

## JUNIOR LEAGUES OF FLORIDA



*CHANGING FLORIDA  
THROUGH  
VOLUNTEERISM &  
ADVOCACY*

### **Priority #1: Foster Care**

**Preserve the funding of effective programs designed to prepare foster and former foster youth to mature into independent adults who contribute to society in a positive manner.**

*Why?* In 2007, Federal and State funds totaling nearly \$27 Million were allocated for Florida's Transitional Independent Living and Road to Independence programs, both of which are designed to prepare foster and former foster youth to mature into independent adults who contribute to society in a positive manner. These programs continue to fall short of meeting the need as former foster youth struggle more than any other population with underemployment, lack of education, unwanted pregnancy, and incarceration as the following numbers tell:

- One in four will be incarcerated within the first two years after they leave the system
- Over one-fifth will become homeless after age 18
- Only 58% obtain a high school degree at age 19 in contrast to the State graduation rate of 70%
- Less than 3% earn college degrees by age 25
- Approximately 38 percent are employed 12-18 months after leaving foster care
- More than one third suffer emotional disturbances
- Between 40- 60% of young women become pregnant within 12 to 18 months after leaving foster care

*(Connected by 25 Report, 2005  
and Casey Family Programs Report, 2005)*

## **2009 Legislative Priorities**

**Foster Care**

**Booster Seats**

**Girls Advocacy Project (GAP)**



**JUNIOR LEAGUES OF FLORIDA**

### **OUR MISSION**

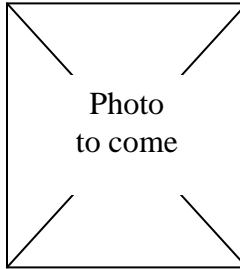
The Junior Leagues are organizations of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving the communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Our purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

### **JUNIOR LEAGUE HISTORY**

Founded in 1901 by Mary Harriman in New York City. The Junior League began with 80 members and a commitment to social activism. Today, the Association of Junior Leagues International is comprised of 292 Junior Leagues throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Great Britain representing more than 171,000 members. The Junior League has been the driving force behind initiatives and institutions that make communities healthier places to live: childhood immunizations, family literacy, women's shelters, children's museums, historic preservation, leadership development and more.

## **Priority #2: Booster Seats**

**Support HB 357  
by Representative  
Steinberg and  
SB 1404 by  
Senator Altman**



**Enact legislation that requires a child aged 4-7 years old to be in an age appropriate child restraint system while riding in a passenger car.**

### ***Why?***

- *Children who are appropriately restrained are 28% less likely to die in motor vehicle crashes (The Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, 2006)*
- *Children using booster seats are 59% less likely to be injured than children using seatbelts alone (Journal of the American Medical Association, 2003)*
- *Children in seatbelts alone are 4 to 5 times more likely to receive head injuries (Pediatrics, 2002)*
- *Children in seatbelts alone are 3 times more likely to sustain abdominal injuries. (Annals of Surgery 2004)*
- *Note: Booster seats can be purchased for \$11 and many organizations give them out free.*

## **Priority #3: Girls' Advocacy Project (GAP)**

**Continue funding the Girls Advocacy Project programs (within the Department of Juvenile Justice budget) in Miami-Dade, Orange and Palm Beach counties of this successful direct intervention service program for girls in Florida's juvenile detention centers.**

### ***Why?***

- *Florida leads the nation in locking up girls*
- *Girls make up the fastest growing segment of Florida's juvenile justice system*
- *Girls are sent to lock-up facilities because local intervention and treatment services are unavailable*
- *Girls require gender specific programming because their needs are different than boys and they are more likely to end up involved with the juvenile justice system as a means to escape abusive home environments.*

JUNIOR LEAGUES OF FLORIDA



## **STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HISTORY**

The Junior Leagues of Florida State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC) has been the advocacy arm for the 24 Junior Leagues throughout Florida for over 30 years. The group monitors the state legislative process and addresses issues of political importance to the members of the Junior Leagues. Each member of SPAC sends delegates to meetings and conferences throughout the year to research and debate issues of the day. There are more than 11,000 Junior League members in Florida.

### **STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

#### *Executive Committee*

Dorothy MacDiarmid, <i>Chair</i>	JL of Boca Raton
Jenay Iurato, <i>Chair-elect</i>	JL of Tampa
Becker Holland	JL of Gainesville
Julia Irvin	JL of South Brevard
Kristin Calder	JL of Boca Raton
Noemi Coltea	JL of the Palm Beaches
Barda Kosovrasti	JL of Orlando
Charlotte Mather	JL of Greater Ft. Lauderdale

JUNIOR LEAGUES OF FLORIDA  
STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
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Dorothy MacDiarmid, Chair  
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### **JUNIOR LEAGUES OF FLORIDA**

Boca Raton	Miami *
Central/North Brevard	Ocala*
Clearwater/ Dunedin	Orlando
Daytona Beach	Palm Beaches
Emerald Coast	Pensacola
Fort Lauderdale	Sarasota
Fort Myers	South Brevard
Gainesville	St. Petersburg
Indian River	Tallahassee
Jacksonville	Tampa
Greater Lakeland	Winter Haven
Manatee County *	Martin County*

*\*Not a voting member of SPAC*