



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF WILMINGTON**  
*Women building better communities®*

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2009-2010**





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Dear Friends, Supporters, and Members of the Junior League of Wilmington,**

During the 2009-2010 league year, the dedicated members of the Junior League of Wilmington were able to successfully continue our long-standing legacy of improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers; thereby furthering our mission of promoting voluntarism and developing the potential of women. I am proud to report on our successful year.

Under the leadership of the **Community Programs Council**, the league's membership was gratified to be able to continue our Signature Project partnership with the West End Neighborhood House Life Lines Program for emancipated foster youth. Members continued to organize monthly life skills workshops to provide useful and enriching information to the young people in areas such as financial literacy, voter registration, and self defense. The league was also proud to have completed the restoration and landscaping of two additional row homes that house young people in the program. Restoration included new furniture and décor, small appliances, kitchen amenities and cleaning products. It was our hope to make these houses feel more like "homes." The league was also able to partner with other nonprofits to conduct some smaller scale "done-in-a-day" projects. Some of these partners included: Ronald McDonald House of Delaware, Ministry of Caring and Girls on the Run. A final important council accomplishment was the revival of the Community Advisory Panel, a biannual breakfast that allows us to foster collaboration and information sharing among other nonprofits and to learn about the greatest community needs in Wilmington.

The Junior League of Wilmington would never be able to accomplish our work in the community without the boundless generosity of our donors, members and friends who supported our fundraising efforts. The **Ways and Means Council** was able to report a very successful year of raising revenue as well as studying ways to improve the efficiency of our fundraising efforts. Our 29<sup>th</sup> annual Whale of a Sale in November grossed more than \$35,000 and was able to sponsor a shopping night for residents of the WENH Life Lines Program allowing those individuals to be able to purchase high quality gently used household and children's items at very reasonable prices. Our 7<sup>th</sup> annual Heart of the Home® Kitchen Tour and Preview Party in April were also highly successful, grossing more than \$48,000 through sponsorships, donations and ticket sales. The success of the Kitchen Tour would not be possible without our gracious homeowners, talented kitchen designers, sponsors, and the local restaurants that provided tour-goers with delicious gourmet tastings. Both of our fundraising events enjoyed broad media coverage in television, radio and print. Despite an





# PRESIDENTS MESSAGE CONT.

economy that is still on the rebound, we are happy to report more than \$8,000 in donations to our Annual Fund, demonstrating that the Junior League still commands great loyalty and generosity among our members and supporters. The Ways and Means Council took on an additional challenge in creating a Fund Development Task Force that drafted a detailed plan approved by the membership for scaling back some of the more labor-intensive portions of our fundraising to meet members' needs while also outlining new more efficient strategies for creating revenue. We look forward to seeing the continued progress of this plan.

The **Membership Council** has worked diligently to promote membership in the Junior League as a worthwhile way to acquire valuable organizational and leadership skills, while making friends and making a difference in the community. Thanks to the work of the Recruiting and Provisional Committees, the league was able to welcome 15 hard-working and enthusiastic new members who are committed to our mission. Our Recruiting Committee continues to reach out to interested women in our community for future membership. The Member Advisory Committee (previously Placement) continues to hone its methods for adequately addressing the changing needs and demands on our membership and strives to increase flexibility for our members. Our Nominating Committee continues to use an interview process for selecting members of the Board under our national organization's model "Willingness to Lead and Serve" with high success rates in numbers of applicants for board positions and successful placement of board members. We could not accomplish most of what we do without the continued support of our Sustainer Committee, who continues to provide a board representative, organizes social functions to maintain Sustainer engagement, and gives great insight, advice and hands-on assistance for our fundraisers and community service projects.

Some of the most notable and long-lasting accomplishments of this league year took place under the leadership of the **Communications and Administration Council**. Our Capital Campaign renovations were completed and our wonderful new building was re-opened. Our membership has been making extensive use of the building for meetings and social gatherings. Some notable additions include a new security system and updated phone and internet services. We are also proud to report that the Junior League of Wilmington's extensive archives collection has been donated to the Special Collections section of the University of Delaware Library. This could not have been possible without the labor intensive organization of our archives collections organized by members of the House Committee and performed by archives professionals. The entire archives collection has been surveyed and cataloged and the documents have been



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE Cont.

properly preserved for storage. This collection is now accessible by the public for historical research.

The Communications Committee was very successful this year in achieving media coverage for our events and community service activities several times throughout the year while also increasing our internet presence with a new Facebook page that is being extensively used. In addition, the Technology Task Force began the task of engineering a complete overhaul of our league website, with the expected completion in early 2011. Thanks to this council, the public visibility of the Junior League of Wilmington remains strong.

I cannot express strongly enough our league's gratitude for the enthusiastic support that we continue to receive from our members, community partners, donors, advocates and friends. Without this support, we could not continue to fulfill our mission in the community. We look forward to continuing these partnerships and working together to successfully improve our community.

Thank you!



Tara Agne

Junior League of Wilmington President 2009-2010





# ANNUAL FUND CONTRIBUTORS

We would like to send a heartfelt thanks to the members of the Junior League of Wilmington who generously supported our Annual Fund.

Vonnie Abele	Mary Lyde Esposito	Cindy Love
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