



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
DEKALB COUNTY**

Women building better communities®

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Junior League of DeKalb County Inducts 2014 New Member Class

DECATUR, GA – June 1, 2014 – The Junior League of DeKalb County (JLD) is pleased to welcome the 21 members of the 2014 new member class to their growing ranks.

JLD inducted the new members on May 20, 2014 at its annual dinner. "This year's provisional class is a phenomenal group of women and the Junior League of DeKalb County is very lucky to have them as active members," said Michele NeSmith, former Membership Development chair. "Aside from their impressive resumes that boasts doctors, lawyers, top administrators and managers in all levels of government, the private sector and in secondary and college education, the new members are also very involved in community service, having served on and volunteered with boards, foundations, PTA's and other charitable organizations."

Commenting about her provisional experience, new member Brandi Patten said, "All of the women in our group have very unique and special gifts to bring to the table and are excited about sharing those gifts. When you have a group of women with the same common goal in mind, it is a pretty powerful thing to watch. I'm proud to be a part of these women."

Patten, along with Alecia Asbury, received the Spirit of the League Award, which is given annually to the member of the provisional class that best

represents her class. "In that there were so many outstanding women in this class, we voted to give this prestigious award to two members who have distinguished themselves by going above and beyond the provisional training requirements" said NeSmith. While surprised at the honor, Asbury "promised to keep the enthusiasm as an active member" of JLD. Asbury said she joined JLD after researching various organizations and found that JLD "trained women to become community leaders so I knew that I wanted to be aligned with the organization."

The provisional class began the year by attending a *Kids in the Kitchen* training session to educate the women on JLD's signature project in its focus area of improving nutrition and combating obesity. The class was also required to attend four provisional training classes and four general membership meetings, complete one community and one finance shift, participate in a class project, and take a tour of DeKalb County.

Keeping with the focus area theme, the provisional class selected the North DeKalb Mall Community Garden as their class project. This garden serves the county's refugee community by providing them with garden plots to grow food and provides funding through selling produce. Class project co-chairs Amy Durrence and Brandi Patten researched and presented the project to the class and coordinated opportunities to work in the garden. Through this project, JLD began an ongoing relationship with the North DeKalb Mall Community Garden by having existing members also work community shifts at the garden.

JLD will host an open house for new prospective members on July 27, 2014 from 3 PM – 5 PM at its headquarters, the Mary Gay House, in Decatur. For more information about becoming a member please visit www.jldekalb.org.

About the Junior League of DeKalb County, Inc.

The Junior League of DeKalb County (JLD) is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. JLD members direct their volunteer efforts to the current community impact focus area, *Improving Nutrition and Combating Obesity in DeKalb County*, through hands-on volunteer activities, as well as collaborative efforts with other community organizations. Additionally, JLD provides a supportive environment for training tomorrow's female

community leaders while enabling our members to forge lasting friendships.

For more information about the Junior League of DeKalb County, visit www.jldekalb.org.

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2014 New Member Class

Alecia Asbury

Heather Bond

Amy Durrence

Meghan Farley

Faye Fields

Erica Flack

Emily Foster

Laura Goldsmith

Kenya Johnson

Kelli Kemp

Shondeana Morris

Brandi Patten

Nina Ray

Kim Salter

Emily Simmons

Amy Stuckey

Michelle Tomlinson-Johnson

Betsy Turner

Brannon Traxler

Becky Vinson

Shawnda Williams