



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Lauren Price  
Junior League of Memphis Marketing/Public Relations Chair  
Phone: (901) 219.6923  
E-mail: [lauren.mabon@gmail.com](mailto:lauren.mabon@gmail.com)

**Junior League of Memphis Honored as Catalyst for its G.R.O.W. Initiative**

*The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. Recognized the Junior League of Memphis with 2013 JL Award for Vision Honorable Mention*

**Memphis, TN – July 11, 2013** – The Junior League of Memphis (JLM) was honored at the 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI) in Washington, DC, held May 16 – 18. Each year, the conference includes a presentation of awards to individual members and Leagues across four countries (Canada, Mexico, United Kingdom and the United States) for their outstanding program development and implementation, innovation and commitment to civic leadership.

The JLM was the recipient of the Honorable Mention for Vision Award for its three-year-old educational initiative “G.R.O.W.” that addresses research showing that one in five children in the city are born to teenage mothers and that one in four of its pre-school children live in dire poverty. The initiative focuses on improving the Binghampton community through programming in the areas of literacy, education, health and wellness, personal growth and development, and community empowerment. The project has included three-programs with Thursday Night Supper Club, Saturday Special Events and a Pre-school Reading program at neighborhood elementary school, Cornerstone Prep. Additionally, a Pre-school program will be added at Brewster Elementary during the 2013-14 school year.

The JL Award for Vision recognizes a Junior League that demonstrates an outstanding ability to engage in mission-based strategic thinking and planning. The award celebrates Leagues that are able to align their members, activities, projects and communications with their overall goals, purpose and core values.

“It was an incredible privilege to represent the women of the Junior League of Memphis as we received the Honorable Mention Award for Vision for our G.R.O.W. program. The competition for awards at this level is very tough, and we were proud to receive the special recognition. G.R.O.W. is exceptional; it is making a positive impact in many lives in the Binghampton community,” said 2013 – 2014 JLM President Stephanie Simpson.

**About the Junior League of Memphis**

The Junior League of Memphis (JLM) is an organization of 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. As one of the largest volunteer groups in the Mid-South, the JLM is committed to improving the lives of women and children in the Memphis community.

**About The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc.**

Founded in 1901 by New Yorker and social activism pioneer, Mary Harriman, the Junior Leagues are charitable nonprofit organizations of women, developed as civic leaders, creating demonstrable community impact. Today, The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI) is comprised of more than 155,000 women in 293 Junior Leagues throughout Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States. Together, they constitute one of the largest, most effective volunteer organizations in the world.

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