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Junior League of Boca Raton Recognized for Model Program at International Conference in New Orleans

Junior League of Boca Raton's Program Recognized for Excellence at the Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. 83rd Annual Conference

Boca Raton, FL – May 15, 2005 – As part of an Awards Dinner Celebration recognizing innovation in programming, the Junior League of Boca Raton received the "JL" Award for Community Impact at the Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. 83rd Annual Conference held at the New Orleans Marriott, May 11 – 14, 2005.



The Boca Raton League received AJLI Community Impact award for its role in the Pines program at an Awards banquet sponsored by Anheuser-Busch Inc. and attended by representatives from 294 Junior Leagues in four countries. The League was not only recognized for its achievement but also received a cash award of \$3,000 to further its work.

"As a premiere women's leadership organization, our League has made a commitment to excellence in providing assistance to migrant farmers and their families," said Dorothy MacDiarid, President. "We are thrilled that our international Association has recognized our efforts and lifted them up as a model program for Leagues throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the United Kingdom."

Migrant farm workers and their families represent one of the poorest economic groups in this country. Since the late 1980s, the Junior League of Boca Raton has been working to make a real difference in the lives of the farm worker community, beginning with the establishment of an annual one-day farm worker health clinic. For the last 10 years, the Junior League has partnered with In the Pines, a non-profit farm worker housing organization, to help provide a better quality of life through better housing and a host of support services for 54 families in this Agricultural Reserve area in western Delray Beach.

The Leagues' advocacy efforts for this often-under served community helped secure a \$500,000 legislative appropriation from the State of Florida to finance new, updated housing units, and Junior League sustaining members who had been involved with In the Pines in the past helped attract private foundation dollars to the project. Over the past five years, the Junior League of Boca Raton has contributed more than \$175,000 in funding to help plan and build a community room where the families can engage in social activities and access community resources. League volunteers also work with the families to provide life skills training, with an eye

towards helping them transition to home ownership, and provide school supplies and after school homework support programs for the children, along with organizing fun days and cultural enrichment trips.

"The Leagues do a phenomenal job of creating programs that promote voluntarism, develop the potential of women and improve communities," said Pam J. Newby, 2004-2006 President of the Association. "The annual "JL" Awards recognize and highlight outstanding League accomplishments that serve as an example for League members in 294 different communities."

Created in 1921 by member Leagues, the purpose of the Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. is to add value to 294 Junior Leagues in four countries in their fulfillment of the Junior League Mission. Led by a 20-member Board of Directors, the Association is one of the largest international volunteer organizations for women interested in making a positive impact in their communities.

Founded in 1971, the Junior League of Boca Raton is committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. The Junior League of Boca Raton is a volunteer organization for women interested in making an impact in their community. We are part of the Association of Junior Leagues International, which is made up of 294 Junior Leagues in four countries. For more information, visit our web site at <http://www.jlbr.org>.

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