

A League of Their Own

At the heart of every great community are philanthropic organizations that exist to serve unmet needs. These five groups just happen to be founded by women — and what an impact they have had. Their good works are not always recognized so we wanted to shine a light on them and their passion for philanthropy.

PHOTOGRAPHY:
KAREN SMUTZ

HAIR & MAKEUP:
**GARY LAMBERT AND
CHRISTINA HENDRICKSON,
GARY LAMBERT SALON**

LOCATION:
THE ALFOND INN

The Junior League of Greater Orlando



From left to right:
Kirstina Bouwmans,
2010-2011 President;
Laura Pooser,
2003-2004 President;
Andrea Balanzategui,
2012-2014 President;
and Dr. Mimi Hull,
1993-1994 President

The Junior League of Greater Orlando, founded in 1947, had a vision to help out its fellow members of the community and get involved. Sixty-five years later, the JLGO continues to do just that.

JLGO is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. The core focus is childhood health, hunger and poverty.

Signature events include the annual Halloween Hustle 5K race to end childhood hunger, which will be held Thursday, October 24, 2013; and The Spring Soiree, a themed social fundraiser.

JLGO is focused on making a measurable impact in the lives of at-risk children through advocacy and programs. The Healthy, Informed, Playful Kids (HIP Kids) Program works with students from Rock Lake Elementary School in Orlando. The after-school program, which combines nourishment and hands-on teaching, has demonstrated an increase in healthy choices of at-risk children. This not only applies to nutrition and exercise, but also to their behavior and education. Combined with the advocacy work the Public Affairs Committee is undertaking on a state and federal level to increase access to healthy and fresh food for the food insecure, JLGO is striving to create lasting community impact