



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
MEMPHIS**

Women building better communities

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**Clovernook and Junior League of Memphis Announce Innovative Summer Camp
for Sight Impaired Children**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired has teamed with the Junior League of Memphis to open Clovernook Camp Discovery, a camp for sight-impaired children entering grades 7-12.

The camp's purpose is to teach independent living skills to the children, through the use of volunteers and staff. The camp will also involve a field trip to the home of Helen Keller, located in Tuscumbia, Ala. The camp is offered for girls June 4-15 and for boys July 9-20.

"Summer camp invokes happy memories, offers life lessons, and builds self-esteem. These are experiences that we believe should be accessible to everyone, including those who 'see differently'. Clovernook is the only agency in West Tennessee that offers this unique experience for middle and high school students," said Edith Gholson, Clovernook Regional Vice President.

Clovernook's Youth Discovery Program is designed to build upon the training students receive in school and provides an opportunity for kids to be surrounded by people their own age who encounter similar challenges. Participants learn to accommodate their special needs through activities in which everyone can participate. All youth programs put an emphasis on having fun while developing adaptive technology, mobility and daily living skills.

"What a privilege it is for the Junior League to be part of such a unique and worthwhile opportunity for the youth of Memphis! We are able to provide the Clovernook Discovery Camp with extra funding and with extra hands from a dedicated team of women, who are willing to

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devote part of their summer to this wonderful project. Our committee looks forward to all that we will gain in working with the skilled professionals at the Clovernook Center and with these special children," said Elizabeth Hawkins, the Junior League's Clovernook Center Discovery Camp Project Chair.

The Junior League has committed \$5,000 and six dedicated volunteers to the program. During camp, Junior League volunteers will assist the children in meal preparation as part of a lesson on independence in the kitchen. The volunteers will also assist with traditional camp activities, such as creating art and music through the Arts Advantage program, sharpening keyboarding and computer skills, Braille instruction, and going on field trips.

About Clovernook Center

Clovernook provides training and employment for persons with significant vision loss, helping them achieve independence by finding and maintaining meaningful employment; using Braille and large type, talking books, and adaptive equipment; embracing new technology at our computer training center; getting around safely in public using guides and public transportation. To help defray the cost of our programs, skilled blind employees manufacture pressboard file folders and biodegradable/compostable paper cups. Clovernook is one of the nation's top three Braille publishing houses, printing Braille copies of magazines, journals and restaurant menus. Clovernook's Low Vision Clinic serves individuals with impaired eyesight that cannot be adequately improved through medical treatment or conventional eyeglasses, but which can be more effective with special optical aids and devices.

About the Junior League of Memphis

The Junior League of Memphis is an organization of over 1600 women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. The Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism. For more than 85 years, the Junior League of Memphis has provided in excess of 4,000,000 volunteer hours and \$5,000,000 to address the critical needs of the Mid-South community. This year, the Junior League of Memphis has committed more than \$250,000 to community projects – the largest one-year gift of the JLM to date. For more information about Junior League call 901.452.2151 or visit www.jlmemphis.org.

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