



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF WASHINGTON

Women building better communities

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF WASHINGTON TO PROVIDE OVER 425 VOLUNTEERS TO NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

WASHINGTON, DC, September 21, 2009- For the seventh consecutive year, the Junior League of Washington (JLW) will play a significant role at the National Book Festival, providing over 425 member volunteers to staff the event supporting the joy of reading and lifelong literacy. These volunteers will be donating over 1800 hours of community service in one day, all directly impacting the League's focus area of literacy. The 2009 National Book Festival, organized and sponsored by the Library of Congress, will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2009, on the National Mall in Washington, DC, between 7th and 14th streets, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The festival is free and open to the public.

Supporting the National Book Festival is a natural extension of the Junior League of Washington's literacy efforts. In 1999, the JLW established literacy as its focus area and stated, "The Junior League of Washington will strive to lead, coordinate, and support programs in the metropolitan Washington, DC, area that enhance the literacy skills in the community." This year, the Junior League of Washington members will donate over 50,000 hours of service to adult, cultural, and children's literacy causes, working with community organizations such as Bright Beginnings, Community Family Life Services, Doorways for Women and Families, Horton's Kids, and N Street Village.

Additional information about the Junior League of Washington's involvement with the festival is available by visiting <http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/2009/sponsors.html>. According to Dr. Billington, Librarian of Congress, the Festival's "growth to 120,000 people never could have been achieved without the unmatched organizational skills of your wonderful volunteers."

In its 97-year history, the Junior League of Washington has raised more than \$5.2 million for community programs and has been a vibrant force in the lives of women and children in the national capital area. In May 2009, JLW awarded more than \$72,000 in grant funding to literacy focused programs, contests, and scholarship opportunities. In addition to awarding grants, the Junior League of Washington, through its "Books for Bright Futures" program, fosters literacy by donating over 1,000 books annually to community organizations. The Junior League of Washington also has a partnership with the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Library, a branch of the DC Public Library, through which it supports various projects the library offers to encourage reading among the District's children.

Founded in 1912, the Junior League of Washington is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving

communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. For more information, please visit www.jlw.org or contact Haise Borgmann or Sheri O'Connell at media@jlw.org or 202-337-2001, ext. 50.