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The Junior League of Oakland-East Bay (JLOEB) is celebrating a 72-year history in 2007 with their efforts helping to improve conditions for vulnerable children and their families throughout Oakland and the East Bay area.

The JLOEB is a member of the Association of Junior Leagues International which is made up of 294 Junior Leagues in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, and Mexico. The non-profit organization is meant to be a training ground for women and to encourage them to be leaders and members of community service agencies and corporate boards.

According to President Diane Stevenson, the League provides a place to meet incredible women, make life-long friends, and learn new skills. “It is difficult to put into words how personally rewarding and fulfilling it is to answer a real community need, enrich the lives of children, and do so as part of a collaboration of smart, engaging, and supportive women.”

President Diane Stevenson—“The Junior League is a very special and unique organization.”

Diane describes the passion and commitment of Junior League women volunteers. “We give of ourselves—time, money, resources, not because it is easy, but because we believe it is vitally important to the health of our community and a deeply held belief that community service is a basic human responsibility.”

According to Diane, the Junior League believes that teaching just one child to read may permanently change the course of that child’s life for the better. The focus of the JLOEB since 2000 has been on projects which emphasize the education of children from kindergarten through the 2nd grade who are economically and/or socially disadvantaged.

An after school program called the **Super Stars Literacy Program** (SSL) has helped more than 200 of the lowest performing K-2 children. Older children as well as adult volunteers serve as tutors and mentors. Parents can also become literacy volunteers, so that the local community can sustain the literacy program after JLOEB is no longer involved.

The JLOEB is currently in the process of transitioning this award-winning literacy program to the community, with the goal of having it become a separate non-profit organization.

The JLOEB also offers a **Done in a Day Committee**, which is designed to tackle short-term community needs of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. JLOEB will provide up to 25 volunteers total, for shifts of three hours, over a period of one day.

There is also **Junior League Kids in the Kitchen**. This League-wide initiative, supported by the American Dietetic Association (ADA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Bon Appetit magazine, addresses the issues of childhood obesity and poor nutrition.

In addition, the JLOEB awards **Community Enrichment Fund (CEF) Grants** in areas where a financial gift is deemed to be more beneficial than traditional volunteer support. CEF grants are funded each year by distributions from the Maridel M. Moulton Sustainability Fund. All qualified non-profit agencies in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties are invited to apply. Submissions will be evaluated and selected by members of the Community Programs Council. To learn more about the JLOEB, please call the League office at 925.284.3740, visit the official website or send an email.