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Cover: Bradley, Jason, Mercedes, Angely, Carlos, and Kayla on the Milagro playground donated by the JLBR. Photo by Elizabeth Murdoch Titcomb.





fromtheeditor

fromthepresident

Dear Readers,

As another JLBR year comes to a close, we reflect on our accomplishments and milestones and look ahead to more challenging projects and exciting placements. Clearly, we wouldn't be able to fulfill our commitment to the community without teamwork and group participation. It's the key to our success and the theme of this issue of *The Bridge* - connectivity.

JLBR is bigger than our 700 members. JLBR's interrelationship to AJLI, all of our community projects, members' connections to each other, staying connected to our sponsors and supporters—it's that connectivity that contributes to the incredibly rewarding work we do to improve the lives of women and children in our community.

And there's more. Extensive research exists proving the positive benefits of friendship to women. The connection to other women can make your life healthier, slow aging, increase the odds of surviving disease and prolong life. We know firsthand from our JLBR experience that a group of women working toward a goal can accomplish amazing things, so it should be no surprise that those same friends can help keep you healthy!

To our fellow members, thank you for all you do. Thank you for sharing your work, photos and incredible experiences with the 2009-10 Publications committee to help us make our magazine redesign even better than we hoped it could be. It has been our pleasure to feature the amazing work of the JLBR in *The Bridge* this year.

To our advertisers and Patrons, thank you for your continued support. Your financial generosity has allowed us to produce a quality magazine showcasing the JLBR's work, mission and events.

Thank you, friends.

Enjoy this issue and enjoy the summer! The Bridge will be back in September.

Dorothy MacDiarmid





My Final Say...

My Presidential year of the JLBR has been the most amazing experience of my lifetime! I want to send out my heartfelt thanks to each and every member of the organization. You are the most amazing group of women; the fusion of your talents made for a most exceptional year. The money we raised and the work we have done makes me so very proud to have been the leader of this incredible organization.

This year, I went back to basics and asked everyone to reach out to others by making care calls or to revive the art of the handwritten letter to stress the importance to all that we are not just an organization that works through emails and texts, but an organization that truly cares about those we work with along the way. It is only through such interactions that we solidified relationship within our own circle but also the community we serve.

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to Wendy; the center of Junior League. Wendy has been and will continue to be the glue that keeps us all together. Her assistance played a key role not only in my own success but also that of the entire League. She consistently provided us with her own brand of talents and gifts that come directly from the heart.

I also must applaud and thank the Internal PR committee. They faced so many challenges in coordinating our meetings, yet performed the task with greatness and at a great savings. Their chosen themes were fun and upbeat and I enjoyed all of the halftime treats! Thanks! Due to their cost cutting efforts, we were able to purchase

and install Closerware.

To my two amazing best friends and assistants, Lisa Harmer and Karen Bice, who helped guide me through this year. I thank you for standing by my side and being the greatest of listeners! Thank you for being there for me when I needed you most!

Most of all thank you to the leaders of the League and membership. Without you, I could have not grown into a better leader. I learned from you how to be a better listener, to be even and fair, and to be a better volunteer.

My final words of wisdom are that we all must keep in mind that this is a volunteer organization and the keys to success are flexibility and the ability to adapt to change and even if it gets done differently than you set out, it's all about teamwork in the end.

Thanks, Linda Gunn, 2009-10 JLBR President

Barbara Trevino Chester is a native Texan, military veteran and has been a dedicated member of the JLBR for five years. She resides in Delray Beach with her husband Bryan.



Reagan Such is currently the VP of Communications for JLBR. She has been a full-time Realtor since 1997.



Denise O'Sullivan has been a JLBR member since 2003. She loves the relationship ILBR has with In the Pines and enjoys sharing her volunteer work with her husband and son.

Lou Ann Such is the current Sustainer Chair. She has been selling real estate in Boca Raton since 1982.



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thebridge

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BOCA RATON

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Save the Date

23rd Annual Woman Volunteer Of the Year

LUNCHEON,
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& AWARD
PRESENTATION

FRIDAY October 8, 2010

BOCA RATON Resort & Club



Save the Date!

The 23rd annual Woman Volunteer of the Year luncheon will be held on Friday, October 8, 2010 at the Boca Raton Resort and Club. Chair Jackie Reeves is planning for an incredible event at which we will honor dozens of volunteers who have made impactful contributions to our community, including an incredible JLBR Sustainer!

JLBR ENDOWMENT CONTRIBUTORS

Linda Eckelson Mary Cheryl Hargrove Amy Kazma Jayne Malfitano Jamie Snyder Denise Zimmerman

Carole Putman in memory of Dr. Krumholtz, Brooke Qualk's father, Roger Staley, and Jackie Johnson's sister

Thank you to Lucy Craske-Long and Pattie Damron for your years of dedication to this board and for holding officer positions.

Your time and expertise is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks to Endowment Chair Lisa Bariso for her two years of leadership.



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Please look forward to some exciting giving opportunities coming from the Endowment committee this fall!

JEMBERS of the MONTH

January 2010: **Heather McMechan**

The January member of the month is Heather McMechan. She has been a JLBR member for 10 plus years. She served on the WVOY committee and was nominated herself to run the silent auction part of the event. In running the silent auction Heather and her husband got numerous gifts donated. She organized all the bid sheets, kept the auction flowing, collected payments and distributed items to the winners all before the main course of the luncheon was served. Then she helped clean up after the event and spent her Christmas and New Years holidays writing thank you notes! Thank you, Heather!

JLBRbriefs

Annual May Business Meeting

Tuesday, May 11, 2010 ● 6 pm social, 7pm meeting

Delray Beach Club

2001 South Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach, FL

\$39 must be paid in advance – NO walk-ins! Pay at www.jlbr.org or send a check to the VCRC.

NO JEANS, Cell phones MUST be turned on silence, Cash Bar. A photographer will be present to take yearbook headshots.

Come see the annual slideshow and learn who will win the big year-end awards!

2010-2011 Governance Council Leaders!

Please join us for our first Governance Council leadership training.

Tuesday, June 15, 2010 Social -6:30pm Meeting – 7pm At the VCRC

Essential information will be clarified on different levels through several break-out sessions. RSVP to info@jlbr.org.

The Bridge

The Bridge is already planning for four quarterly issues in 2010-2011. Ad space is filling up now. Contact the editor, Barbara Trevino Chester at btrevino@hotmail. com if you're interested in purchasing an ad. Ad deadline is one month prior to publication date.

