



News Release

Junior Service League Announces Grant Recipients

Feb. 8, 2010

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio – The Springfield Junior Service League awarded more than \$5,500 in late 2009 to six local nonprofit organizations, including Catholic Charities of Southwestern Ohio – Springfield Center, Clark County Literacy Coalition, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Project Woman, Springfield Arts Council and Springfield Peace Center.

Junior Service League gave its largest grant of \$1,500 to **Springfield Arts Council**. Junior Service League will participate as a collection challenge sponsor for the 2010 Summer Arts Festival, which is held annually at the Veterans Park Amphitheater. On a specific night of the festival, the audience will be challenged to match Junior Service League's \$1,500 grant in \$5 bills. All funds are used to supplement the programming costs of more than 30 free performances.

“Junior Service League's grant will help the Springfield Arts Council maintain its policy of free admission for every performance,” said Tamra Mardovin, chairwoman of Junior Service League's community research/grant committee. “We support the Springfield Arts Council's mission of building a better community by sharing the performing arts with all citizens of the greater Clark County region.”

Junior Service League gave the **Clark County Literacy Coalition** a \$1,000 grant to support its Teaching Children to Read (TCR) program, which works with school-age children who read at least two levels below their grade. The program, without any charge to the children or their parents, offers one-on-one reading tutoring through the Stevenson Method curriculum. It also will offer small-group math instruction through the Semple Math curriculum. The program anticipates serving 75 students (ages 6-18) from July 2010 to June 2011. The Clark County Literacy Coalition also has basic literacy programs for adults and an ESOL program for non-English speakers.

Junior Service League awarded another \$1,000 grant to **Interfaith Hospitality Network** to help defray the cost of specific assistance to those seeking shelter, such as bus passes to enable guests to keep appointments, apply for employment and search for housing. The grant also will help Interfaith Hospitality Network's clients with emergency medical expenses and prescriptions not covered by insurance, dental care and eye glasses.

“Interfaith Hospitality Network expects to serve 340 individuals during the next fiscal year,” Mardovin said. “Junior Service League supports Interfaith Hospitality Network in its mission of providing shelter and basic human needs to individuals and families during their time of homelessness and to give them a seed of hope for the future.”

Junior Service League also gave a \$1,000 grant to **Project Woman** to assist with client needs. “Many women need money for transportation, medicine, food, identifications and other needs to find

employment and housing or to provide for themselves and family,” Mardovin said.

Project Woman provides many services to clients that have been afflicted by domestic violence and sexual assault. They receive counseling, victim advocacy, shelter and other services to help them become self sufficient and abuse free.

Catholic Charities of Southwestern Ohio-Springfield Center received \$520 from Junior Service League, which will be used to stock food shelves in the Emergency Food Pantry at Catholic Charities. The grant money will purchase items that are scarce in food donations, such as milk, meat, cereal and “kid-friendly” foods.

“Because donations are down, but the demand is growing with the current economic situation, the pantry has run low on these nutritional foods, making it more difficult for families to put together healthy meals,” Mardovin said.

Catholic Charities provides professional services primarily to the needy and low-income population of the Springfield area. The organization addresses physical needs, such as hunger and housing, and emotional difficulties by offering counseling for all ages.

Junior Service League also gave \$500 to the **Springfield Peace Center** to pay for the cost of the curriculum, art supplies, snacks and books for two classrooms of children who attend Peace Camp. Peace Camp is a free one-week summer program which teaches hands-on conflict management skills to children from age 4-6th grade. The program places an emphasis on a positive environment. It teaches children how to deal with bullies. Peace Camp provides children with peaceful problem solving skills. Role modeling, inclusivity and building self esteem also are addressed in the program.

“Junior Service League supports the Springfield Peace Center in its goal of teaching and promoting peace and conflict resolution through education,” Mardovin said. “We wanted to help the center so that all children who register for Peace Camp can attend for free.”

Junior Service League, a nonprofit women’s organization, supports and enhances the Springfield community through community service projects and fundraisers.

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