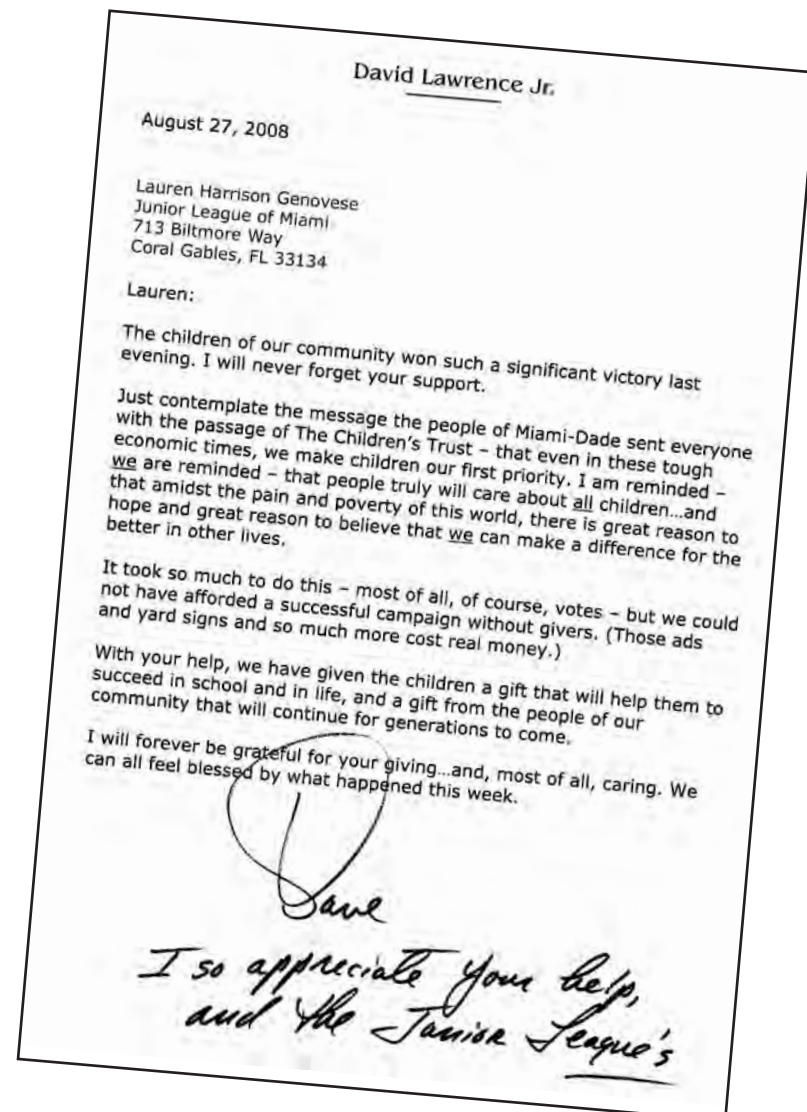
Miami-Dade Voters Renew The Children's Trust!

By Mary Snow, Public Affairs Chair

On August 26th, Miami-Dade voters overwhelmingly approved permanent funding for The Children's Trust by an impressive 85%!! The Renewal ensures that The Trust will continue to fund more than 300 programs provided for children in Miami-Dade, including services for healthcare teams, after-school programs in public schools, early childhood programs and summer camps.

The Trust will continue to serve the children of Miami-Dade County through programs also supported by JLM, such as Little Lighthouse for the Blind, Honeyshine and All-Aboard Story Hour.

Thank you to all of those JLM members who supported the Campaign with their time and efforts by displaying yard signs in their yards, bumper stickers on their cars and by setting up phone banks urging voters to Vote Yes for The Children's Trust! The support of the Junior League was instrumental in getting The Children's Trust renewed. Thank you! ☺



JLM All Aboard Story Hour to Host READ-IN

By Marcia Koo, Chairperson & Terra Smith, Chair-Elect

Junior League of Miami and All Aboard Story Hour, in celebration of Family Literacy Day, will host a **READ-IN** on November 5, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at Riverside Elementary and Community School, 1190 Southwest Second Street, Miami.

National Family Literacy Day is officially celebrated on November 1st, but many events are held throughout the month of November. It's never been more important to spread the word in our community and build awareness for the importance of families working together toward a better-educated tomorrow.

At 6:45 p.m., all the children, parents, Junior League

members, All Aboard staff and invited community guests will sit down together to read. Everyone will bring a book,

magazine, comic book, newspaper, or other reading material to the Read-In, and will read together silently for 15 minutes.

