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## **COLLEEN WILLOUGHBY RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS MARY HARRIMAN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD**

***Association of Junior Leagues International Recognizes Junior League of Seattle  
Member for Exceptional Volunteer Service to the Seattle Community***

**Willoughby joins illustrious group that includes Sandra Day O'Connor**

SEATTLE, WA – May 4, 2009 – Founder of the Washington Women's Foundation and CityClub, Colleen Willoughby, is a woman committed to making a difference. Not only does she work to create positive change at the community level, but she is also a lifelong volunteer and dedicated Junior League leader. It is her history of leadership with the Junior League of Seattle as well as her many efforts to bring people together to improve communities that have earned her The Association of Junior Leagues International Inc.'s highest honor: the Mary Harriman Community Leadership Award. Willoughby received the award during an 87<sup>th</sup> AJLI Annual Conference in Atlanta. The award was sponsored by Talbots.

"Willoughby has dedicated her entire adult life to putting citizens first and providing strong and compassionate leadership to those in her community," said Betsy Thompson, Talbots Director of Corporate Communications and Community Relations. "Her hard work and giving spirit have set a wonderful example throughout the Seattle area and to fellow volunteers everywhere. We applaud her efforts and congratulate her on receiving this year's Mary Harriman Community Leadership Award."

In 1960, Willoughby joined the Junior League of Seattle and has been an active member ever since. She began with successful committee roles that transformed and complemented existing programs. She later served as Treasurer and President of the Junior League of Seattle from 1974-1975; and in the 1990's she served on the Board for the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI).

"Colleen Willoughby's life work reflects the very spirit of voluntarism exemplified by New Yorker, Mary Harriman, the founder of the very first Junior League," said Debbie Brown Robinson, President of the Association. "Her passionate leadership and commitment to meeting community needs are reflections of the foundation on which The Junior League Movement was built."

Outside of her League involvement, Willoughby is the Founder of the Washington Women's Foundation. She founded the Washington Women's Foundation to create a new fund of major money from women donors and to train donors to become effective philanthropists. She was inspired to develop the organization as women have increased their own earning power over the years. Each member of this foundation contributes \$2300 per year with a 5-year commitment (\$1000 is allocated to the general fund for five large impact grants voted upon by all members, \$1000 is allocated to the member's nonprofit choice, while the remainder underwrites the Foundation's operating expenses and educational programs).

Over the past 13 years, the Foundation has granted nearly \$9 million to over 860 worthy nonprofits, including community groups that work to support five main focus areas: arts and culture, education, environment, health and social services. Grants have been given to organizations as varied as Mothers Against Violence in America, Community for Youth, Northwest Medical Teams, Washington Women's Employment and Education, Team Read, the Pike Place Market Foundation and the Youth Suicide

Prevention Program. In 2008 alone, five grants of \$100,000 each were given to Artist Trust, Friends of the Children, PCC Farmland Trust, First Place (mental health services), and Girl Scouts of Western Washington.

In 1980, Willoughby was one of eight women seeking to contribute to the community's civic dialogue who together formed the CityClub in Seattle. At the time, many civic organizations, such as Rotary International, were open to men only, so the founders of CityClub determined that the new organization would be open to all and would provide a nonpartisan forum for ideas and debate. Since its first presentation in 1981, the organization has sponsored hundreds of speeches, discussions, and debates from local, regional, and national experts and leaders, contributing greatly to civic awareness. A co-sponsor of the annual Jefferson Awards, CityClub is recognized as one of the region's foremost civic and public affairs organizations.

As the 2009 recipient of the Mary Harriman Community Leadership Award, named after the founder of The Junior League Movement, Willoughby joins a long line of Junior League leaders who have received the honor since 1990. Past recipients include the Honorable Glenda E. Hood, Former Florida Secretary of State and Mayor of Orlando; Sandra Day O'Connor, former U.S. Supreme Court Justice; Martha Rivers Ingram, chairman of Ingram Industries, Inc.; and former Missouri State Senator Betty Sims.

"The significant contributions that Colleen Willoughby has made to The Junior League and to her community prove that the legacy of Mary Harriman is alive and well," said Joanne Petitto, President of The Junior League of Seattle. "We are very proud that one of our own is being honored with the highest award given within our Association to an individual member."

#### **ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR LEAGUES INTERNATIONAL**

*Founded in 1901 by New Yorker, Mary Harriman, the Junior Leagues are charitable nonprofit organizations of women committed to voluntarism, developing the potential of its members and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.*

*Today, The Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. (AJLI) is comprised of more than 160,000 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. For more information please visit [www.ajli.org](http://www.ajli.org).*

#### **ABOUT TALBOTS**

*Established in 1947 with a single store in Hingham, Mass., Talbots is the headquarters for grown-up, classic style. The Company's extensive private label assortment offers head-to-toe wardrobe options across four different size ranges, including Misses, Petites, Woman's and Woman's Petites. Talbots currently operates over 1,100 stores throughout the U.S. Canada and the U.K. Online shopping is located at [www.talbots.com](http://www.talbots.com).*

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