VCRC Training Schedule

May 5, 2010. 10am. Intro to the Grant Library and Foundation Directory Online. RSVP to library@jlbr.org. Our fall schedule will be posted on the JLBR website later this summer.

Treasures 4 Charity

\$30,000 was raised for 37 local charities and \$3855 was raised for JLBR. Thank you to all who donated fabulous items and volunteered.

Treasures 4 Charity will re-open in mid October. Email Caron daduchess@comcast.net or Brooke rosalind561@yahoo.com to arrange donation drop offs through out the summer.

259 NE 2nd Avenue Pineapple Grove Delray Beach

Many thanks to the local businesses who have held events to benefit the JLBR!

Copper Canyon Simon Mall City Fish Market Sklar Furniture Elie Tahari Falcon House
Cut 432
The Grille on Congress
Uncle Julio's
Chops Lobster Bar

Thank you also to our member Liz Grace with The Buzz Agency for coordinating so many great restaurant openings for the JLBR.

February 2010: Rhonda Palazzo

The February member of the month is Rhonda Palazzo. She has been an active member for more than 5 years. She is described as being the KIDS 'Member of the Month' every month by her fellow committee members. While working full-time she is the keystone at all the KIDS events. She assisted in a large project which could have utilized 10 volunteers, but she completed it with only 3. Great job. Rhonda!

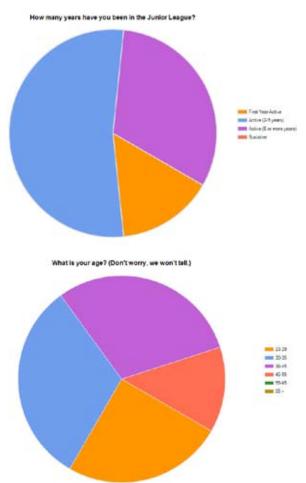
March 2010: Barbara Trevino Chester

wonderful to work with this year. She is willing to do whatever is asked of her, even if it's a last minute task. Barb can be relied on to create coherent and creative articles for The Bridge, and finishes assignments quickly and thoroughly. In the editing process she is a grammatical whiz and preserves the writer's individual style while making sure JLBR pattern language is used. She can turn articles into interesting pieces our committee is proud of. She always comes to meetings full of ideas and can build on others thoughts as well. She is interested in the work and history of the JLBR, learning the JLBR way and constantly trying to understand, improve and innovate in whatever role she is serving. She is one-of-a-kind and is very worthy of this honor!

In an effort to stay connected to our membership the Membership Satisfaction and Training (MSAT) committee compiles an annual survey. This year they devised three separate series of questions targeted to our Provisional, Active and Sustaining members. The Board of Directors reviews and analyzes the results to determine what changes need to be made to keep our processes flowing smoothly and staying on track with our strategic plan-- all while keeping you, the member, happy!

Mineral, Vegetable, Animal: A few basic facts about our members

The women in our League are 30% Single, 66% married, and 3.4% divorced.

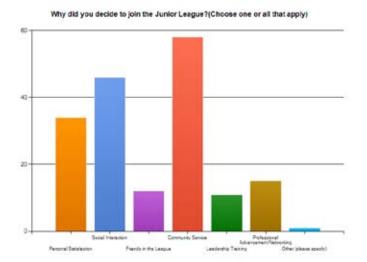


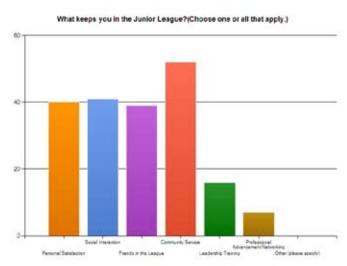
How did we get here and what are we doing?

Surpassing the JLBR recruitment brochure "Four Reasons to Join", you superstars gave us SIX reasons to join. 95% of members are satisfied overall with their JL experience. And it's no surprise based on the research our editor references in her column that 88% of us stay because of friendships we have formed while serving the community together.



SURVEY





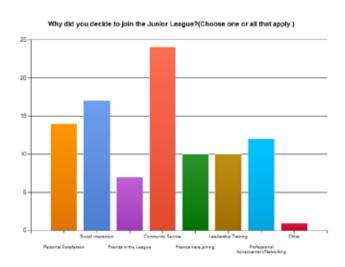


SAYS.

By Reagan Such

Provisionals Speak

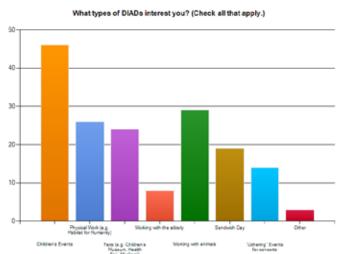
Again, our friends come in first place this time as 'Best Recruitment Tool.' 70% of Provisionals heard about the JLBR from a friend. Provisional members said they are most enjoying meeting new people with similar interests who like helping each other, doing positive things, giving back to the community, hands-on volunteering, attending fun events, learning about our community, and knowing that we really make a difference. Provisionals would still like to learn more about the League's committees, structure and the projects we support. Like most JLBR members, the planning process is their least favorite. While planning is imperative, most Junior Leaguers like to roll up their

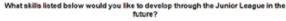


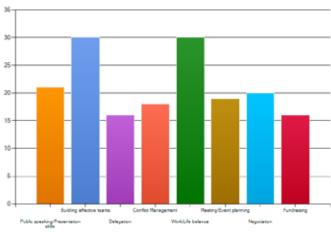
sleeves and get involved. For example, 66.7% of Provisionals would prefer to do a DIAD as make up for a missed meeting. That is one of the great things about JL leadership training; they train you to be a planner.

Trained Volunteers

Over 60% of members report learning by doing this year; either serving as a leader or learning within their committee placement. And while two-thirds of our members have attended a training at the VCRC, members resoundingly are interested in more training opportunities, even at GMMs. 72.4% suggest 2 of the 10 required volunteer hours should involve training attendance. Other trainings suggested are time management, women entrepreneurs, organizational skills, nutrition, developing self-confidence and a refresher on the League's Councils, committees and bylaws. Great news! This is usually covered at the bi-annual Governance Council trainings.







Continued on page 8...