Reading is the cornerstone of education, allowing each individual to pursue knowledge. Knowledge is the finest asset we give to our children, and the catalyst for achieving great things in life. The ultimate purpose of the Read-In is to encourage



kids to read by showing them that "everybody does it." 




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Project Lift & Lotus House need your help

Lotus House offers a sanctuary from life on the streets. It's a place where the mind, body and spirit of women and infants most in need are supported and nurtured.

Now It's Our Turn

Project Lift involves League members coordinating donations of furniture, delivery and set-up of new apartments for women transitioning from the Lotus House into homes of their own.

The Project Lift Committee is hosting a TARGET Store registry for people to purchase items we need for our moves over the next year. Shopping online is EASY! Here's how you can help:

- Go to www.Target.com
- Click on "Target Lists"
- Search with: First Name: Junior; Last Name: League
- Location: Florida
- List #: 012399301334855
- All items will be shipped directly to us.
- If you prefer to shop in any Target Store, Ask a Target Team Member for a printout of Junior League's "Target List," Location: Florida.

If you purchase any items, please contact Marcia or Shawn and we will coordinate a pick-up of the item. Please do not leave any items at JLM Headquarters without letting us know.



Spread the word!

Tell your family, friends, and co-workers. And don't forget, each purchase gives you an entry into our Spring 2009 Raffle!

If you have questions, contact Shawn Libman (slibman80@yahoo.com or Marcia Monserrat (marciamonserrat@comcast.net)



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Welcome 2008-2009 JLM Provisional Class!

By Marlene Fernandez & Melissa Hernandez, Provisional Co-Chairs

The start of a new Junior League year means the start of new projects and new fundraisers, and welcoming new members to our organization. We first welcomed the 93 incoming Provisionals over the summer, when Provisional Mentors Anika Allen, Michelle Austero, Lee Crabtree, Mary Claire Espenkotter, Colleen Kitchens, Susan Lerner, Ameli Padron, Alexandra Page, Amy Stone and

Candace Vassillion, hosted the incoming Provisionals to brunch on July 19.

A few weeks later, we held a wine & cheese cocktail party for the incoming Provisionals to give them an additional opportunity to get to know the mentors and each other prior to Super Saturday. We all echoed JLM President, Michelle Ramirez-Patricios' sentiments when she RSVP'd by stating, "Wine, cheese and Junior League, three of my favorite things." The summer socials proved to be a success as more than 60 women attended the socials.

The 2008 Provisional Class officially kicked off its year on Saturday, August 23, with the time-honored SUPER SATURDAY, held at Coral Gables Congregational Church. Throughout the day, the Provisionals learned about our community projects, fundraisers and details of what it means to be a member of the Junior League of Miami. The Provisionals began their day with a welcome from our President, Michelle Ramirez-Patricios and later



the women were treated to a very inspiring and motivating talk from keynote speaker, Mary Young.

Over the course of the next 8 months, the Provisionals will participate in training sessions designed to expose them to the Junior League of Miami's focus areas: early childhood education, homelessness, domestic violence, and child abuse. We are fortunate to begin out trainings this year with a bus tour of each of the JLM's community projects. The bus tour, scheduled for Saturday, September 20, will visit each of the JLM project locations and provide the Provisionals a first-hand glimpse of the community projects.

We are very fortunate to have such an outstanding group of women joining us this year. We are excited about embarking on this journey with our newest members and look forward to seeing you there! Check the JLM Website Provisionals section for the latest updates and calendar of events: www.jlmmiami.org.



New faces...new enthusiasm...new ways to make a difference!



JLM Golf Tournament Ready To Hit The Greens!

By Wilca Gallagher, Junior League Journal Committee

It's Tee Time! The 5th Annual JLM Golf Tournament will be held on **Thursday, October 2, 2008**, at the Crandon Golf Course in Key Biscayne with a shotgun start for 12:30 p.m. Players will have the chance to come out for a beautiful day of golf while also enjoying refreshments from the roving Mojito cart and a chance to win a Williamson Cadillac vehicle for the first Hole-in-One. An individual entry is \$200, but groups of four can receive a discounted price of \$760. All registration fees include green fees, cart, food, beverages, a gift bag and a Rums of Puerto Rico cocktail reception.

