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

*Five area nonprofits to receive combined \$39,916*

*April 25, 2016, NEW ORLEANS, LA* – The Junior League of New Orleans (JLNO) has awarded grants to five nonprofit organizations through its Community Assistance Fund (CAF) program. The Ellis Marsalis Center for Music, Luke’s House, New Orleans Council on Aging (NOCOA), Ochsner Clinic Foundation and YMCA will receive a combined \$39,916. JLNO has awarded over \$313,000 in CAF grants to organizations in the Metropolitan New Orleans area since 2007.

“JLNO is committed to advancing the wellbeing of women in Metropolitan New Orleans,” said JLNO President Shannon McCloskey Able. “We are excited to enhance the work of these worthy organizations through our CAF grants and look forward to the positive impact they will have on our community.”

The CAF program provides JLNO with a flexible means to grant money to nonprofit agencies effectively demonstrating a need for funding and seeking to advance the wellbeing of women.

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

- Supporting women’s potential to seize economic 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 2,200, JLNO is the 8<sup>th</sup> largest Junior League in the world.

During the past five years, JLNO has invested more than \$2.5 million and approximately 150,000 volunteer hours in the Metropolitan New Orleans area.

### **About the CAF grant award winners:**

Ellis Marsalis Center for Music

The Digital Cultural Career Development Program, located in the Musician’s Village in the Ninth Ward, targets young women ages 13-18 to explore and build skills for careers in music and entertainment-related technology. The program, a six-week paid internship, will prepare ten young women interested in learning video production and audio engineering with additional training in lighting techniques and equipment for careers in music and entertainment-related technology. The grant will be used to purchase cutting edge technology and equipment to help prepare the women for college.

## Luke's House

Opened in the aftermath of Katrina, Luke's House provides medical and mental health care, immunizations, prescription assistance, homeless assistance, and Spanish language translation. A Well-Woman Clinic will be an expansion of the Tuesday and Thursday Clinics currently offered at Luke's House. Women's Wednesdays will focus on gynecological health, breast health, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS and other STDs, family planning, nutritional support and education and routine PAP smears provided by Spanish-speaking physicians and nurses. On average, 10 women will be seen during a two to four hour clinic on the last Wednesday of every month, and the health outreach/education component will occur twice a week at Harmony Oaks Community Center. The grant will be used to provide laboratory test kits to patients, as well as health education and cooking demonstration materials.

## New Orleans Council on Aging

The Savvy Seniors Financial Program is a program designed for women to become better financial planners, to learn how to effectively budget and save for retirement, and to become aware of the many scams that seniors fall victim to on a daily basis. The Savvy Seniors Financial Program is for up to 30 female seniors, ages 60-85, from the Ponchartrain Park Senior Center. Many of these women have spouses and/or are the primary caregivers for their grandchildren, so the knowledge they would gain would have an exponential impact. The grant will be used to purchase The Savvy Seniors Financial Program, for two years, which includes the toolkits, training guides, presentation slides, participant handbooks and evaluations forms. NOCOA was founded in 1975. Its purpose is to protect the rights, promote the wellbeing, and enhance the self-esteem of the elderly.

## Ochsner Clinic Foundation

Some mothers of premature babies have not begun to produce milk yet or are not able to produce enough to meet their baby's needs; others may be undergoing chemotherapy or are HIV positive and may not be able to provide their milk safely. Today, hospitals can order breast milk from human milk banks in other states but there is no human milk bank in Louisiana. The grant will be used to purchase educational materials and one of the two industrial freezers with alarm program needed to open the Mother's Milk Bank of Louisiana at Ochsner Baptist.

## YMCA

The Safe Kids Car Seat Program provides parents with a place to confirm that their children are properly restrained in their car seats. The mission for this program is to reduce injuries and deaths. The YMCA's Safe Kids Car Seat Program is also committed to serving the Hispanic and Immigrant Community to educate and raise awareness because they have the highest statistics of injuries and deaths when it comes to car safety with children. Last year, the program checked 1,650 car seats and gave away 55 car seats. The grant will allow them to purchase new car seats, and offer informational sessions to educate parents on car seat safety.

*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.*