Sustainer Scoop

We have super Sustainers who continue to be involved members. 84% are still active volunteers in the community! This year, Sustainers have enjoyed balancing their interest group activities such as book clubs, bridge groups and fall & spring luncheons with hands-on service to the Sustainer project Boca Helping Hands (BHH). 66.7% of Sustainers like having BHH as their project. One Sustainer stated, "I enjoy anytime I'm with JLBR Sustainers. This is a very welcoming group of women."

If you would like to help out at BHH, call LouAnn Such. They always need more volunteers.

If you would like to become a Sustaining advisor to a committee contact Kim Anglemyer.

Stay in the loop

81% of members like the new format of The Bridge. One member noted "I love The Bridge for its in-depth articles and the emails are great so I know what's happening with JLBR events." 98.3% love the emails! 77.2% use a printed copy of the Membership Handbook and Directory. Next year, although The Bridge will be sent out quarterly, look for more up-to-the-minute information, photos and event updates via FaceBook , Twitter and other social media!

Thanks to everyone who took the time to fill out this important survey. All in all, the results will prove very useful in planning for next year. •









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Partnership

The Junior League of Boca Raton and Florence Fuller Child Development Center

By Denise O'Sullivan

President John F. Kennedy once said "Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future." Although that was said almost 50 years ago, that quote has resonated through time.

> In 1968, Dorothy Fleegler had a vision to provide poverty-stricken children in Boca Raton with an improved education and health care, so they would not continue to enter public school at a disadvantage. In 1971, James and Florence Fuller contributed the initial funds to build The Florence Fuller Child Development Center (FFCDC). The center opened with 22 children in its care. Today, two campuses, Florence Fuller East and Florence Fuller West, provide care to over 600 children between the ages of one month and five years old, after school programs for 6-13 year-olds, and summer camps for all ages. The two centers have numerous certifications. For example, the East Campus has the only "mildly ill center" in the State of Florida. Run by a registered nurse, the center allows parents to drop off their sick children, so that they don't have to miss work and sacrifice their hourly wages to care for their child. The center is a



President Kathy Adkins became involved with FFCDC back in 2006 when she was invited to serve on the Wee Dream Ball Committee . Since Florence Fuller is a 501(c)(3)non-profit agency, much of their funding relies heavily on donations and the Ball is the Center's major annual fundraising event. As Kathy recalls, "After touring the Centers, seeing the children, and learning about the mission, I felt compelled to help out as much as possible. The Junior League immediately came to mind, and I knew the two organizations would work extremely well together."

The mission of FFCDC is to be an organization that serves families who are not seeking a "hand-out" but simply a "hand up". All parents seeking assistance must be gainfully employed, disabled or enrolled in school. While visiting the campuses and speaking with some of the teachers, staff, and parents, it is apparent that the children are in a stable and



loving environment. Executive Director Lorry Herdeen has been with FFCDC for over 34 years. When asked what keeps her at the job for all this time, she said, "The kids are addictive and I'm lucky to have them." Lorry is not the most senior staffer. One teacher has been there over 38 years, and most teachers have 20 years of experience or more at the centers. The FFCDC believes that stability for the children is vital, thus there is very little turnover among the faculty members and administration.

Children at the centers are tracked academically as they move from elementary school, through middle school, and even through high school. Dr. Carole Warshaw of Lynn University has been watching the advancement rate for 9 years, and FF has a 99% "move-up rate". That is a great achievement for children who

could have otherwise been lost in the system if they had not received the caring support services from Florence Fuller Child Development Centers.

Besides renovating the infant center at the west campus, the JLBR members have also worked on other projects. Director Lorry Herdeen says, "The things the JLBR members have done has made it like Disney World. They transform something worn out into something beautiful. They excel at everything they do." Some of the projects that the JLBR has adopted include painting and landscaping the playground area, renovating the teacher's lounge, painting the storage area, and creating a literacy area for the school-age children.

This year's JLBR Florence Fuller committee has teamed up with the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County to create Family Reading Nights. During these events, parents work with a representative from the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County to learn effective



A Mother's **Gratitude**

children that come Florence Fuller Childcare Centers receive lots of attention and guidance. Yulieth Rodriguez, a mom who has had two of her sons involved at the West campus attests to this. Yulieth's 18 month old son, Nicolas, is enjoying the refurbished infant center that the JLBR completed last year. Yulieth loves going there every day and seeing the beautiful murals that member Jackie Reeves' mother, Mary Delaney, painted, and the clean environment the beautiful nursery offers. Yulieth's older son Sebastian has moved on to public school and Yulieth is thrilled with all that he learned while at FFCDC. Sebastian loves to read and to listen to the stories his mother reads to him. He acquired his love of books from his teachers and the books that have been donated by JLBR members.

Words can not express how much the lovely women of the Junior League have held me up and lifted my spirits.

When my husband passed away last year, I was beyond despair.
The ladies of JLBR held out their hands and hearts to me getting me through my darkest days.

I love you all and can never thank you enough!
Natalie- a special thanks to you for all you do, not just for me but everyone.

With much love and gratitude-Kerri White



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Ken Hirsch AIA, LEED AP hirscharchitects.com 561 826 2555 reading skills to help improve literacy in their own homes. While parents are in training classes, JLBR members look after their children, read books and work on projects related to their parents' lesson. The current committee has also created a pen pal program between children on the East and West campuses and developed a storytelling/drama program that has a very popular and highly-qualified storyteller who visits the campuses weekly. Perhaps the largest undertaking that the staff at FFCDC is thrilled about, is converting a dark and dreary school room at the East campus



Carrie O'Day and Kari Soltys, Florence Fuller committee members helping out at the Family Reading Night

into a cheery, yellow class room with improved storage and new furniture. As committee member Sara Ritzler said, "The room will provide the students a much more comfortable and inviting atmosphere to encourage learning."

The Florence Fuller Child Development Center and the JLBR are two terrific organizations that have been working together to improve the lives of children and families. President Kennedy said it best. Children are our best hope for the future and I believe that the love and care that these children receive at the Florence Fuller Child Development Centers may inspire the self-confidence and drive that could make them the leaders of tomorrow. •



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March Mad Dash

The Jr. League of Boca Raton's inaugural March Mad Dash was described by children who attended the event as "neat" and "really fun!" The support from Jr. League, the community and the vendors made this inaugural event a crowning achievement for this year's provisional group. This year's provisional's not only organized and hosted this day full of activities but found themselves indulging in them as well.

- Submitted by Nichole Kalil



To view more pictures, visit the JLBR Facebook page!