Although golf may not be the sport of choice for some Leaguers, we strongly encourage all of our membership to come out to cheer players and join us for the cocktail reception hosted by Rums of Puerto Rico from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Reception tickets are \$40 each. Did you know that according to the National Golf Foundation's statistics, women account for




close to 41% of players nationwide? And, two and a half million women are classified as "core" players, which means that they spend as much time and money on the greens as men do. This event is a great opportunity for both women and men to enhance business and personal relationships while benefiting the community projects of JLM.

This year's Golf Committee, under the able leadership of Co-chairs Loretta Nido and Lauren Hunt, have done a tremendous job to recruit significant

sponsorship and attract fabulous raffle prizes, including a 6 day/5 night all-inclusive stay at Divi Resort in Aruba with two 9-hole rounds of golf at the Resort's Links; a 3 day/2 night golf package at PGA National in Palm Beach; a week's stay at an Interval International resort; and a 3 day/2 night Doral Golf package. Raffle tickets are \$25 each, or 5 for \$100.

The organizing committee is still accepting monetary and in-kind sponsorship for the event. If you know of any individuals, companies or organizations who would like to take advantage of this marketing opportunity, please contact the committee at Samantha@mivasa.com or (305) 661-3874.

Entry, reception and raffle tickets can be purchased online at the JLM website or by mailing a check payable to the Junior League of Miami, 713 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL 33134, Attn. Treasurer-Golf Tournament. 

Support JLM and Shop!

By Christy Quiñones and Christie Wolfe, Co-Chairs, Shopping Card for a Cause

The Shopping Card for a Cause committee is CHARGED up on a tried-and-true initiative that is a "win-win-win" for everyone involved—The Junior League of Miami, participating retailers and YOU.

Get your holiday shopping off to an early start with the Shopping Card for a Cause. Many of our participating retailers seldom offer discounts. They will offer a 20% off incentive on new/non-sale merchandise for cardholders. They are committed to a cause they believe in...The Junior League of Miami.

Join us Thursday evening, October 23, for the Shopping Card for a Cause Kick-off Party at Tory Burch, Bal Harbour Shops. Limited space will be available. Watch online for details.

Personal Shopper opportunities are immediately available. A Personal Shopper commits to 10 cards at \$500, receives one free and recognition for their support.

Sell 10 cards to co-workers, friends or give as a gift. After spending \$250, the card pays for itself.

The Shopping Card for a Cause formula is simple. Here is how it works:

- ✓ Purchase a Shopping Card for a Cause for \$50. Cards may be purchased from Junior League volunteers, at participating retail stores, via direct mail, the Shopping Card for a Cause Hotline or at www.jlmiami.org.

- ✓ The Card entitles the cardholder to a 20% discount at participating retailers for a nine-day period from October 25 through November 2, 2008. For our inaugural year, we have signed 103 stores.

- ✓ The Card comes with an easy-to-use directory, listing all stores by area and category. The cards must be signed by purchaser and are non-transferable.

- ✓ The \$50 card purchase goes directly to support the mission of The Junior League of Miami and its projects



presents



 Junior League of Miami

and grants for women, children and families at risk in our community.

We personally CHARGE you to join us in our efforts and commit to getting this fundraiser off the ground by purchasing a Card for yourself and passing the word along to all your friends and family.



Cheers...Salud...L'chaim...Chin Chin

By Betty Lopez-Castro & Kim Sarkisian, Co-Chairs, South Florida Business Journal Wine Event

The Junior League of Miami, along with the *South Florida Business Journal*, invite you to raise a glass with us at The Second Annual Fine Wine Competition Gala Dinner in Miami-Dade on **Friday, November 21, 2008** at the Four Seasons Hotel on Brickell Avenue. Festivities begin at 6:00 p.m.

This spectacular event is one of the only wine competitions in the Country which celebrates the finest of American made wines. More than 500 American wines will be competing to be the "Best of the Best" at the Boca Raton Resort & Club on November 3 & 4. The winners will be announced at the event on November 21 at the Gala Dinner as well as in the *South Florida Business Journal* and website the week of November 27.

The Junior League is most privileged to have been chosen as the sole beneficiary in this region. This event is particularly exciting for JLM in its continuing

efforts to join forces with new and influential organizations. This will reaffirm JLM's continued commitment to make an impact in our community.

The Silent Auction portion of the event will of great interest to all devout wine connoisseurs, as some of the most exclusive wineries participating in this competition have graciously donated wines to be signed by the winemaker. These items will be up for bidding in the silent auction along with many other extraordinary items. The live auction will be an experience you won't want to miss.

What a perfect way to begin your holidays by giving a loved one a fantastic item from our silent and live auctions!

