

## **JLM unveils 2008-2009 Community Projects**

The Junior League of Memphis recently announced its 2008-2009 Community Projects.

There are 16 projects, three of which are new to JLM. These new projects include the American Red Cross Safety House traveling exhibit, First Works' Education x 2 and MIFA's Urban Art House. The JLM provides both monetary funding and trained volunteers to support these worthy programs.

"Each Community Project helps 'children in need,' which is the JLM's community focus," said incoming 2008-2009 JLM President Nora Capwell. "They will have a positive impact on the city of Memphis."

### **2008-2009 JLM Community Projects:**

- **American Red Cross – Safety House traveling exhibit (\$8,500, 10 volunteers):** Children learn how to prevent emergencies and respond appropriately when a disaster strikes. JLM volunteers will plan and coordinate tour sites, provide programs, and coordinate a day to assemble post-disaster backpacks for children.
- **Baptist Trinity Center for Good Grief – Camp Good Grief (\$15,000, 17 volunteers):** This unique summer camp is for grieving children who have experienced the death of a loved one in the past two years. JLM volunteers help organize supplies and help with activities during camp.
- **Church Health Center – Eat Better, Get Moving (\$7,500, 10 volunteers):** This program helps children and teens develop healthy behaviors for mind, body and spirit. JLM volunteers work with children at the Hope and Healing Center, facilitating curriculum developed by child life educators.
- **Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired – Camp Discovery (\$5,000, 8 volunteers):** This camp is for sight-impaired teens entering grades 7-12. JLM volunteers help teach independent living skills. **Extra Hands (\$500, 25 volunteers):** JLM members support area nonprofits with additional volunteers for special events, fundraisers and projects.
- **First Works – Education x 2 (\$6,000, 12 volunteers):** This project aims to increase reading skills with first- and second-graders. JLM volunteers will work with children by reading to them, assisting with classroom lessons and helping with craft projects related to books being read.
- **Hope House Day Care Center (\$20,000, 20 volunteers):** Founded by the JLM 13 years ago, Hope House is a nonprofit day care center that serves children infected and affected by the HIV/AIDS virus, JLM volunteers help in various ways. Hope House is the only day care of its kind in Tennessee.
- **Kids in the Kitchen (\$2,500, 7 volunteers):** Volunteers with this JLM project coordinate events, help in preparing healthy foods and providing nutrition information for children and their parents. Its goal is to help stop childhood obesity.
- **Memphis Food Bank – Backpack Program (\$13,500, 12 volunteers):** Each week, backpacks are filled by JLM volunteers to be distributed to undernourished schoolchildren so that they and their families will have food for the weekend.

- **Memphis PREP Program (\$10,000, 10 volunteers):** Designed to enrich the lives of academically promising Memphis youth, JLM volunteers plan and implement ACT/SAT preparation programs, other workshops/seminars, and coordinate community projects for the youth.
- **MIFA – Urban Art House (\$7,500, 12 volunteers):** This new program serves about 200 homeless families living in MIFA’s transitional housing. It provides a safe place for children to be creative and have fun. JLM volunteers work with children grades 1-8, help implement curriculum and participate in art projects.
- **Ronald McDonald House – Sights and Sounds of Memphis (\$4,500, 8 volunteers):** JLM members enhance the experiences of families staying at Ronald McDonald House while their children receive medical treatment at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Volunteers provide monthly events at the house and at venues throughout the city.
- **Salvation Army – Smiles Program (\$9,000, 12 volunteers):** JLM members plan and host celebratory events for the residents of Salvation Army’s Renewal Place who are recovering from drug/alcohol addictions.
- **Shelby County Books from Birth (\$15,000, 12 volunteers):** Affiliated with Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, JLM volunteers sign up children ages 0–5 years to receive a book a month free of charge.
- **Tennessee Advocacy and Public Awareness Committee – Internet Predator Awareness Project (\$2,000, 5 volunteers):** With a \$500,000 grant from the Governor, the Junior Leagues of Tennessee created an interactive DVD for grades K-12 to educate children and their parents on how to protect themselves from Internet predators.
- **Willow Oaks Elementary School and Innovative Teaching Grants (\$20,000, 7 volunteers):** Hands-on volunteers provide tutoring and fun events for students. Teaching grants for innovative projects allow Memphis City Schools teachers to provide much needed arts- and technology-based curriculum for their students.