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84th Annual Association of Junior Leagues International Conference Provides Forum for Women Leaders from Four Countries

Salt Lake City, UT – April 12, 2006 – The power of women’s volunteer leadership and its ability to transform local communities will be the focus of the 84th Annual Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. (AJLI) Conference held at the Grand America Hotel from May 3-6, 2006. More than 700 delegates from Junior Leagues in four countries will gather to share ideas, recognize accomplishments and develop their leadership skills in providing significant support for community programs and partnerships.

“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,” Pam J. Newby, 2004-2006 AJLI President, said. “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.”

Highlights of this year’s conference include keynote addresses by Olympic Gold and Silver Medalist Picabo Street and GERALYN WHITE DREYFOUS, executive producer of the Academy Award-winning documentary, *Born into Brothels*, who is executive and creative director of the Salt Lake City Film Center. AJLI will present an estimated \$90,000 in awards to Junior Leagues in recognition for programs focusing on collaboration, volunteer training and community impact. Award sponsors include the Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc., Tab Energy, Favorite Recipes Press (FRP) and Talbots. 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 numerous nonprofit organizations.

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, 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 Friday, May 4, underwritten by Talbots.

“We are very pleased to host this conference on the brink of celebrating our anniversary of 75 years of service to our community. The Junior League of Salt Lake City provides approximately 25,000 volunteer

hours and over \$200,000 locally each year,” Pearl Wright, President of the JL of Salt Lake City, said.

“Women’s voluntarism is a tremendous force in improving communities throughout our four countries,” said President Newby. “The Junior League has more than 170,000 women who spend time every day working to improve the lives of children and families by fostering community partnerships and developing programs that address community needs.”

The 84th 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 a League-wide initiative, **Junior Leagues’ Kids in the Kitchen**, which addresses the growing issues surrounding childhood obesity and poor nutrition. Over 225 Junior Leagues conducted local events during Volunteer Week, April 23-29, to educate children and their families on ways to live healthy lives. The Junior Leagues also launched a website, <http://kidsinthekitchen.ajli.org> that features a virtual recipe collection, quizzes and other resources for children and parents.

Founded in 1901 by New Yorker Mary Harriman, the Junior Leagues are 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.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

To attend one of the keynote speaker sessions or the Mary Harriman Community Leadership Luncheon, contact: Pearl Wright, 801-870-1505, wflpaw@comcast.net