Guests will enjoy some of the most celebrated wines made in the United States, (poured by volunteers from this year's Provisional Class), a four-course gourmet dinner, live entertainment and

two complimentary Scott Zwiesel wine glasses. Tickets will be \$350 per person or \$3,500 for a table of 10. Save the date for this fun evening!

Tickets may be purchased through the *South Florida Business Journal* at their website (www.bizjournals.com) at the November calendar, and also linked from www.jlmiami.org/fundraisers.php.

Please contact Betty Lopez-Castro, blopezcastro@aol.com, Jennifer Press-Kravetz, jlpress@bellsouth.net, or Kim Sarkisian, ksarkisian@bellsouth.net, if you have questions or would like to donate a silent auction item. ☪



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Trivillage.com

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WHO'S kickin'

Wolfe's WINE Shoppe

Woof Gang Bakery

Z Mattress

Nominate a Woman Who Has Made a Difference to You

By Teresa Thornburg and Ali Nason-Aymerich, Co-Chairs WWMD

WOMEN
WHO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE



The planning has begun and the Women Who Make a Difference luncheon committee is thrilled about this year's event—a new take on last year's tea. Think cherry blossoms, embroidered silk and jasmine. Please mark your calendars because this year's event will take place earlier than usual, on Sunday, February 8, 2009. The luncheon will include an awards ceremony, live entertainment, raffle tickets, silent auction and a private VIP reception.

Most importantly, we have begun the process of nominating those women who are doing outstanding volunteer work in our community. Please help us pick these special leaders out. Send your nominations to the co-chairs Ali Nason-Aymerich (ali@nason-nason.com) or Teresa Thornburg (teresa@southbeachties.com). The form is available online at www.jlmiami.org. The deadline for submissions is October 1, 2008.

This is one extraordinary event you won't want to miss! We look forward to seeing all of you there!

Sunday, February 8, 2009

Mandarin Oriental Miami

Awards Ceremony

Live Entertainment

Raffle

Silent Auction

Private VIP Reception

Past Honorees

2008 Trish Bell Yolanda Berkowitz Thelma Gibson Peggy Sapp	2007 Judy Barr Constance Collins Katherine Ezell Sister Sheila Foy Kemba Gosier	2006 Melanie Emmons Damian Virginia Emmons Nancy T. Hector Christina McKinnon, Esq. Ellen Shishko	2005 Georgina Angones Paula Brockway Karen Fryd Sharon Langer Clara Pascal	2004 Julia Bianchi Carol Berns & Mindy Cassel Lee Klein Hon. Bonnie Rippingille	2003 Hon. Jeri Beth Cohen Carolyn Jenkins-Jaeger Sister Yamile Saieh Jennifer Valoppi	2002 Berta Blecke Silvia Fortun Dr. Lumane Pluviose-Claude
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JLM HQ, Inc. *A Testament to Historic Preservation*

By Jana Hertz, JLM Headquarters, Inc. President & Julia Bianchi HQ Restoration Chair



Our beautiful JLM headquarters was recently recognized as a finalist in the 2008 Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce City Beautiful Awards which took place on August 21, at the Cham-

ber's Good Morning Coral Gables monthly breakfast at the Biltmore. Local buildings could be recognized in four categories: interior, exterior, retail showroom or restaurant and dining room and historic

preservation. Our very own 713 Biltmore Way was recognized in the Historic Preservation category. JLM President, Michelle Ramirez-Patricios and JLM HQ, Inc. Board President Jana Hertz were in attendance. Special thanks to Natalie

Brown for her help with the application process and Julia Bianchi for her long-standing dedication to preserving and renovating our beautiful headquarters.

The Phase IV Restoration continues to progress on schedule. Thanks to a very generous \$25,000 matching Challenge Grant offered by Miami philanthropist Kirk Landon, we were able to double our donations made by members of the JLM Board of Directors and JLM Past Presidents.

We are still looking for additional financial support. ALL donations are most welcome. Donate securely online today at www.jlmiami.org/donation-hq.php



Impact-resistant windows are now installed.

Correction: In the Summer issue of the Journal, the 2007-08 Member Awards for Volunteer of the Year and Rebecca Herndon Bush were reversed. The online version is correct. Congratulations to Lucy Ulmer for the Rebecca Herndon Bush Award, and to Bonita Whytehead for the Volunteer of the Year Award.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Help Us Identify Potential JLM Community Partners!

