



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF HARTFORD TO CLOSE WEST HARTFORD THRIFT STORE

The Clothes Horse, which has supported the projects and programs of the Junior League of Hartford for 70 years, will close its doors in September

WEST HARTFORD, CONN., June 25, 2018 - The Clothes Horse has been a mainstay in the Hartford and West Hartford communities and a symbol of the Junior League of Hartford (JLH) for 70 years. Its accomplishments, successes and service should be celebrated.

Despite its rich history, both the changing economy and retail landscape have taken a toll on the store and has turned our once profitable operation into a deficit for the JLH. After several years of drastically declining revenue, steadily increasing fixed operating costs and growing competition among the resale market, the JLH will begin the process of ceasing operations of The Clothes Horse by early fall.

The thrift shop is no longer a sustainable means of support to the organization's mission to promote voluntarism, develop the potential of women and improve our community through the effective action of trained volunteers. The JLH Board of Directors has spent countless hours, especially over the past five years, trying to identify ways to increase profits and sustainability of the store, but after closing this past fiscal year with the largest deficit yet, the trend continues in a negative direction.

"We recognize the tireless work of the dedicated store staff, without whom the store could have never survived for so many years," said JLH President Whitney Sweeney. "We also thank the entire JLH membership and greater Hartford community for its support the past 70 years, and look forward to working together to further our mission and continue giving back to the community these next 70 years through dynamic volunteer opportunities and fundraising efforts that align with our mission to train volunteers and serve the greater Hartford community."

The Clothes Horse plans to host a series of sales with heavily discounted prices and collaborate with our community partners for customer appreciation days in the coming months, with a plan to close the doors early this fall. For up-to-date information on sales, events and hours, please visit www.JLHartford.org and follow the Junior League of Hartford on social media (Facebook: @JuniorLeagueofHartford and Instagram: @JLHartfordInc).

Please know The Clothes Horse will no longer accept clothing donations as of July 3.

If you or anyone you know is interested in renting the space at 175 Park Road, which the JLH has inhabited for the past 45 years, please don't hesitate to reach out to Rick Liljedahl of Park Oak Associates at rcliljedahl@gmail.com

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Founded in 1921, the Junior League of Hartford is committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. The Junior League of Hartford is a volunteer organization for women interested in making an impact in their community.

The Junior League of Hartford is a member of The Association of Junior Leagues International, an organization of transformational female leaders who set bold goals, open their circles, disrupt convention and change the conversation for the betterment of civil society. Today, there are Leagues across the United States, Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom.

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