By Dorothy MacDiarmid

estled in Delray Beach, the Milagro Center has been transforming the lives of children and their families for over 10 years, through academic enrichment, professional art instruction and successful one-on-one mentoring. The word Milagro means "miracle" in Spanish, and the Milagro Center is truly a testament to its name. Through intensive programs, the Milagro Center has created a unique arts-focused curriculum that enables K-5th grade children to become self-confident, creative, and expressive individuals.

The 40 children served at The Milagro Center are at great risk of educational hardship. All of the children live below the poverty line and most live with families who typically speak a language other than English at home. Without a place like the Milagro Center, most of these children would otherwise have minimal or no supervision at home, particularly during the critical after-school hours because their parents and guardians must work long and unusual hours to make ends meet. The Center provides a safe haven for these children and a place where they can get the specialized attention that they need to improve upon their language skills and be competitive with their peers in school.

The Center sets itself apart from other after-school and summer programs with its unique core program STARS (Scholarly Talented Artists Reaching Success). This program incorporates specialty programs designed to meet a student's holistic needs in his or her

physical, social, intellectual, emotional and spiritual development, making them well-rounded, inspired and motivated to reach their maximum potential.

- STARS Cultural Arts and STARS Academy provides art education in visual and performing arts
- Rockin' Readers and Aha! Math programs provide academic tutoring and intervention services
- **Living Values** is a values-based education program endorsed by the United Nations and is taught to all students
- DIVA summer program is a comprehensive self-resiliency program for girls entering middle school
- Camp STARS a fun-filled theme-oriented camp with academic enrichment, art education and mentoring.

The Mentoring Miracles Program provides mentoring for students enrolled in the STARS program. The program connects the youth





Milagro kids on the new playground, donated by the Junior League of Boca Raton.

with positive role models. The Mentoring Program fosters nurturing and supportive intergenerational relationships that are essential to building self-esteem in the students served. "Through the mentoring relationship, at-risk children can come to see themselves as capable, competent, and empowered problem-solvers who can construct their own knowledge and successfully realize their learning goals," says Gina Genovese, the Director of Volunteer and Mentoring Services.

Students attending these programs mature over the years and involve themselves in more advanced and competitive activities that for some eventually lead to college scholarships. The program offers the children options to stay off the streets, out of gangs, and away from drugs; options to experience academic success, increase self expression, creativity and independent thinking through art education and build positive self esteem through personal success. At Milagro they like to

say, "We see the future in today's STARS."

2009-10 JLBR President Linda Gunn signed up for a Done-In-A-Day (DIAD) in 2006 to read to some children at the Milagro Center. Linda recalls, "The first thing I noticed when I walked through the door was the spirit. There was something different about the Milagro Center but I didn't know what it was - I really knew nothing about the place. They paired me up with a 9 year-old boy and after reading one book he was ready to go outside and play. As we walked through the back door to the playground my heart sunk.

Mayor Woodie McDuffie with children from Milagro Center. The City of Delray Beach showcased Milagro children's art work through out City Hall.



They had a swing set without swings. Some kids were playing basketball using a milk crate tied to a tree (for a hoop) and there wasn't any grass. I had to choke back tears. This was not the way that kids were supposed to play. They were all having fun, but I knew we could do better."

With the Milagro Center looking to utilize its site as a "model" to replicate in other areas of the state and country, this was the beginning of a beautiful friendship between the JLBR and the Milagro Center. Together they devised a plan to reorganize and revamp the interior of the center's facility to create a better space for the children. This interior space would be packaged with the existing exterior playground, garden and basketball court to create a working model for other future Milagro Centers to emulate.

Over the next two years, with Linda serving as the Milagro committee chair, the JLBR was able to provide:

- New basketball court and outdoor play equipment
- · New mural, garden and ground cover
- Refreshed classrooms with new tables and wall divider
- Updated kitchen with new cabinets, sinks and flooring

At the ribbon cutting ceremony to open the new playground, Linda remembers the feeling of love from the children at Milagro, "They made beautiful paper flowers and as I gave my speech about building the playground, eight white birds flew overhead. It was if we had planned to have them there. It just was a sign of the goodness, beauty and purity of the children. I learned what was different about Milagro. It is a place where miracles are made, just like its name."

This past year was the last of the JLBR's three-year commitment to Milagro. A new bathroom for girls, new outdoor sink, storage and water fountain, Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program certification, as well as a festive Holiday Party and Activities Day kept the JLBR ladies busy. 2009-10 committee chair Carla Zorovich observes, "The children of Milagro exude a thrill for life and they appreciate the gifts that have been given to them. They truly reflect upon what they are learning at Milagro, as seen in their artwork and their behavior. Every time I am there, I get a warm feeling, knowing that these children have a better chance of succeeding in

life due to the gracious and dedicated people that are involved at Milagro."

The sentiment is echoed by everyone involved at The Milagro Center. Their commitment to children and families is captured in the happy faces of all the children, who are reading better than ever, selling their professional art in the community and learning "live out loud" concepts such as love, peace, respect and responsibility, values they learn and experience at Milagro every day.

Perhaps it's best said by one of the Milagro STARS, Jason, age nine. When asked, "Why do you come to the Milagro Center?" He said, "It makes me a better person by inspiring me to challenge myself. I am learning to create art that I never thought I could make, work with famous artists and sell my own art right here in my community."

Join us in making this Miracle a beautiful place to educate our future leaders. The Milagro Center: 340 SW 6th Ave. Delray Beach 33444 Phone: (561) 279-2970.

Beyond these walls: Community Outreach

The Milagro Center's quest for excellence doesn't just stop at their doorstep; it extends into the community, and flourishes through the relationships formed with neighboring organizations and programs. Through the Community Outreach Program, Milagro helps other after-school programs offer arts programming by placing our artist instructors at their facilities. The intention of the Outreach Program is to form solid relationships and open lines of communication with other organizations, and to provide arts education to a greater number of underserved children. Outreach art classes are generally one day per week for an hour, and are free of charge to the agencies and programs served. By partnering with other agencies, they are able to deliver service to over 300 additional children besides those who attend the Milagro Center. Additionally, the Milagro Center is visible at numerous community events. Over 100 children and their parents were involved in a community mural project at Delray's "Jazz on the Avenue" and 33 children took part in a drum performance and painting project at the Delray Beach Heritage Festival. Five Milagro student-artists have been commissioned by the Boca Resort & Club to design their company thank you cards. The Milagro Center is committed to bridging gaps in underserved populations and encouraging community awareness through the arts.