The Junior League of Miami is supported through our fundraising events, dues and through the generous donations of our Community Partners.

As a member, please help us in identifying companies that will make a good fit with the Junior League. Maybe it's your employer, a colleague, a friend. Our League leaders are ready to make a presentation about the League to your prospective donor!

For more information or to find out how you can help, please contact Fund Development/Community Partners Chair, Elizabeth Vargas at elizmurray@prodigy.net.

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Nullum Gratuitum Prandium

"There is No Free Lunch"

By Kathleen Duran, Co-Chair, Step Up to the Plate Committee

Nullum Gratuitum Prandium translates from the Latin, as "There is no free lunch." More than 30 million American children participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), which provides free and reduced price lunches in approximately 100,000 schools across the country. Our own Miami-Dade County School District is the fifth largest district in the nation with 363 schools enrolling approximately 376,000 students; 60 percent of these students, or approximately 225,600, are eligible to participate in the school lunch program. The federal government spent at least \$8 billion dollars funding this child nutrition program this past year. Taxpayers foot the bill for "free lunch" as it were and there are Two Angry Moms who feel that the children aren't getting our money's worth.

Two Angry Moms is both a movie and a movement. The movie is filmmaker Amy Kalafa's yearlong documentary of Susan Rubin's effort to improve school lunches. Step Up to the Plate will be hosting a screening of this movie and a panel discussion featuring "Angry Mom" Amy Kalafa in October at University of Miami's Bill Cosford Cinema. The movie clearly illustrates the importance of making the connection between food and health, in fact, "Angry Mom" Susan Rubin has been quoted as saying, "To me,

food is health care. You can pay the farmer or the doctor."

Two Angry Moms is also a movement; it is about taking action. Step Up to the Plate invites League members to take action in the following ways. Attend the screening. Then follow through by participating in the National School Lunch-In, "Angry Mom" style (see checklist). The National School Lunch-In will be held October 13th through 17th this year and runs concurrently with the School Nutrition Association's Annual School Lunch Week. If you have a child make arrangements to have lunch with him/her in the school cafeteria. If you are mentoring a child in one of our community programs make arrangements to have lunch with that child or facilitate arrangements for that child and his/her parents and/or caregivers. Finally, let us know you participated and share your discoveries; a short survey will be available on the JLM website.

I recently attended orientation at my daughter's school. During the orientation the teachers urged the parents to feed the children a healthy breakfast and to send them to school with a healthy packed lunch since the school does not have a cafeteria or a lunch program. The teachers also said that a hungry child is ready to eat, not ready to learn; this is true if the child is 4 or 14! The unspoken casu-

Step Up TO THE Plate



A Junior League of Miami Project

*A checklist for
doing lunch
"Angry Mom" style:*

- ☐ Review a copy of your school's wellness policy – does it require real food?
- ☐ Critically view the cafeteria - is it a pleasant place to eat?
- ☐ Assess the environment – is it a comfortable community in which to eat?
- ☐ Review the menu – are there a variety of nutritious offerings?
- ☐ Ask to see a list of ingredients for every item in the cafeteria
- ☐ Survey the vending machines and read some labels
- ☐ Are you finding real food or unpronounceable ingredients?
- ☐ Does your child eat the food being served?
- ☐ Would you eat the food being served?
- ☐ Would you be healthy if you ate this food as your primary source of nutrition for 10 months of the year?

If you are hungry for more information, visit the following websites:

www.angrymoms.org
www.betterschoolfood.org
www.lunchlessons.org

alties of school lunch are health and learning readiness, and both are priceless in spite of their \$8 billion dollar price tag. ☪



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Get to Know your Placement Advisors

By Austin Garilli, Placement Chair

It's hurricane season! It's back-to-school time! Feeling frenzied and unorganized? You won't have to worry about the direction you are taking in the League, because you have a placement advisor ready to help! She is there to help you keep track of requirements and obligations, point you toward exciting opportunities, and assist you with the planning of your League career.

