



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Anniversary Celebration for One of DeKalb County's Most Historic Homes

Decatur, Ga. – October 1, 2010 – Thirty years ago this month, one of the few remaining antebellum homes in DeKalb County was moved, rebuilt and restored by the Junior League of DeKalb County (JLD). JLD raised \$235,000 to preserve the historic home for the community's use. Today, in addition to serving as a meeting space for community organizations and as a rental space for social events, the basement of the house serves as the League's headquarters.

The Mary Gay House dates from the early 1820's and has a significant history to share. Its namesake, Ms. Mary Ann Harris Gay, is best remembered for authoring *Life in Dixie during the War*, an eyewitness history that Margaret Mitchell used in writing *Gone with the Wind*. Ms. Gay also helped families survive the Civil War and face the challenges of reconstruction. Mary Gay was named a Georgia Woman of Achievement in 1997 for her leadership and service to the Decatur community. A woman of conviction and determination, she helped her neighbors improve their lives and secured funds for many community improvement projects, including the rebuilding of a church for the Baptist congregation in Decatur.

The Junior League and the DeKalb community will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the restoration of the Mary Gay House with a Community Open House on October 17, 2010 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. Information about the event can be found on the League's website, www.jldekalb.org.

The Junior League of DeKalb County, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Past League projects include establishing the Callanwolde Guild, DeKalb Council for the Arts, DeKalb Rape Crisis Center, Mini-Grants for Excellence in Education, A Space of My Own and the International Women's House.

The Junior League of DeKalb County, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.