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- » Arm Pain
- » Asymmetry
- » Back Pain
- » Bone Spurs
- » Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
- » Decreased Range of Motion
- » Degenerative Disc Disease
- » Degenerative Joint Disease
- » Digestive Conditions
- » Disc Herniation
- » Dowager's Hump
- » Golfer's Elbow
- » Headaches

- » Hearing Difficulties
- » Muscle Spasm
- » Muscle Tension
- » Muscular Imbalance
- » Neck Pain
- » Numbness/Tingling
- » Pinched Nerve
- » Rotator Cuff Issues
- » Strength Issues
- » Tendonitis
- » TMJ Issues
- » Thoracic Outlet Syndrome
- » Vision Issues

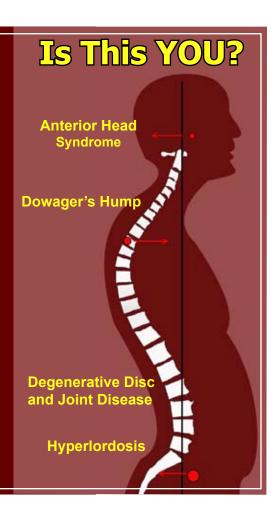
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APITCEL.

HOW ONE OF THE SMALLEST COMMITTEES KEEPS JLBR CONNECTED TO OUR GOVERNMENT AND 24 OTHER LEAGUES

By Dorothy MacDiarmid

What is a SPAC?

The Junior Leagues of Florida State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC) has been the advocacy arm of the Junior Leagues of Florida for nearly 40 years, monitoring the state legislative process, educating members and taking action on public policy issues relevant to the JL mission. SPAC is governed by our member Leagues. It is one of a dozen in the country.

SPAC has actively advocated on behalf of significant issues such as bicycle helmets for children under 16, the Environmental Growth Management Act of 1995, the '911' Emergency Medical System,

child abuse, domestic violence, juvenile justice, and education.

The State of Florida boasts 24 Junior Leagues, with combined membership of over 11,000 women. Each Florida Junior chooses League that to participate in the advocacy process delegates sends to meetings state conferences throughout the year to research and debate the issues of the day. Our advocacy efforts complete the awesome process of JL work. When the League identifies a gap in community services, the League fills that need with trained volunteers and dollars with the plan that the projects are self sufficient in 3-5 years. It makes sense that we take care to ensure that government helps or doesn't hinder the effort when possible.

Who is SPAC?

JLBR's commitment to SPAC has been particularly strong in recent years. Our League hosted a successful 2007-08 Fall Conference under the guidance of Public Issues & Advocacy chairs Jamie Sauer

and Kellie Mejia. Amy Brand was the SPAC Secretary/Treasurer for two years (2006-08). I served as JL of Florida SPAC Chair in 2008-2009 along with another past president pal, Kristin Calder, who served as the first Public Relations chair for SPAC. And this year,

Majority Leader and our State House Representative Adam Hasner with the SPAC delegation in House chambers February 2008



Kirsten Stephenson took over the PR role on the SPAC board joining me as I moved on to Sustaining Advisor to the board. Kirsten has also been nominated to be the 2010-11 SPAC Chair-elect.

How does SPAC work?

Junior Leagues across the state of Florida appoint a representative(s) to attend three conferences throughout the year. JLBR's 2009-2010 SPAC delegate and chair of Pubic Issues & Advocacy committee, Kirsten Stephenson explains, "The first conference usually takes place in the summer. That is where issues are presented. An example of such an issue would be cyberbullying, which is one of SPAC's top seven issues they

are tackling this year. After some discussion, a list of issues is produced and each SPAC delegate returns to their League to gauge the level of support and interest in these issues. This year we tried something new by measuring this with an emailed survey. I was then able to attend Fall Conference confident I was representing the true interests of the JLBR. After further education and discussion, the group votes on the issues, and a final list of 3 to 10 issues, depending on the year, is brought back to each league to be formally voted upon."

With a legislative agenda in place, it is the job of the Public Issues and Advocacy committee to educate their League members, as well as the community and







local legislators with regards to these issues. SPAC meets again in February, this time in Tallahassee. Our advocates visit with legislators while they are still in committee meetings to remind them of Junior League's commitment to these issues. The Legislative session begins in March and ends in May.

Long time friend and mentor to SPAC, Jack Levine, an advocacy and strategy consultant from Tallahassee says, "Responsible advocacy requires thoughtful purpose, practical solutions and open conversation. Clear and consistent communication with allies and adversaries alike sets the stage for progress. Advocacy is the heartfelt expression of a wrong to be righted, with composure and grace. An advocate's power is in persuasive and persistent articulation and the recruitment of others to the cause."



"This is why once again training is so important. SPAC's three conferences give us the opportunity to learn advocacy techniques, solidify our legislative agenda and coordinate efforts with our sister Leagues. The process is remarkably rewarding," says Kirsten Stephenson.

Photos from top: 2009 Fall Conference Welcome; Kellie Mejia, Amy Brand, State Senator Dave Aronberg and Kristin Calder at a Legislative send-off January 2008; JLPB's Beth Patterson, 2010-2011 SPAC chair Jamiee Pierce with Rep. Carl Domino; JLPB past president Esther LaBovick, Kirsten Stephenson, Rep. Kendrick Meeks and JLPB's Jessica Pinsky

What is JLBR doing in our home district?

In the Public Issues & Advocacy (PIA) committee's ongoing efforts to educate JLBR members on the work of the committee, as well as SPAC's goals they've found our legislative agenda full of powerful issues, which tug on the emotions of our members when fully understood. Cindy Guerra, from the Attorney General's office, spoke at the March General Membership Meeting (GMM) about the growing horrors of sexual predators online targeting our children (#6). Kirsten Stephenson observed, "This was information that was quite difficult to hear, but our goal was not to entertain but to educate and inform our members. JLBR is an intelligent and sophisticated force, and we can handle it."This was followed by a speaker at the April GMM sharing a firsthand account of the dangers of human trafficking.



