

Junior Service League of Beaufort supports community

The Junior Service League of Beaufort is celebrating its fifth anniversary and continues to attract new members. The organization's goal of uniting talented and compassionate women with a desire to give back to the community is echoed in its mission statement:

"The Junior Service League of Beaufort is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism. Membership in the Junior Service League of Beaufort offers an opportunity to build meaningful relationships with others who share a desire to give back to our community. Through the talents of our diverse membership we support and enrich the lives of women, children and families in our community. Together we have a greater impact than we do individually."

JSLB members have worked tirelessly to support many of Beaufort's long-established non-profit organizations. Their dedication to civic service is evidenced through continued volunteer support of United Way of the Lowcountry, Friends of Caroline Hospice, The Boys and Girls Clubs of the Lowcountry, Hope Haven, YMCA of Beaufort County, Lowcountry Blood Alliance, St. Vincent's Food Pantry, AMI Kids, CAPA and CODA. They also collaborate with The Little Red Dog Foundation and Thumbs Up, two organizations that, like JSLB, are only a few years old but have already made a significant impact in the Beaufort community.

Since its inception in September 2005, JSLB has touched the lives of thousands of women and children. Over the past five years JSLB has volunteered over 16,000 hours to local non-profit service organizations; hosted a record-breaking blood drive; organized an inaugural event that raised more than \$100,000 for a local agency; and was nominated for the Chamber of Commerce's Civitas award, which honors those in the community who exemplify the very best qualities of citizenship.

JSLB accomplishments since 2005:

- Raised more than \$100,000 for the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Lowcountry through Beach, Boogie and BBQ, which draws a diverse demographic profile of local residents.
- Raised more than \$12,000 for The Little Red Dog Foundation by hosting an annual 5K health run. These funds were used to purchase 12 custom designed bikes for children with varying disabilities.
- Served thousands of county families through United Way's Operation Holiday Heroes.
- Helped AMI Kids Beaufort rehabilitate young men by assisting with their annual croquet tournament in May and kingfish tournament in August, raising more than \$150,000 collectively.

- Helped raise more than \$200,000 for the Festival of Trees, Friends of Caroline Hospice's annual fundraising event, by chairing various committees such as silent auctions, tree sponsorships and gift and gourmet.
- Helped coordinate Hope Haven's Lilies on the River, an event that brings in more than \$50,000 annually for that organization.
- Organized four blood drives for Lowcountry Blood Alliance, the first of which had the largest number of first-time donors in Beaufort county.
- Donated over 100 meals and food items to Thumbs Up and St. Vincent's Food Pantry.
- Served as docents for Coastal Living and Cottage Living magazines' Holiday House from October to December 2006. JSLB distributed \$19,000 in ticket sales to CODA and CAPA.
- Altogether JSLB members devoted more than 16,000 hours of community service to people and organizations in Beaufort county.

JSLB gives women the opportunity to pursue interests outside their homes and careers. The skills and training they acquire through membership prove beneficial even outside of JSLB. There is also great potential to develop lifelong friendships with like-minded women who share the desire to make a difference in the community. The current membership can attest to the personal fulfillment gained by volunteering and contributing to positive change in the community.

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