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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF NEW ORLEANS AWARDS COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE FUND GRANTS

Eleven area nonprofits to receive combined \$60,000

May 18, 2017, NEW ORLEANS, LA – The Junior League of New Orleans (JLNO) has awarded funding to eleven nonprofit organizations through its Community Assistance Fund (CAF) grant program. The Albert Schweitzer Foundation, ARISE Schools, Broadmoor Improvement Association, Dancing Grounds, Dress for Success, Electric Girls, Inc., Good Work Network, Gulf States Young Breast Cancer Survivor Network, NAMI New Orleans, Inc., Operation Spark and Success Preparatory Academy will receive a combined \$60,000. JLNO has awarded over \$373,000 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 Maria Pardo Huete. “We are excited to enhance the work of these worthy organizations through our CAF grant and look forward to the positive impact they will have on our local community.”

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:

- Improving economic opportunities for women and supporting women’s potential to seize those opportunities
- Providing needed family support to alleviate the burdens on women caregivers
- Promoting information and resources for women’s health, allowing them to live healthy and happy lives

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 8th 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:

Albert Schweitzer Fellowship/Alivio – New Orleans

Alivio is a psycho-educational program that serves Hispanic adolescents (ages 12-18) who have migrated to the U.S. unaccompanied with their caregivers, who are often women. Alivio is a program that was created by two 2015-2016 Schweitzer Fellows and has been extended and implemented by two current Schweitzer Fellows and Tulane School of Social Work graduate students Ryan Durand and Victoria Vasquez.

ARISE Schools

Arise is receiving funding to support the building of a garden at each of their schools (Mildred Osbourne & Arise Academy). Funding will cover building tools, gardening gloves, gardening tools, building materials, picnic tables, benches, etc., educational materials to be used in garden (e.g., clipboards), and money to support garden events such as literacy nights in the garden and a farmer’s market.

Broadmoor Improvement Association

Broadmoor Improvement Association, in partnership with R.E.A.D (Reading Enrichment and Development) and the Rosa F. Keller Library & Community Center will use funding to provide 60 children (ages 1-3) and their caretakers with weekly early literacy classes in the Broadmoor community

beginning in summer 2017. R.E.A.D was created in 2002 by a seasoned early childhood educator and has served thousands of families in New Orleans. This program has only reached families with the means to afford access. Through weekly workshops using creative play, song, dance, reading, and language exploration, the R.E.A.D program boosts early literacy skills, fosters parent-child interaction, and develops positive social-emotional skills.

Dancing Grounds – Girls in Motion

Girls in Motion (GiM) is a school-based dance program that will improve the physical and mental health of 100 young African-American women during the 2017-2018 school year. GiM uses the participants' passion for dance as an entry point for teaching social-emotional skills, increasing physical activity, and developing greater self-esteem and body positivity. GiM classrooms are safe spaces and collaborative communities where young women can learn from each other, support each other, and find greater meaning in healthful activities. GiM is the female-centered initiative within Dancing Grounds Rising (DGR), the group's in-school dance education program serving 500 students annually at two schools in the Upper Ninth Ward neighborhood: Arise Academy and KIPP Renaissance Early College Academy.

Dress for Success New Orleans

Dress for Success (DFS) will expand its existing computer lab which helps participants obtain gainful employment and learn valuable human resources tools for success. Currently, DFS has only four desktop computers and will purchase additional laptops, printer, wireless mouse, and workstations in the new location to help more women. DFS's overall mission involves guiding women toward self-sufficiency through productive employment by providing a network of support, professional attire, and development tools to help women thrive in work and life. JLNO funding will directly affect the 30 – 40 women that utilize DFS's Career Services Center. However, the funding will indirectly benefit all 300-400 women who are referred to DFS for job-training, clothing/suit fittings, resume building, etc., as these women all be able to use the computers and training in the Career Center.

Electric Girls, Inc.

Electric Girls will use JLNO funding for critical supplies and equipment for Electric Girls 2017 Summer Camps. These camps will serve girls between the ages of 5-14 for one and two-week summer camps between May and August. Electric Girls develops girls in the greater New Orleans area into confident leaders and role models through technology. The Electric Girls 2017 Summer Camps will serve 120 girls in the greater New Orleans area who qualify for free or reduced lunch, based on the federal poverty line as direct beneficiaries, and each of those girls' parents as secondary beneficiaries. The camps will build New Orleans girls' skills in science and math outside of designated school hours.

Goodworks Network

Goodworks Network's Credit Watcher program creates a more inclusive economy by helping individuals overcome barriers to wealth building tools such as good credit scores and other financial tools that lead to wealth creation. The program will target 12-15 minority women ages 30 to 49 in the Greater New Orleans Area with low to moderate household income who have achieved or aspire to business ownership and are currently employed by their personal business enterprises or through traditional employment.

Gulf States Young Breast Cancer Survivor Network's SurviveDAT

The Gulf States Young Breast Cancer Survivor Network's SurviveDAT is a program for young women going through one of the darkest times of their lives. The program focuses on mental, physical, and , financial wellbeing of women. SurviveDAT has operated a digital presence without funding and has garnered nearly 13,000 subscribers/followers. The program will use JLNO funding to restart much needed monthly in person programmatic support group meetings on both the Northshore and in New Orleans.

National Alliance for Mental Illness New Orleans, Inc.

National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) offers support, education, advocacy, and quality psychosocial services to individuals living with mental illness and their loved ones. With support from JLNO, NAMI will offer two women-only versions of its educational programs, NAMI Peer-to-Peer and NAMI Family-to-Family over the next two years. NAMI Peer-to-Peer is a 10-session class for adults living with mental illness who are looking to better understand their condition and journey to recovery. It is facilitated by trained peer mentors who live with mental illness and are now in recovery. NAMI

Family-to-Family is a 12 session evidence-based class for family, significant others, and friends of people living with mental illness. Participants learn self-care techniques and receive a workbook of helpful information. With JLNO funding, women impacted by mental illness in the New Orleans area will benefit from learning problem-solving and coping skills by participating in the programs.

Operation Spark

Operation Spark's mission is to ignite a passion for the creation of computer programming and provide job-readiness training in software development for young adults in Greater New Orleans, particularly those from low-income backgrounds. The High School to High Wages program takes students through several development courses followed by an internship. Graduates are prepared to apply for entry-level software development jobs paying anywhere from \$50,000 - \$75,000 per year. JLNO funding will allow Operation Spark to conduct up to two all female cohorts for their High School to High Wages Summer Program which brings 70+ students from different schools to their campus for a month long workshop. Students can receive academic credits as well as Industry Based Credentials by participating in the program. These female cohorts will be comprised of juniors and seniors in high school who must apply and be interviewed for a spot in the program.

Success Preparatory Academy

Success Prep is a kindergarten to twelfth grade school with a student body that is 95% free or reduced lunch. It combines an extensive college preparatory curriculum with in- and after-school activities that promote leadership and lifelong learning. Sweethearts Girls Mentoring Program is one of these programs. New this year, the program serves 25 girls, grades three through eight, who meet for two hours on Friday after school to work with their mentors on life skills, self esteem, community service, role modeling, and college preparedness. Most of the participants do not get quality time with parents, family members, and friends, which aids in development and character building. Funding will boost the quality of their in school sessions; add a series of excursions; and support an end of the year awards ceremony where families can celebrate all that the group has accomplished over the past year.

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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