In addition to speakers, PIA has included information in our League wide e-newsletters, and is currently discussing the feasibility of an informal drive for Guardian ad Litem and

2009-10 Legislative Agenda for the Junior Leagues of Florida

I. Continued funding for programs for children aging out of the foster care system

- 2. Gender specific mentoring program for girls in the juvenile justice system under the age of 18
- 3. Childhood Obesity
- 4. Legislation requiring children under the age of 8 be placed in a booster seat while riding in a car
- 5. Human trafficking
- 6. Cybercrimes
- 7. Required funding to implement changes to the Guardian Ad Litem program

Attorney ad Litem volunteers (#7). PIA spoke at our first GMM explaining the SPAC process and alerting member to the upcoming survey. In the fall the VCRC committee provided training sessions to JLBR and the community (in which members of the Junior League of Greater Fort Lauderdale were also in attendance) detailing the correct way to successfully advocate and communicate with legislators.

This has been an excellent relationship-building year for PIA. Solid relationships have been established with various elected officials, with SPAC delegates from other leagues, and with our

community partners. For example, PIA now attends advocacy related meetings at the Boca Raton Historical Society, in the attempt to strengthen advocacy efforts at a local level, in addition to the state level.

With only days left in the 2010 legislative session we will wait to see what happens with our ninth attempt at passage of a booster seat law. Even with massive budget cuts, we remain hopeful that our message combined with other foster care providers is heard and funding is preserved for those children. Whatever happens, SPAC will be back at the drawing board this summer, crafting a fresh legislative agenda and building on the relationships and lessons of this year. •

Photos: (above) Kirsten Stephenson with Rep. Nan Rich; (below) Samantha Vassallo, JL of GFLL President Heather Moraitis, Kirsten Stephenson, Senate President Jeff Atwater, Katie Leach (JLGFLL), Dorothy MacDiarmid and Kristin Calder



thegallery





March GMM at Old School Square

- 1. Emily Palmer, Shelley Mitchell and Ashley McGee
- 2. Lara Charno, Barbara Marsh, Karla Sordo and Katherine Regna modeling the new JLBR aprons
- Chocolate Decadence chairs Christy Stewart-Harfman and Melissa Whelchel, with JLBR President Linda Gunn and Chair-Elect Kimberly Winkler
- 4. Whitney Terry and Meghann Bowman
- 5. Harlee Ann Samuals, Meghan Shea, Gina Graves, Terri Williams



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BOCA RATON

"Women building better communities"

WHO WE ARE

A group of women committed to improving the lives of children and families in Boca Raton since 1971.

WHAT WE DO

Provide trained volunteers and funding for community agencies and partners.

HOW WE DO IT

Proceeds from fundraising events and grants are given back to the community.

OUR IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

Total membership of more than 670 women. This year the Junior League of Boca Raton's members will provide more than 35,000 volunteer hours and have goals to raise more than \$250,000 to support our mission and to help thousands of women, children and families in South Palm Beach County though our placements and collaborations.

OUR VISION

The Junior League of Boca Raton will provide resources, knowledge and funding to the community though the training, education and voluntarism of its members. The JLBR will be proactive in developing collaborative partnerships to address significant issues in South Florida and will improve the overall quality of life through a legacy of trained volunteers.

To view more pictures, visit the JLBR Facebook page!



JLBR's 2010 Pr

This April, the JLBR welcomed 44 women into the Provisional of up to join our organization of professional volunteers. Over the of the JLBR, all while fulfilling their rigorous volunteer requires accomplished and service-oriented. They are just as diverse as the out a little bit more about our newest additions.



Group picture (above): First Row-Laetitia Reino, Jennifer Wulkan, Je Marcus, Cara Mantovani, Christine Rothenberg; Second Row-Joe Norcio, Krista Jugs, Nicole Caravella, Linda Gove, Sharon Batte, A McGee, Lauren Gatz, Addie Dissick, Amy Braun, Monique Shide, Er Kathy Bradley, Stefanie Moon, Jessica Osman, Christine Stiller, She Baumel, Francine Beckerman, Laura Coleman, Jennifer Ekstrand, Britney Hodson, Anna Lee, Mary Jo Metzger, Nicole Morello, Kavit Wooddell, Clockwise from upper left; Jennifer Wulkan, Laetitia Rei Nikki Hirsch and Alexis Burden; Nicole Caravella and Nikki Mar Ashley McGee, Shelley Mitchell, and Jessica Osman; Ashley McGee

l am a vegetarian

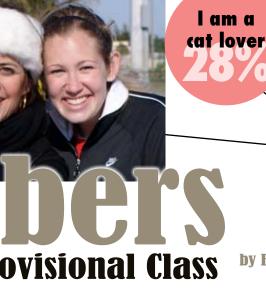
I participated in a sorority in college

I prefer the mountains to the beach

I consider myself to be eco-conscious

l am a wine enthusiast





I have a bachelor's degree

I am an artist

I prefer iPhone over **Blackberry**

l am an avid golfer

ovisional Class

lass of 2010. Each year in September, eager new candidates sign e next nine months, they learn about the mission and structure nents and getting to know each other. These women are driven, ney are alike, in many ways. In a fun computer survey, we found

l am a sales professional

by Barbara Trevino Chester

I have a **Facebook**

page

l am a **business**

> l am a world traveler

l am a published author

> l am a horseback rider

ennifer Brackett, Nikki Hirsch, Nikki Martino, Kristy Wexler, Samantha li Spindel-Levinson, Linda Gunn (President), Andrea Drasites, Jessica lexis Burden Joanna Drowos; Third Row- Melissa Nisivoccia, Ashley nily Palmer, Nichole Kalil, Tracy Sussman, Sandra Gagic, Aimee Hilton, elley Mitchell; Not Pictured: Kathleen Alvarez, Jennifer Barner, Alexis Rachel Fernandez, Sativa Ganesh, Jessica Greenshner, Lisa Hanes, a Sahai, Julie Smith, Dawn Snyder, Natalya Starr, Michelle Tosto, Leslie no, Monique Shide, Jennifer Brackett, Jennifer Barner, and Linda Gunn; tino; Sandra Gagic, Kathy Bradley and Nichole Kalil; Stefanie Moon, and Lauren Gatz.



I am a dog lover

I have children

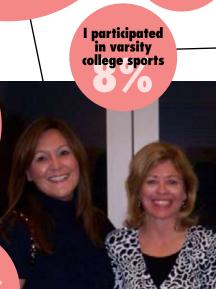
I am left-handed

I love to

cook

I have a postgraduate degree

I was born in Florida



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SUSTA

hate to have to say goodbye for the summer, but I must. Many of you are leaving us to go where it is not 90 degrees every day for the next three or four months. I cannot figure out why you would want to leave sunny Florida, but so be it. As long as you have your computers with you so that we can continue to send really silly emails it will be okay. We can keep in touch about important items such as where we went to dinner or how many pounds we have lost (and regained) or how much a new face lift will cost. I digress. We will come back next fall all refreshed and ready for another exciting Sustainer year.

