



## JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BATTLE CREEK

*Women building better communities*

### **Mission**

The Junior League of Battle Creek is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of our members and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

### **Vision**

Empowered Women Leading the Way to Community Growth.

### **A Brief History**

The Service League of Battle Creek was organized December 3, 1935. The Junior League of Battle Creek was founded in 1948 and is a member of the Association of Junior League, an international federation of over 296 leagues in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and England.

### **Contributions to the Community**

Community Project Expenditures for JLBC has totaled \$544,300 since 1935. Some efforts, funded in total or in part, include Art Center of Battle Creek, Battle Creek Volunteer Center, Battle Creek Symphony, Binder Park Zoo, Bubbylonian Encounter, S.A.F.E. Place, Family & Children Services, Kimball House Museum, Leila Arboretum, Student Expo, Y Center Building Drive, Visiting Nurse Service, Kids' Fest, Toy Chest lending program at Willard Library and Baby Think-It-Over®. Several thousand hours have been volunteered over the years to make these and other projects successful within the community.

### **Fundraisers**

Our two major fundraisers include the Kids' Fest program ad sales and Mistletoe Madness Auction & Mistletoe Mart, which funds our projects and grants. JLBC also has smaller fundraisers such as toy sales, and donations to the JLBC Endowment Fund. The Junior League Endowment Fund was established in 2000 and is dedicated to improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Donations can be made to the Battle Creek Community Foundation, 34 West Jackson Street, Battle Creek, MI 49017-3505.

### **Projects**

The Junior League of Battle Creek's current focus is children's issues. We develop projects after researching community needs in relation to children's health issues.

### **Kids' Fest**

This is the Junior League's signature project and it's the ninth year the League will coordinate this event in partnership with **Battle Creek Health Systems**. Kids' Fest features many exhibitors who will be providing free information about the physical, social, emotional, spiritual and intellectual health of children, as well as entertainment for the entire family. Over 3500 children with their parents attend this annual event.

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### **Junior League Early Childhood Development Award**

The Junior League Early Childhood Development Award of \$10,000 will be provided in 2004 in partnership with **Starr Commonwealth's Early Childhood Award**. The award recognizes the best Calhoun County programs that make a significant and successful contribution to early childhood development

### **Early Childhood Literacy – Imagination Corner**

The most recent project is the Junior League Early Childhood Literacy project. This three-year project is in collaboration with **Inasmuch House**. The new project will involve working with children at high risk for school failure.

### **The Toy Chest Project**

Junior League recently completed its collaboration with **Willard Public Library** on this toy-lending program for area children. Toy Chest, located at Willard Public Library, provides children (ages 0-5) and their parent's educational and developmental toys, games and puppets, free of charge. Junior League contributed \$16,000 to this project.

### **Baby, Think-It-Over® JLBC**

Junior League recently completed its collaboration with the **American Red Cross of Calhoun & Branch Counties** on its Baby, Think-It-Over® project. The project was designed to loan computer infant simulators ("babies") to qualified staff at local agencies, schools and organizations, for instruction and training. The goal is to teach area youth about the responsibilities associated with teen pregnancy within a controlled setting. JLBC contributed \$16,000 to this project.

The Junior League **Done-In-A Day** committee provides community service, which has included the Kids Café, Relay for Life for the Cure, Special Olympics and the Derek Edwards Bike Jamboree.

### **State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC)**

The Junior League of Battle Creek is united with nine Junior Leagues in Michigan under the Michigan State Council of Junior Leagues (MSC). Each League has one or more representatives that sit on the State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC). SPAC serves as the advocacy arm for these Leagues and chooses a focus every two to three years. The current statewide focus is the effect of environmental toxins on children.

### **Membership**

The Junior League of Battle Creek consists of over 250 active and sustaining members. The Junior League of Battle Creek reaches out to all women (regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity) who demonstrate an interest and commitment to voluntarism.

1. **Eligibility:** A woman must be at least 22 years old. She can be sponsored by a current member or be self-proposed. A candidate for membership must also complete a New Member training course before becoming an Active member. "New Member" classes are offered in the fall and winter.
2. **Time:** Monthly general membership meetings occur the third Tuesday (September – May), in addition to committee meetings, volunteer hours and participation in fund raising efforts.
3. **Cost:** Annual dues are \$90.