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## **THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF HARTFORD DONATES ARCHIVES TO CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

HARTFORD, CT (April 12, 2012) – The Junior League of Hartford, Inc. (JLH) handed its archives over to the Connecticut Historical Society (CHS) on March 26, 2012. Among the donated archives are articles, photos, and other mementos from the varied community projects JLH volunteers championed over the past 90 years of the Junior League of Hartford’s existence.

“The addition of the Junior League of Hartford archives to the Connecticut Historical Society collection will provide researchers a new vantage point in studying the array of social issues addressed by the League in Hartford during the greater part of the Twentieth Century,” said Richard Malley, Head of Research and Collections at the Connecticut Historical Society.



Photo taken by the Connecticut Historical Society. From left to right are Junior League of Hartford Past Presidents Allison Schmitz and Kathleen Schuster, who worked on organizing the League’s archives for donation, and Richard Malley, Head of Research and Collections at the Connecticut Historical Society. JLH Past President Coreen Sunde, not pictured, was also a member of the JLH archives committee.

“We are honored that the Connecticut Historical Society will be preserving and housing our archives in perpetuity,” said Junior League of Hartford President, Wendy Avery. “We wanted to celebrate Women’s History month by honoring the impact the women volunteers of the Junior League of Hartford have made in our community over the past nine decades. We share the Connecticut Historical Society’s belief that ‘improving knowledge of the past enhances understanding of the present and the ability to meet the challenges of the future’ and we are thrilled to know that our members’ work will be preserved, represented and available to everyone in the CHS archives.”

A few of the programs JLH volunteers brought to the Greater Hartford community include the first maternal milk station; an immunization initiative; community health services; Friends of the Family, a resource and referral center for teenage parents; and Family School Connection, a program for at-risk elementary school children and their families to strengthen families, change behavior and reduce the incidence of truancy and child abuse. Currently, JLH’s community impact focus area is the alleviation of hunger in Hartford and the three main JLH programs serving this need are:

- Freshplace – a collaborative project of JLH, Chrysalis Center, and Foodshare that targets the underlying issues of food insecurity by providing members fresh foods and pantry staples while assisting them in working towards a Fresh Start plan that consists of steps towards increased stability and self-sufficiency. Freshplace is part of a research study led by the University of Connecticut’s School of Allied Health.
- The Backpack program – each week provides 25 children at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School backpacks filled with child-friendly, nonperishable, vitamin-fortified foods for the weekend.
- Souper Sustainers – volunteers provide and serve a nutritional meal at the Loaves and Fishes Ministry once a month.

### **Celebrating 90 Years of Service - The Junior League of Hartford**

The Junior League of Hartford, Inc. 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. For 90 years, the League has researched current community needs and developed and implemented targeted community service projects to address those needs. This year, the League celebrates the anniversaries of its programs The Clothes Horse, Souper Sustainers, Links & Laughter, The Backpack Program, and Freshplace. For more information, visit [www.jlhartford.org](http://www.jlhartford.org).

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