WINE TASTING: Dale Workman and her husband, Jim, put on probably the best party we have had in a long time. Now I have only been attending these events for a few years so excuse me if I have insulted previous hostesses. Dale and Jim provided a very informal wine tasting from their own collection of wines, along with the most amazing array of appetizers that included huge chunks of Italian cheeses, antipasto, hot and cold scrumptious bites, and a complete dinner of hot pasta, cold pasta, tender steak bits and more. To top it all off, they baked homemade pizzas in their wood burning piazza oven. We collected \$60.00 per couple, which added up to \$1,045. This entire amount will be donated to Boca Helping Hands. How's that for a nice gesture on Dale and Jim's part? We cannot thank them enough for their hard work which they made look effortless.

BOCA HELPING HANDS: We have completed our second year in association with Boca Helping Hands. We have created a new auxiliary board called Heart and Spirit with Patty Damron serving as president. Peggy Jones is the membership chair. Elizabeth Pankey-Warren is board liaison and I am the secretary. This group runs all of the extra events; such as feeding 600 at the Wayne Barton center for a Christmas dinner, running the Monopoly Event (which is the biggest fund raiser), Bowling for Bread, etc. We welcome both JLBR members and non-League members to join us. Call Peggy or myself if you have any interest. As I mentioned above, we will give them the entire \$1,045 from the wine tasting plus we have \$1900 from our two Old Bag luncheons. I would like to make it an even \$2500, leaving a bit in our kitty, if you all agree. Let me know by email. Then again, you can send me more checks and we'll make it \$3000. I don't mean to be pushy, but this has become a very important cause to me.

SPRING: HING: MAY 5th: 6:00PM-8:00PM. Jayne Malfitano has generously offered to host our final event. Come casually or come in work clothes, bring an appetizer or a bottle of wine, and bring your happiest personality. Jayne's home is right on the Intracoastal, so you can sip wine, feel the breeze blowing and have a peaceful chat with friends. LuAnn Warner- Prokos started these casual night gatherings a few years ago. She wanted us to be able to just relax and enjoy, and that is certainly the way these evenings have worked. Join us for our last fling of the year. *Note new address below.

Enough said. Once again I threatened to end my reign of "terror" but no one would take over so unless one of you steps up, you are stuck with me for one more year. *The Bridge* is down to four issues next

BY LOU ANN SUCH

year, so READ JLBR EMAILS!*Thank you for persevering with me these many years. Look for a new and even more exciting Sustainer year beginning next fall. HAPPY SUMMER!

THANK YOUS

Last year I was being nice to the Bridge editor who tears her hair out trying to fit my entire babbling article by not naming all of those ladies who help put together our many adventures, but this year I must name the hard workers in our group.

First, to my co chair, HELEN BALLERANO for always being there to back me up. Also, in that group are MARY LAVALLE and ROBIN PHILPIT who are 'in the know' about the inner workings of the JLBR. LINDA DONOGHUE, too, was there for me to bounce ideas off and to read my silly Scoops and change them as necessary.

DENISE ALMAN has been our recording secretary, sending out cards as necessary to Sustainers as needed. (If more of you would let me know, she could be sending out Congratulation cards to new grandmas.)

We only had a few new transfer Sustainers this year, and PAT MALONEY, LINDA MCELWEE and CHARLOTTE SPOONER welcomed all of them.

We started out with our Fall Evening Fling happily held by CINDY KRESBACH.

Our fall "Old Bags" luncheon was more than ably run by LINDA ECKELSON, JUANA FRANKLIN, SUE WICKER AND MARY SCHALL.

The spring luncheon was bigger and better than ever with SUE DIENER, SHELIA AUCAMP and TAMI CONSTANTINE.

Thank you, too, to JAYNE MALFITANO for hosting us for the Spring Evening Fling.

We have the usual interest groups plus a couple of new ideas. Our four book groups are capably run by ANDREA KORNBLUE, LISA MORGAN, CATHY HANSON, LUCILLE GIOIA AND LUANN WARNER-PROKOS. Bridge groups are headed by ELLY ROLFAND JACKIE JOHNSON. LUCILLE GIOIA also planned to dinner group events. BARBARA O'CONNELL organized our museum outing and lunch afterwards.

CYNTHIA BROWN coordinated our Boca Festival Night while LISA MORGAN presented us with another jolly Ginger Bread House decorating treat. Our new outing, a trip to the Bonnet House was planned by LINDA DONOGHUE and MARY LADD COPE. We have a new Scrabble Club put together by LINDA MCELWEE and a new Breakfast Club headed by KRISTENVIETZ. LIZ LOCKE gave us another great lecture on the Internet ins and outs. Finally I will again mention DALEWORKMAN who knows how to throw a party complete with wine tasting. THANK YOU TO YOU ALL!

MAY EVENTS:

SPRING FLING: Wednesday, May 5th, 6:00PM - 8:00PM Hostess: Jayne Malfitano. Bring a bottle of wine or an appetizer and enjoy Jayne's home on the Intracoastal. Note: New address- 1120 Royal Palm Way - MUST RSVP to Jayne - 347-0940 or ckmalfitan@aol.com

> DAY BRIDGE: May 7th, Hostess - Connie Lee

NIGHT BRIDGE: May 18th, Hostess - Rita Head

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER:

Tuesday, May 11th at The Delray Beach Club on the ocean. A photographer will be there to take pictures for your membership directory if you don't have a picture or don't like your picture. Also go because it is fun! 6PM cocktails, 7PM dinner meeting.

BOOK GROUP I: Sunday/Monday May 2nd /3rd Trip to St Petersburg –The Don CeSar Catching Genius by Kristy Kiernan

BOOK GROUP II: Thursday, May 13th In Arabian Nights by Tahir Shah. Hostess: Michelle Broadfoot

BOOK GROUP III: Thursday, May 13th The Devil in the Junior League by Linda Francis Lee Hostess: Lucille Gioia

NIGHT BOOK GROUP: Monday, May 3rd The Help by Kathryn Stockett

SCRABBLE CLUB: Call Linda McElwee 241-1877 who will continue to organize the group through out the summer months.

