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## **JAN LANGBEIN RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS MARY HARRIMAN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD**

### ***Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) Recognizes Junior League of Dallas Member for Exceptional Volunteer Service to the Dallas Community***

BOSTON, MA – April 20, 2007 – Dallas native, Jan Langbein, is more than just an engaging speaker with a unique leadership style. As the Executive Director of Genesis Women's Shelter, Langbein is a leader against domestic violence and a fixture in the Dallas volunteer community. Langbein's impressive contributions and her dedication to the issue of abuse against women and families in the Dallas community have earned her The Association of Junior Leagues International Inc.'s highest honor: the Mary Harriman Community Leadership Award. Langbein received the award during today's 85<sup>th</sup> Annual AJLI Conference at the Boston Marriott Copley Place.

"Jan Langbein's life work reflects the very spirit of voluntarism exemplified by New Yorker, Mary Harriman, the founder of the very first Junior League," said Sandi Kemmish, President of the Association. "Her passionate leadership and commitment to improving her community reflect the foundation on which the Junior League movement was built."

A member of The Junior League of Dallas, Texas for 27 years, Langbein has made significant contributions to her community through extensive work addressing the issue of domestic violence. Through a Junior League placement at Genesis Women's Shelter, Langbein became passionately involved in the shelter's operations, services and outreach, becoming the organization's Executive Director only a few years later. Her work has made a lasting impact on local organizations, where she is a well-known guest speaker and influential mentor. Her innovative thinking has led to many new collaborations and tailor-made services for victims of domestic violence.

Langbein's membership and leadership in The Junior League of Dallas have made a tremendous difference in the League's ability to serve, improve and enrich the lives of those in need. She has worked on various committees including the League's public policy committee and as an advisor for the Community Assistance Fund. Her work also led to the development of the *AJLI Resource Guide for Ending Domestic Violence: Safe Homes, Safe Communities*, which won the 2000 Clarion Award for excellence in communications. What Langbein considers her most exciting contribution to The Junior League has been her many invitations to speak to Provisional classes (first year Junior League members) across the country on "Making a Difference In Your Community."

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Outside of her League work, Langbein's commitment to addressing family violence and her vocal women's advocacy have helped make the an accessible and important issue in the Dallas community. Living her service as both a volunteer and professional, Langbein's experience includes being on the Mayor's Task Force on Domestic Violence, a Board Member and Public Policy Committee Member for the Texas Council on Family Violence and a Board Member for the North Texas Food Bank.

Langbein has received many honors throughout her career, including the Women's Center of Dallas' 2006 Maura Award, the 2004 Women's Advocacy Award and the 2003 Recipient Profile in Leadership Award at Southern Methodist University. She has also been a George Washington Honoree Medal recipient and recipient of the prestigious Liberty Bell Award.

As the 2007 recipient of the Mary Harriman Community Leadership Award, named after the founder of the Junior League movement, Langbein joins a long line of Junior League leaders who have received the honor since 1990. Past recipients include the Honorable 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 Jan Langbein has made to the Junior League and to her community prove that the legacy of Mary Harriman is alive and well," said Lynn McBee, President of The Junior League of Dallas. "We are very proud that one of our own is being honored with the highest award given within our Association to an individual member."

*Jan Langbein was recognized at the Mary Harriman Community Leadership Award Luncheon, which is sponsored by Talbots. This was one of the major events at the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Association of Junior Leagues International Conference attended by over 700 delegates from Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States on April 18-21.*

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

*Founded in 1901 by New Yorker, Mary Harriman, the Junior Leagues are organizations of women committed to voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. The Association of Junior Leagues International is made up of 293 Junior Leagues in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States. Together, they are one of the largest international volunteer organizations for women interested in making a positive impact in their communities. For more information, visit the website [www.ajli.org](http://www.ajli.org).*

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