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**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION CELEBRATES THE POWER OF WOMEN  
VOLUNTEERS IN SAN DIEGO APRIL 30-MAY 3, 2008**

***86<sup>th</sup> Annual Association of Junior Leagues International Conference  
Provides Forum for Women Volunteer Leaders from Four Countries; With Keynote  
Speaker, Academy Award-Winning Actress, Marlee Matlin***

SAN DIEGO, CA – April 25, 2008 – The power of women’s volunteer leadership to thrive in a time of change and the ability to transform local communities through voluntarism will be the focus of the 86th Annual Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. (AJLI) Conference held at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina from April 30-May 3, 2008. More than 800 delegates from Junior Leagues in four countries will gather to share ideas, recognize accomplishments and develop leadership skills – all focused on The Junior League Mission of improving communities through the effective leadership of trained volunteers.

“We are very pleased to host this conference in our community as we celebrate our 80th anniversary,” said Margaret Egler, President of the Junior League of San Diego. “The Junior League of San Diego has helped build a stronger, better San Diego community with the variety of community programs we have started and supported and the thousands of volunteer hours our members provide each year.”

Highlights of this year’s conference include a keynote address by Academy Award-winning actress and avid volunteer, Marlee Matlin. In addition, AJLI will present an estimated \$90,000 in awards to Junior Leagues in recognition for programs focusing on collaboration, volunteer training and community impact. Sponsors who support the Conference and The Junior League Mission include: Anheuser-Busch, Inc.; Talbots; Amish Naturals; Gallo Wines of California including Bridlewood, MacMurray Ranch, Mirassou and Cask & Cream Liqueur; Alexandra Investment Management; Favorite Recipes Press (FRP); Marsh; and Digital Cheetah.

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Other highlights of the Conference are workshops on topics ranging from growing leaders through service to being a civic leader to strategic fund development, as well as exhibits from Junior Leagues and numerous nonprofit organizations.

“For more than one hundred years The Junior League has been a powerful training ground for women leaders who are committed to making their communities better, safer and healthier places to live,” said Sandi Kemmish, 2006-2008 AJLI President. “Providing training and recognizing members’ accomplishments at our Annual Conference lets us further build the integral role women play in strengthening social services, raising awareness of key issues and funding important community initiatives.”

One of the most prestigious awards, the Mary Harriman Community Leadership Award, which is named after the founder of The Junior League Movement, recognizes one Junior League member whose ability to motivate volunteers, overcome challenges and create positive change as an inspiration to women everywhere. Past recipients have included 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. This year’s award will be presented at a luncheon on May 2, underwritten by Talbots.

The 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Association of Junior Leagues International Conference provides a time to spotlight the widespread impact of the network of 293 Junior Leagues’ volunteer efforts. One current example is the ongoing Association-wide initiative, Junior Leagues’ *Kids in the Kitchen*, which addresses the growing issues surrounding childhood obesity and poor nutrition. More than 240 Junior League chapters are conducting local events focusing around National Nutrition Month (March) in the U.S. and Canada. All events are designed to teach children and their families about healthy nutrition and lifestyles and many are part of year-long programs. For more information, visit the *Kids in the Kitchen* website, <http://kidsinthekitchen.ajli.org>.

*First founded in 1901 by New Yorker Mary Harriman, the Junior Leagues are charitable organizations of women committed to promoting 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 four countries. Together, we are one of the largest international volunteer organizations for women interested in making a positive impact in their communities. For more information, visit our website [www.ajli.org](http://www.ajli.org).*

*The Junior League of San Diego’s 1,200 members research and develop community programs in the San Diego County through service projects, collaborations, training and advocacy. Each year its members contribute over 60,000 volunteer hours and raise more than \$100,000 to support outreach programs and community assistance grants. For over 79 years, the Junior League of San Diego has been recognized as a powerful force for change and an organization committed to addressing critical unmet needs in San Diego. In recognition of its outstanding contributions to the San Diego community, the Junior League of San Diego was honored as the 2006 “Philanthropy of the Year” by the Association of Fundraising Professionals.*