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How One Citizen from Citizen For 1 Greater New Orleans Won Over Sister City Birmingham

New Orleans, LA (September 8, 2008) – The Junior League of New Orleans is paving the way for governmental reform in sister city Birmingham.

JLNO past president and sustaining member Ruthie Frierson's reform movement reaches all the way to Alabama where she was a guest presenter at Leadership Birmingham 2008 Institute which led to the creation of Together Birmingham.

At the meeting of the Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. this spring in New Orleans, Junior League Birmingham President Shannon Lisenby heard Ruthie Frierson's presentation about Citizen for 1 Greater New Orleans, a grassroots force founded by Frierson that has resulted in the reform and consolidation of both the levee boards in southeast Louisiana and Orleans tax assessor's offices from seven to one before turning its attention to advancing needed reforms in the areas of criminal justice, ethics and education. Mrs. Frierson recalls, "Shannon Lisenby was inspired when she saw the impact of our community voice through our successful efforts of reform. She noticed this power would be equally effective in another community with different but compelling issues."

As Leadership Birmingham bands together to tackle their city's reform, Mrs. Frierson shared her expertise in the areas of governmental reforms that have been accomplished through Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans.

At the close of Mrs. Frierson's presentation in Birmingham, people of all races and backgrounds were inspired to show their solidarity through red t-shirts, reminiscent of Citizen 1's, that said "Together Birmingham!" Leadership Birmingham has since started the reform non-profit Together Birmingham, this month based on Frierson's inspiration.

Frierson finds the positive effect that Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans has had on another southern city exciting and personally rewarding.

Revenue generated from The Junior League of New Orleans fundraisers will go towards the projects and activities JLNO supports with financial resources and volunteer hours in our organization's focus area of children's education. JLNO has established numerous programs for children, and we are currently involved in such programs as Samuel J. Green Charter School, Lafayette Academy Charter School, KidSmART Plate Project, Rebuilding Together, Safe Sitter and SoFAB/Kids in the Kitchen. With a membership of over 2,000 women, we have been involved in over 100 different community projects, contributed more than \$5,000,000 to our community, and donated over 2,000,000 hours of volunteer time. JLNO has been instrumental in creating The Parenting Center at Children's Hospital, The Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans, The Louisiana Nature and Science Center, The Holman Vocational Center, and Teen Court.

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