What's that, you say? You don't know who your advisor is? Well, her name is listed on your JLM online profile, linking you directly to her contact information. Here is your 2008-09 Placement team (letters indicate first initial of last name of group members):

A-C • Etain Connor joins the team for a second year after working with our fundraisers through Fund Development and the Women Who Make a Difference Luncheon. She is a Miami native.
connoretain@yahoo.com

D-G • Sondra Dryer, a transfer from many different League experiences, settled in Miami three years ago. She spent two years assisting with the field trips through Project Reach and then helped put together last year's Golf Tournament.
sondra.l.dryer@us.pwc.com

H-K • Diana Falsetta has also had experience in several different Leagues, and she arrived two years ago to join us here in Miami. Her expertise in our League is in Membership, as she has served on both Meetings and Hospitality as well as last year's Placement team.
dfalsetta@gmail.com

L & M • Claudia Moncarz is enjoying her second year in the League as a Placement advisor, as she became active last year working with the HEART committee in order to get to know the community.
cmoncarz@hotmail.com

N-2 • Ali Nason-Aymerich is the committee's veteran, returning for a fifth year of advisement! This time she also revisits her roots, chairing the Women Who Make a Difference Luncheon, where she was a member as a first-year active.
ali@nason-nason.com

R & S • Ana Rosa Ramirez comes from mentoring Provisionals last year to mentoring Actives in her second year. She intends to

give this group the same TLC she did her provisionals!

ar4559@hotmail.com

T-3 • Kim Sarkisian finds time between assisting the Golf Committee (which she formerly chaired) and co-chairing the SFBJ Wine Event to work with her placement advisees. She has a good eye for leadership as she has also served on the Nominating committee.
ksarkisian@bellsouth.net

Chair-Elect Vicky Hucks has served in several Vice Presidential capacities, chaired the Women Who Make a Difference Luncheon, worked on Nominating committee, and oversaw our Headquarters renovations as HQ President. Vicky has given over 10 years of service to the League and will serve as next year's Placement Chair as she works tirelessly this year also as the Assistant to President Michelle Ramirez-Patricios.
Vickyhucks@aol.com

Chair Austin Garilli has chaired both Program Development and Creative Expressions, and she joins Placement in her fifth active year. She oversees all administrative duties for Placement issues on the Board of Directors and facilitates the Placement Advisor program with the ladies listed above.
Phd_y2k@yahoo.com

The Placement Committee urges you to become familiar with your online JLM profile to monitor your completion of requirements. If you have any questions regarding your requirements, profile, or any League issue, do not hesitate to call or email your advisor. We're here to help! ☎

Do you know of a **NEED** in our **COMMUNITY** that would benefit from a partnership with the

Junior League of Miami?

Watch member communications for more information on the upcoming **PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**

process, or contact

Program Development Chair

Kathleen Slesnick Kauffman at
preservationist@hotmail.com

MARIA MALOOF EVENTS

Design Planning Coordination

305.720.0886

Give us a ring...

Voluntarism in Miami

By Lorrie Martin Junior League Journal Editor

You may have heard it in the news recently, a little blurb about how Miami ranked last in a survey of 50 cities across the U.S. in volunteer rates per capita. Thinking I must have missed something – considering the number of hours that my fellow Junior Leaguers had documented just last year – a little research uncovered the source. It was true... a survey done in conjunction with interim Census polling showed that the percentage of adults in Miami who volunteer was only 14.5% compared to the national average of 26.2%, making us #50 of 50 in the Large City category. Florida also ranks below average at 20%, 49th of 51 (States plus Washington, D.C.).

VOLUNTEER RATES IN LARGE CITIES¹

#1	Minneapolis-St. Paul	39.3%
#40	Tampa	24.8%
#45	Jacksonville	20.7%
#46	Orlando	19.7%
#50	Miami	14.5%

"The Corporation for National and Community Service has found that areas with higher homeownership rates and education levels tend to have higher volunteering rates. However, long average commuting times and high poverty rates can adversely affect volunteering rates."²



2007-08 Volunteer Service Awards
31,000 Hours Logged by JLM
Make your hours "count"!
Keep track & go to vsa.ajli.org

The transient nature of our residents was also cited as a possible reason. Also possible is that people in our community who used to volunteer may now, in more trying economic conditions, need to be on the receiving end of someone else's time and commitment.

It was interesting to see the information available in the studies done by the Corporation for National and Community Service. If you are interested in reading more from this organization, go to www.nationalservice.org. If this name sounds familiar, it is because it is the same organization that administers the President's Volunteer Service Award (VSA) program, in which we participate through the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI). They stated in their 2007 report:

Volunteer rates in the first decade of the 21st century are at a historic high—a trend not totally unexpected given the renewed national interest in volunteering and civic engagement after the terror attacks of 2001 and the hurricanes of 2005.

