



For Immediate Release

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**Junior League of DeKalb Proudly Announces 2011-2012 Mini Grant Recipients**  
*Mini Grants to Support Nutrition and Fitness Initiatives in DeKalb County Schools*

DECATUR, Ga. The Junior League of DeKalb County (JLD) supports children in the DeKalb County community through the *Mini Grants for Excellence in Teaching* program which offers DeKalb County public school teachers the opportunity to apply for grants of funds to supplement projects in the classroom.

“We’ve seen that reduction in physical education classes and playground time have impacted the amount of physical activity that our children receive,” said Mindy Pillow, President of Junior League of DeKalb County. “Combined with how more children gravitate toward unhealthy snacking habits, Junior League of DeKalb County has made it our focus to try to provide some education and resources to fight against this national trend.”

This year all of the grant applications were required to align with JLD’s new community impact area of *Improving Nutrition and Combating Obesity in DeKalb County*. Project applications ranged from indoor physical activity plans, healthy cooking projects, gardening initiatives and more. With so many innovative and creative ideas from the teachers serving our county’s students, competition for the funding was strong. The Mini Grants Committee will provide assistance to 11 area schools this year. Recipients are listed below as well as on the DeKalb County Schools website. The Mini Grants Committee honored recipients and the principals from their respective schools at its general membership meeting February 21, 2012.

“By helping DeKalb teachers address these issues in their classrooms, we are arming our children with the knowledge necessary to make healthier choices,” said Krista Paseur, Chair of the Community Development Committee who leads the Mini Grant program for JLD.

The Junior League raises money for *Mini Grants for Excellence in Teaching* program through annual fundraisers as well as community and member donations. The proceeds from this year’s Derby Day, a silent auction to be held May 5, 2012 from 5-9pm at the Mary Gay House on W. Trinity Avenue in Decatur, will support the Mini Grant recipients. The public is invited to attend. Ticket information is available at [www.jldekalb.org](http://www.jldekalb.org).

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**2011-2012 Mini Grant Recipients:**

Laura Bolsen, Oak Grove Elementary for **“Young Heartbeats: A Mission to Move”**

Beth Ann Breit, Avondale Elementary School for **“Jump In 2 Fitness”**

Chanell Mosely Childers, Knollwood Elementary School for **“Moving in Time”**

Nancy Farley, Tucker Middle School for **“Exploring Global Health”**

Ebony Jones, Stone Mill Elementary for **“Let’s Get Healthy Stallions!”**

Simone Kelly and Ellen Jenkins, Livsey School for **“A.L.E.R.T.: Amazing Livsey Elementary Race in Tucker”**

Amy Kilbride, Kingsley Charter School for **“Kids Can Cook Too!”**

Nancy Lorenz and Kristen Drake, Hightower Elementary School for **“Workout While We Work”**

Jaime Punjabi, Henderson Mill Elementary School for **“10000 Steps a Day Toward Healthy Lifestyle”**

Rick Stanley, Clarkston High School for **“Let’s Get Moving”**

Rozalyn Todd and Tiffany Clay, E.L. Bouie Traditional School for **“Kids In Motion: Turn Each Classroom into a Gym!”**

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