(Cut this calendar out of the page and keep on your refrigerator as a reminder!)

^{*}Please share your email information with sustainer friends who do not use a computer.

thegallery



April GMM at the Boca Raton Marriott

- I. Marion Godin and Jade Fink at the Kids in the Kitchen table
- 2. Barbara Trevino Chester, the JLBR's March Member of the Month, Lisa Miller and JLBR President Linda Gunn
- 3. Katie Brown, winner of the Best Pageant attire
- 4. Linda Gunn and AJLI trainer Vicky Clark
- 5. David Jones presents Copper Canyon check to JLBR President Linda Gunn

Savor the Moment cooking demonstration at Bloomingdales

- 6. Stephanie Miskew and Mary Lavalle
- 7. Laura Stoltz, Stephanie Miskew and Wanda Harroldf
- 8. Greta Gillis and daughter, Kendall

Savor the Moment Cookbook Dinner Parties

- 9. Stephanie Miskew & Caroline Angstadt
- 10. Scott & Janie-Lyn McCleneghen
- 11. Reagan Such and Toasted Coconut Cake
- 12. Junior League Girls at the Miskew House!
- Reagan Such, Carrie Miller, Stephanie Miskew, Britt Trinley

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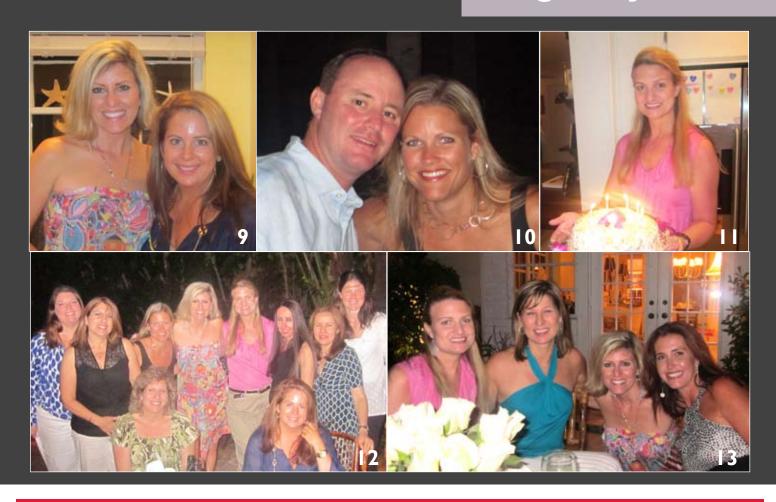




A special thanks to **Stephanie Miskew** for her hard work, dedication and enthusiasm in promoting *Savor the Moment* and the upcoming 10th Anniversary with her blog "Stephanie Savors the Moment" and for coordinating the cooking demonstration at Bloomingdale's and the spring dinner parties.

With appreciation, The 2009-10 Savor the Moment committee

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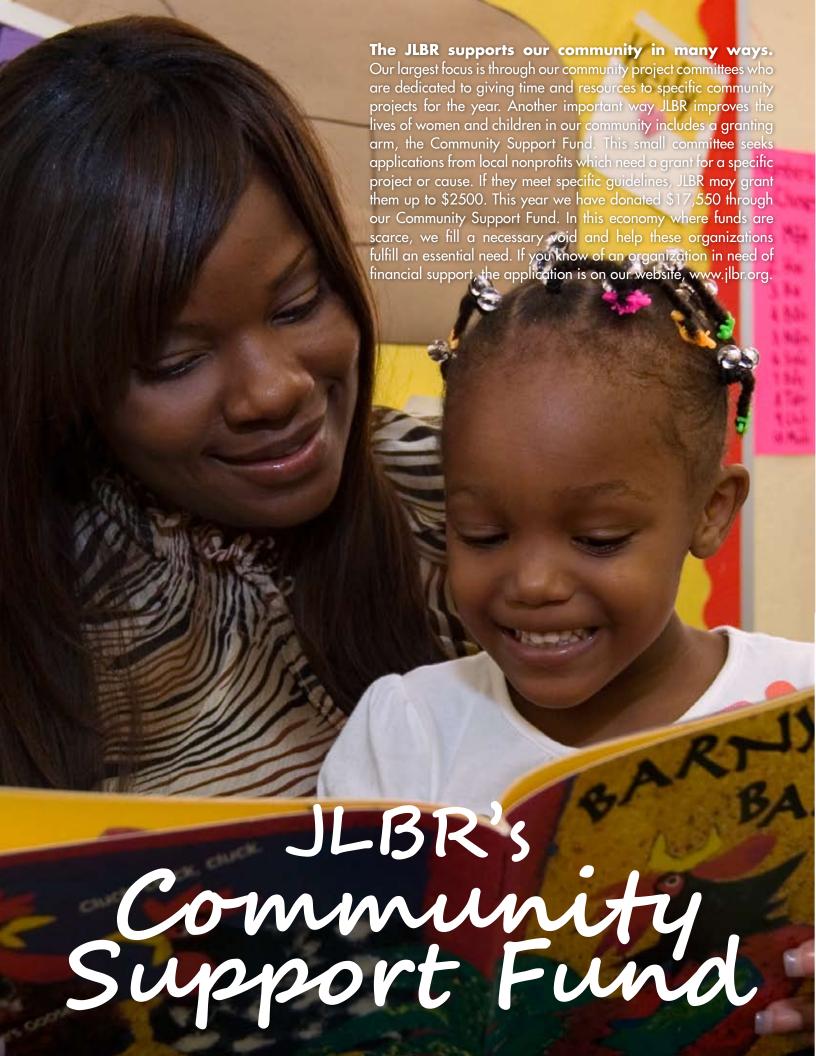
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This year, the JLBR has given a Community Support Fund grant to the following organizations. **Independence Heights** C.R.O.S. Ministries Treasure Box Project, Inc. **Boca Raton Community High School** Soccer Association of Boca Raton **Spanish River High School Youth Orchestra** of Palm Beach County **Angel Flight Southeast Literacy Coalition** of Palm Beach County Arthur R. Marshall Foundation Sunflower Creative Arts, Inc. **Palm Beach County Heart Gallery of FL** Young Singers of the Palm Beaches Women & Wishes, Inc. **Verde Elementary School Boca Helping Hands** YMCA of South Palm Beach County

Horses and the Handicapped











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Mary Kelly President

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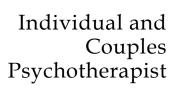


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