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**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF NEW ORLEANS AWARDS
COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE FUND GRANTS**

Four area nonprofits to receive combined \$15,838

July 23, 2015, NEW ORLEANS, LA – The Junior League of New Orleans (JLNO) has awarded funding to four nonprofit organizations through its Community Assistance Fund (CAF) grant program. The New Orleans Ballet Association (NOBA), New Orleans Family Justice Center (NOFJC), Dancing Ground and Grace House will receive a combined \$15,838. JLNO has awarded over \$274,000 in CAF grants to organizations in the Metropolitan New Orleans area since 2007.

“JLNO believes that every woman in Metropolitan New Orleans should have the opportunity to live a healthy, happy and successful life,” said JLNO President Shannon Able. “We’re excited to see the increased impact that these organizations will have in our communities by using the CAF grant to advance the wellbeing of women.”

The CAF program provides JLNO with a flexible means to grant money to nonprofit agencies effectively demonstrating a dire need for funding and seeking to advance the wellbeing of women. JLNO has awarded grants to qualifying participants during two cycles each year.

Grant recipients advance the wellbeing of women in one or more of the following ways:

- Enhancing economic opportunities for women and supporting women’s potential to seize those opportunities
- Improving women’s health and wellness, allowing them to enjoy vigorous and happy lives
- Providing needed family support to alleviate the burdens on women caregivers

JLNO strives to make a difference in the community by promoting the potential of women through voluntarism and leadership development. With a membership of over 2,300, JLNO is the 12th largest Junior League in the world.

During the past five years, JLNO has invested more than \$3 million and approximately 225,000 volunteer hours in the Metropolitan New Orleans area.

About the CAF grant award winners:

New Orleans Ballet Association

NOBA advances the dance field by cultivating understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of dance through performance, education, and community service. CAF funding will allow NOBA to expand the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (NORDC)/NOBA Center for Dance Senior Dance Fitness Program which provides five months of classes twice a year for seniors (age 55+) where they stretch, strength train, dance, and work on movement. In addition to improving the seniors' balance, strength, mobility and flexibility, the program allows the seniors to regularly engage with their peers, reducing isolation.

New Orleans Family Justice Center

NOFJC is a partnership of agencies dedicated to ending family violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and stalking through prevention and coordinated response by providing comprehensive client-centered, empowerment services in a single location. NOFJC will use CAF funding to equip their therapeutic play area with toys and supplies expressly tailored to aid in the therapy process. Many children are only able to express their experiences through engaging in play or art therapy, and mothers of these children are often an active part of the therapy process.

Dancing Grounds

Dancing Grounds expands access to high-quality dance education and performance programs by supporting a diverse community New Orleans dance students, teachers, artists and audiences. Founded in 2012, Dancing Grounds has quickly become a hub for dance in New Orleans, growing to serve over 1,000 youth, 1500 adult students and countless audience members. CAF funding will support Dancing Grounds' "Girls in Motion" program which uses dance as a vehicle for improving physical health, improving self-esteem and educating girls on women's health.

Grace House

The mission of Bridge House/Grace House is to provide gender specific treatment to men and women who have become dependent on alcohol or drugs so that they may lead sober and productive lives. Long-term residential services are offered regardless of one's ability to pay. In conjunction with Tulane School of Medicine, the Grace House Women's Clinic opened in 2013 at their Camp Street location. Tulane medical students, under the supervision of Tulane medical faculty, come once a week to that clinic to perform histories, physicals, pelvic exams, pap smears and referrals as needed. Grace House will use their CAF grant to help supply the women's clinic with medical equipment so to give free pap smears, reflex HPV, and STI testing as part of a global treatment to alcohol/drug abuse rehabilitation.

The Junior League of New Orleans is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

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