



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: KENDALL BARNES  
JUNIOR LEAGUE OF RALEIGH  
(919) 271-4115**

**The Junior League of Raleigh Announces 2009-2010 Legacy Fund Award Recipients**

**RALEIGH, NC (September 9, 2009)** – Three nonprofit agencies in Wake County have been selected as the 2009 recipients of the Legacy Fund Award, The Junior League of Raleigh announced today. Established in 2004, the Legacy Fund recognizes nonprofit agencies in which the League has had significant involvement through financial and volunteer support. The Legacy Fund is supported by a portion of A Shopping SPREE! proceeds.

This year's winners are AventWest Children's Mentoring (AWCM), Interact and Learning Together. Each of these organizations will receive awards of \$5,000 to continue their community programs and projects.

"Learning Together is honored to receive the Junior League of Raleigh's Legacy Fund Award," said Nell G. Barnes, Executive Director of Learning Together. "Since its initial grant in 1975, which enabled us to incorporate as a nonprofit organization, the Junior League of Raleigh has been a valued partner of Learning Together. The League's provision of training opportunities, commitment of League members to serve on our Board, award of emergency grants for failing equipment and community grants for various projects have helped Learning Together continue to serve the youngest and most vulnerable children in our community."

Representatives from each nonprofit agency were honored at The Junior League of Raleigh's September General Membership Meeting on September 8. The agencies will also be recognized in the 2009 SPREE! Program which will be distributed during the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual A Shopping SPREE! October 22-25, 2009.

**AventWest Children's Mentoring (AWCM)**

AventWest Children's Mentoring (AWCM) is an after-school tutoring program for students in grades 1-9 living in the AventWest Community near North Carolina State University who are

academically at-risk or failing. The program was created in 1999 by members of the community who wanted to provide a place for students to go after school to receive help with homework as well as a nutritious meal or healthy snack.

In addition to assistance with academic work, students in the AWCM program enjoy a safe place to play after school and caring adults to give them attention. AWCM helps the students become self-reliant and strengthens their self-confidence by improving their reading, math, language and writing skills to increase their chances of graduating from high school and seeking additional education and training.

The program meets two afternoons a week at two churches in the community. Volunteer tutors provide assistance with homework and basic skills, and snacks and meals are provided by the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina and the Interfaith Food Shuttle as part of the Kids Café program. The Junior League of Raleigh provides bi-monthly activities for elementary students that include art and music activities, guest speakers and field trips. The program serves up to 75 students each year.

For more information about AWCM, including how to volunteer or donate, please go to [www.aventwest.com](http://www.aventwest.com).

### **InterAct**

InterAct is a private, nonprofit United Way agency that provides safety, support and awareness to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. InterAct was formed in the 1980s by the merger of three Wake County agencies: Rape Crisis Center, Women's Aid and Child Abuse Prevention Services. The resulting agency was known as The Family Violence and Prevention Center, Inc., and in 1984 became known as InterAct.

InterAct has recently opened its new headquarters, the Family Safety & Empowerment Center, in Raleigh, which brings together nine other community agencies to provide wrap-around services for victims and survivors of violence and abuse.

The agency provides 24-hour crisis lines, group and individual counseling, bilingual counseling, specialized children's counseling, case management, court and hospital advocacy, professional training and a full curriculum of violence prevention in the Wake County schools.

InterAct also operates Wake County's only confidential residential program for women and children fleeing domestic violence. In fact, InterAct typically shelters more children than adults in its residential shelter program. Often, children have come to InterAct with their mothers who have fled their homes after horrific incidences of abuse. Sometimes, the children and mothers have nothing more than the clothes on their backs.

For more information about InterAct, including how to volunteer or donate, please go to [www.interactofwake.org](http://www.interactofwake.org).

## **Learning Together**

Learning Together's mission is to provide innovative and culturally diverse learning experiences and supports for children with disabilities, children who are typically developing, and their families.

Learning Together believes that human beings need to understand and value the unique abilities and limitations in themselves and others. They also believe no child is too young to start learning those lessons. To that end, Learning Together provides direct services to young children with and without disabilities and their families and offers three programs:

- Inclusive Developmental Day Center/Preschool in downtown Raleigh, serving children 18 months to five years of age. The Developmental Day Center provides services to the child who is typically developing as well as the child at risk for or with disabilities.
- Community Program for children birth to five years old who have, or are at risk for, developmental disabilities. Services are provided in-home, at childcare settings, preschools or in weekly playgroups. The family or care providers are offered support as deemed appropriate by the family.
- Child Mental Health Initiative serving children ages birth to five years who have serious social, emotional, behavioral and/or mental health issues with individual child and family therapy. All services are provided by licensed therapists who may be assisted by interns from area universities, which will build capacity in the community for early child mental health services.

For more information about Learning Together, including how to volunteer or donate, please go to [www.learningtogether.org](http://www.learningtogether.org).

### **About the Junior League of Raleigh, Inc.**

The Junior League of Raleigh promotes volunteerism, develops the potential of women and improves the community through the leadership of more than 1,700 trained volunteers. Since 1930, the women of the League have contributed more than one million volunteer hours and more than \$4.8 million to education, health and other services for the women and children of Raleigh. The League reaches out to women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate a commitment to volunteerism. For more information about the League, please visit [www.jlraleigh.org](http://www.jlraleigh.org).

###