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THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF HARTFORD ANNOUNCES 2011 AWARD RECIPIENTS

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT (August 1, 2011) – The Junior League of Hartford is pleased to announce the following recipients of the 2011 President’s Award, Sustainer of the Year Award, Active of the Year Award, and Rising Star Award:

Carleton “Carle” Mowell: Carle Mowell received the 2011 President’s Award. This award was established in 1985 to recognize individuals or organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the programs and philosophies of the Junior League of Hartford. Carle Mowell is no exception. Since joining the Junior League in 1971, she has devoted herself to developing the potential of women, improving the community, and promoting volunteerism. Throughout the years, Ms. Mowell has actively participated in the Junior League’s projects and programs, served as the League’s President from 1994-1996 and served as Chair of the Decorator Show House in 1987. In addition, she has applied her extensive leadership skills to assist other community organizations. She serves on several area boards, including the Board of Directors for the Aurora Foundation for Women and Girls, the American School for the Deaf, and Riverfront Recapture, and volunteers for numerous organizations. Further, for the past 11 years she has mentored a single mother and her children. Carle maintains, “the opportunities and experiences I gained through the Junior League have been the foundation of my career in community service, by providing training, leadership opportunities, and constant attention to the needs of our community.”

Mary Lynn Gorman: Mary Lynn Gorman, recipient of the Sustainer of the Year Award, has served the Junior League with vision, dedication and enthusiasm for the past 40 years. After attending Georgetown University, she joined the Junior League of Cleveland, Ohio, and subsequently transferred to the Junior League of Hartford. She has worked on numerous League committees, including Clothes Horse, Backpack, and has participated on the League’s Board of Directors and Sustainers Council. She is currently extremely active with Freshplace, an innovative food pantry which is a collaborative project of the Chrysalis Center, Foodshare, and The Junior League of Hartford, that aims to tackle the issues of chronic hunger in Hartford. In addition, as Chair of the Junior League of Hartford’s first Decorator Show House in 1979, Mary Lynn is credited with single handedly changing the way the Junior League fundraises. In addition to the Junior League, Mary Lynn has tirelessly devoted herself to the Greater Hartford community. She has served on the Board of the Hartford Symphony, the Children’s Museum Auxilliary, Kingswood-Oxford Parents Council, Big Brothers, Webster Hill PTO, and has worked with the Hartford Whalers.

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Julie Krug: Julie Krug received the Active of the Year Award. Established in 1988, this award honors a member of the Junior League of Hartford for her outstanding contributions to the Junior League and the community. Julie Krug joined the League in 2006, and in a few short years has become one of the League's most enthusiastic and energetic members. She has led the League's fundraising efforts for two of its signature projects, the Decorator Show House and the Golf Outing, which has enabled the League to continue its efforts on behalf of the Hartford community. She also served as Chair of the League's Membership Committee and regularly participates in the League's volunteer activities – such as teaching children how to prepare healthy snacks as part of the Kids In The Kitchen Program, cleaning up Hartford's Frog Hollow neighborhood, and annually captaining a Walk Against Hunger team to raise funds for Freshplace. In addition to working tirelessly on behalf of the Junior League, Ms. Krug serves on the Board of Directors and Chairs the Annual Fund for the Intensive Education Academy, and Chairs the Corporate Sponsorship for Family Fun Day benefiting The Hebrew Health Care Family. Finally, Ms. Krug served as the Junior League's 2011 delegate to Leadership Greater Hartford.

Sonja Jelks: Sonja Jelks is the recipient of the Rising Star Award. Introduced this year, the Rising Star Award recognizes an individual in her first through third year of membership who has demonstrated outstanding leadership skills and civic involvement. Although only a member of the Junior League for two years, Sonja Jelks has become deeply involved in several League projects through her participation in the Provisional Committee. A passionate education advocate, she also serves on the boards of several children and parent organizations in Meriden and oversees First Robotics, a high school program designed to teach innovation, science, and math through hands-on learning and competition.

The Junior League of Hartford is extremely grateful for the outstanding efforts of these exemplary women. Their dedication and enthusiasm has significantly impacted the Greater Hartford community and serves as an inspiration to all volunteers.

About 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. Since 1921, The Junior League of Hartford has been committed to making a difference in the greater Hartford community by assessing and identifying community needs, and then developing either direct programs or collaborations with other organizations and agencies to help meet those needs. The League's current community impact focus is the Alleviation of Hunger in Hartford. For more information on the Junior League of Hartford, its projects, and membership go to www.jlhartford.org.

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