Indeed, these events have helped build Americans' understanding that service and volunteering aren't just nice things to do but are necessary parts of how our nation deals with its challenges. What's more, the events taught the nation to look beyond occasional manmade and natural disasters to ongoing social and economic needs that are disasters in their own right: the 15 percent of American children who live below the poverty line, the 15 million children who need mentors, and the millions of elderly people who need help living independently in their homes. As the nation continues to face competing social needs, service and volunteering—as well as an increasingly engaged and active citizenry—are cost-effective ways to improve lives and strengthen communities."¹



The diversity of this year's projects and the focus areas of JLM speak directly to the need cited in this report. Continuing to document our volunteer hours is also an

continued on next page

"America's nearly 61 million volunteers are an engine that powers thousands of nonprofit, community, and faith-based organizations across the nation allowing them to improve their services and extend their reach. They are tackling our society's toughest challenges — the 37 million Americans, including 13 million children, who live in poverty, the 3.5 million Americans who have no place to live, the more than 50 percent of high school students in our largest cities who leave school before graduation, the more than 600,000 prisoners released into their communities annually without sufficient support, and the hundreds of communities nationwide that suffer natural disasters. These volunteers make a huge difference. In fact, rigorous scientific research reinforces that the single most effective intervention against most of these problems proves to be citizens willing to each stand up and say, 'I care,' volunteer time and energy."

**David Eisner, CEO
 Corporation for National and
 Community Service**

Voluntarism continued from previous page

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

On the national level, 60.8 million or 26.2 percent of Americans age 16 and older volunteered through organizations in 2007. After a six percent decline in total volunteers between 2005 and 2006, volunteering levels stabilized in 2007. There were one million more volunteers in 2007 than 2002.

important internal measure that quantifies the impact that we know JLM makes in our community. Only 17% of our membership participated in the Volunteer Service Awards (VSA) in 2007-08, and still tallied up 31,000 hours.

This being only one measure of voluntarism, we continue to improve the percentages in

Miami, 1000 women at a time, and show that our organization

is engaged in supporting our community by continuing to do our best to live up to last year's Provisional Class theme of "JLM, a lifetime commitment." 

Sources

¹ Corporation for National and Community Service, Office of Research and Policy Development. *Volunteering in America: 2007 State Trends and Rankings in Civic Life*, Washington, DC 2007.

² Corporation for National and Community Service, Office of Research and Policy Development. *Volunteering in America: 2008 State and City Trends and Rankings*, Washington, DC 2008.

Note: Miami encompasses the Metropolitan Service Areas of Miami-Dade County through Fort Lauderdale.



See www.jlmiami.org for
volunteer opportunities

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Fostering Florida's Children through JLM & Beyond

Sustainer Spotlight: Karen Peterson Throckmorton

By Elizabeth Margo, Junior League Journal Committee

"My 20 years as an Active in JLM were challenging and rewarding. Chairing the JLM Guardian Ad Litem, Nominating, and Program Development Committees were intense yet productive experiences which allowed me to participate in the League's evolution as a charitable organization with a significant positive impact on our beloved Miami community."

Ways to help foster children

- Visit a shelter
- Adopt a group home [six teens and a foster parent]
- Become a foster parent
- Become a Guardian ad Litem
- Attend events by non-profits who do this work
- Bring food and/or a craft, etc. to a children's shelter
- Donate to the Children's Home Society, CHARLEE and/or Kristi House — all organizations with ongoing needs which JLMers have helped over the years.

Karen Throckmorton joined the Junior League in Richmond, Virginia, in 1977 and was an active member for 20 years. Karen is a fifth generation member of the Junior League in Miami. As an active, Karen chaired the JLM Guardian Ad Litem, Nominating and Program Development Committees. She also participated in a project voice recording law books for blind law students.

Today she is at the beginning of her two-year term as President of the Board of the Children's Home Society for Florida's Southeastern Division, and attributes her passion for helping Miami's children to her role as Chair of JLM Guardian Ad Litem as a volunteer advocate for children going through the court system. She first joined the Children's Home Society Board in 1999. As an attorney, Karen has been able to apply her expertise to helping children in need of a better life. And that dedication extends into Karen's home, which she has opened to children as a foster parent.

Karen is already working diligently on a project seeking support from local businesses, law firms, and even Junior

League for eight group homes for teenagers. Six teenagers live in each home and receive one-on-one attention. The Children's Home Society fosters 500 children in Miami-Dade county, providing shelter, education, counseling and more. Karen has her hands full, but feels her work with JLM has prepared her to take leadership for the children who need help most.



