



## JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TORONTO

*Women building better communities*

## Media Advisory

For Immediate Release

May 17, 2010

### **The Junior League of Toronto presents \$100,000 cheque to St. Alban's Boys' and Girls' Club.**

*Funding complements programming and volunteer support that the Junior League of Toronto (JLT) provides St. Alban's Boys' and Girls' Club – demonstrating the power of what can happen when the JLT gets behind a cause.*

*Toronto* – The Junior League of Toronto (JLT), a charitable women's organization, will present a \$100,000 cheque to St. Alban's Boys' and Girls' Club on May 19, 2010. The Junior League of Toronto is committed to providing financial and volunteer support to St. Alban's Sistahood and Girls on the Move programs, which are designed to empower marginalized girls, 11-18 years of age, to become healthy, confident, educated, contributing young women. Financial support from the Junior League of Toronto will introduce these programs to two new locations in the Jane & Finch and Weston-Mount Dennis areas of Toronto.

These funds represent part of the proceeds collected through the **Junior League of Toronto's Designer Showhouse™** that took place at the McLean House at Sunnybrook Estates in May 2009.

*Media is invited to attend the event which will include a cheque presentation.*

**WHEN:** *Wednesday, May 19, 2010  
5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.*

**WHERE:** *St. Alban's Boys' and Girls' Club  
843 Palmerston Avenue, Toronto ON  
Youth Room*

**PRESENT:** *Venise Stuart, Junior League of Toronto, President  
Anna Sturino, St. Alban's Boys' and Girls' Club, Program Director  
Dawn Drayton and Valerie Mines, Junior League of Toronto, 2009 Showhouse™ Co-Chairs  
Martha Garriock, Junior League of Toronto, Community Action Director*

Girls who have participated in the JLT Kickstart for Health, Sistahood and Girls on the Move programs will also be available to comment on what the programs have meant to them.

**Background on next page**

## **BACKGROUND:**

### ***The Junior League of Toronto***

- The Junior League of Toronto (JLT) is women's charitable and educational organization that creates and funds community-based projects based on defined needs in the community. It provides all the tools required to make a significant, long lasting impact for the women, children and youth that it serves - funds, innovative programming, and trained volunteers to make it happen.
- Since 1926, the JLT has improved the quality of life for thousands of residents in the GTA by contributing over \$4 million and 40 million volunteer hours to hundreds of community agencies.
- JLT volunteers fulfill the JLT Mission by promoting voluntarism, developing women's potential and improving the community through the effective leadership and action of trained volunteers. As a member of the Association of Junior Leagues International, the JLT is one of 293 Junior Leagues, representing more than 170,000 women.

### ***Junior League Partnership with St. Alban's Boys' and Girls' Club***

- St. Alban's Boys' and Girls' Club is a dedicated to providing a safe, supportive place where children and youth can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships and develop confidence and skills for life.
- In 2007 the JLT partnered with St. Alban's Boy's and Girls' Club, in the implementation of JLT Kickstart for Health— a program designed to enhance self-esteem and health behaviors among marginalized girls aged 11-18, by educating them through workshops and helping them to train for and ultimately complete a 5 or 10km race. Over the last 3 years, 92 girls have successfully participated in the workshops and running program, while 60 JLT volunteers have acted as role models and running buddies for the girls.
- The \$100,000 financial support provided by the JLT will enable expansion of the JLT Kickstart for Health Program as well as the St. Alban's SistaHood and Girls on the Move programs to two new St. Alban's locations in the Jane & Finch and Weston-Mount Dennis areas of Toronto. Through these programs, workshops will be presented on body image, fashion, nutrition, cooking, self-esteem, bullying and conflict resolution, inspiring girls to pursue their dreams, build self-confidence and live life in healthy way.

### ***JLT Showhouse***

- The JLT Showhouse is a fundraising event held every four years, whereby the JLT partners with Toronto's most talented interior designers to renovate, update and stylize a chosen venue in the GTA. Proceeds from the 2009 JLT Showhouse at McLean House at Sunnybrook Estates, will support community action toward improving physical, mental and emotional health and well being of our communities.
- Since 1983 the JLT has transformed eight landmark Toronto homes through their signature JLT Showhouse event, which have generated over \$1.6 million for much needed community projects and JLT programs.
- Other recipients of the proceeds from the 2009 JLT Showhouse include The Women & Babies Program at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

**For more information on the Junior League of Toronto, please visit [www.jlt.org](http://www.jlt.org)**

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**Media Contact:**     *Stephanie Zeoli, 2009-2010 Communications Director  
Junior League of Toronto  
Phone: 416-371-3444  
Email: [stephaniez1@sympatico.ca](mailto:stephaniez1@sympatico.ca)*