



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SAINT PAUL

Women building better communities®

The Junior League of Saint Paul Wins Prestigious Award Minnesota Council of Non-Profits Awards Local Organization its Top Prize for Non-Profit Excellence

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The Junior League of Saint Paul (JLSP) will be awarded the Non-Profit Award of Excellence from the Minnesota Council of Non-Profits at the Council's annual conference in Duluth on October 5, 2007. This award recognizes the Junior League of Saint Paul for its excellence in non-profit practices throughout the organization based on the fundamental values of quality, responsibility and accountability. The Award of Excellence also includes a monetary award of \$3000 which will be used to support JLSP's community work.

JLSP President Debbie Lee shared her excitement about the recognition. "The Junior League of Saint Paul is proud to be recognized by the Minnesota Council of Non-Profits for our business practices. What's even more amazing is that we have a small budget, we are an all-volunteer organization and clearly we are doing great things! The women of JLSP already knew that, but it is gratifying to be recognized for excellence by our peers."

For ninety years, the Junior League of Saint Paul has built a rich tradition of serving the community. Today, the group's work focus is on preventing abuse and educating women and children in need.

In April, JLSP unveiled its newest community project, **Building Bonds through Reading and Play**. Research shows that a lack of strong bonding between a parent and child can increase the risk of child abuse. This project will educate parents, caregivers,

and other adults on the small actions – reading a book, playing a game, completing a puzzle – that have big returns: a long-lasting, safe and abuse-free relationship that will provide the firm grounding necessary for a child's future success and a stronger Saint Paul.

This important new initiative will help raise awareness and promote programs that create connections between adults and children in multiple ways, beginning by developing the *Library Kids* program to introduce pre-kindergartners to reading, and *Saint Paul Plays!*, a program to bring the developmental value and connection-making power of play to Saint Paul families.

Throughout its history, the Junior League of Saint Paul has worked on projects as varied as helping to found Children's Hospital Association in Saint Paul to creating a public awareness campaign and award-winning video on Shaken Baby Syndrome. Over 190,000 copies of the JLSP produced video, "A Portrait of Promise," have been distributed and it continues to be used nation-wide today.

The Junior League of Saint Paul is an all-woman, all-volunteer organization that has nearly 400 total members. Visit www.jlsp.org to learn more about becoming a member of the Junior League of Saint Paul or for additional information about their community work.

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