"Through my work with the League, I found that helping foster children is a priority for me which led me to being a foster parent, serving on the Board of the Children's Home Society and now Chairing the Board for the Southeastern Division of CHS. I am grateful to JLM for allowing me to learn so much about the needs of our burgeoning community and for providing ways we can truly make a difference." ☺

Welcome Back Sustainers!

By Sheri Shoup, Sustainer Chair and Jamie Adams Bonham, Sustainer Liaison

We hope you had a relaxing summer. Please join us at our Sustainer Welcome Back events: Breakfast, **September 23** at 9 a.m., JLM Headquarters; and Wine & Cheese Reception, **September 25** at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Michelle Ramirez-Patricios. You will hear about all the exiting opportunities to socialize and volunteer with fellow Sustainers and Actives, including a new orchid training series by Sustainer Liaison Jamie Adams Bonham!

The JLM Sustainer Book Club will continue to meet bi-monthly at members' homes for lively discussions on selected books off their well-chosen book list. They are nearing capacity, so if you have an interest in participating, or would like

a copy of this year's book list, please contact Maureen Gragg for more information, at Maureen@wdigitech.com

We would also like to thank all the Sustainers who are serving as advisors to our Committees and Councils: Natalie Brown, Margaret Nee, Julia Bianchi, Gail Scott, Andria Hanley, Meredith Mills, Mary Young, Barbie Alderman, Cheryl Goldstein, Amy Sussman, and Karen Cabrera.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that Past President

Amy Sussman has graciously agreed to host the Sustainer Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 13. Save the date for what is sure to be a beautiful affair!

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. ☺

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Fall 2008 Calendar

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day Holiday	2 Ramadan Board of Directors Mtg. ITN - Pediatric Care	3 All Aboard Story Hour Curious George	4	5	6 Step up to the Plate - Food is Manufacturing
7	8	9 General Membership Mtg AM & PM	10	11	12 2008-09 Directory & Fall Journal in the mail!	13 Done in a Day - Grandparent's Day Event ITS Activity Day
14	15 Finance & Community Council Mtgs.	16 Planning, Development & Membership Council Mtgs.	17	18 Watch JLM on NBC6	19 Done In A Day Miami Children's Museum	20 ITN First Tee Outing Provisional Community BusTour
21	22 Step Up to the Plate Family Day Watch JLM on WSVN 7	23 Sustainer Breakfast	24	25 Sustainer Wine & Cheese	26	27
28	29 Rosh Hashanah Communications Council Mtg.	30 Rosh Hashanah Provisionals JLM 101 Training	1 October	2 JLM Annual Golf Tournament	3	4

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	6	7 Board of Directors Mtg.	8 Yom Kippur	9 Yom Kippur	10	11 ITS Activity Day
12	13 Columbus Day National School Lunch-in begins	14 General Membership Mtg AM & PM	15	16	17 Miami Children's Museum Storytelling/Art	18 Done In A Day Komen Miami/ Ft. Lauderdale Race for the Cure
19	20 Finance & Community Council Mtgs.	21 Development & Membership Council Mtgs.	22	23 Shopping Card for a Cause - Kickoff Party	24	25 Done in a Day - Fitness Adventure Shopping Card First Day!
26	27	28 Provisional Training #3	29	30	31 Halloween	1 Daylight Savings Time Ends
Shopping Card for a Cause - Discount Days... redeem your discounts Oct. 25 thru Nov. 2!						

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Shopping Card Final Day	3	4 Election Day Board of Directors Mtg.	5	6 Past Presidents Reception	7	8
9	10 Communications Council Mtg.	11 Veteran's Day General Membership - Area Meetings	12	13	14 Nominating - Straw Ballots are Due	15 Deadline to submit articles for the Winter Journal! ITS Activity Day
16	17 Finance & Community Council Mtgs.	18 Planning, Develop. & Membership Council Mtgs. Provisional Training #4	19	20	21 South Florida Business Journal Wine Event	22
23	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29
30	1 December	2 Holiday Market Event-Shop at Headquarters	3	4	5	6 Active's Holiday Party

For more details: www.jlmiami.org/calendar.php

Save the Dates: Provisional Holiday Party Dec. 9...Sustainer Holiday Party Dec. 12

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421 Gerona Avenue \$598,000

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1100 Alhambra Circle \$850,000

Best priced home for its size; near Granada Golf Course in prime area. Six bdrms/4 baths/2-car Garage. LR, Fam. Rm, eat-in kitchen on 10,000' lot. Needs updating but quality space is here.

For photos of Junior League events, check out
www.jlmiami.org/gallery



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