



***NEWS RELEASE from***

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**JUNIOR LEAGUE DONATES BOOKS ON VOLUNTEERISM**

EVANSVILLE, Ind., April 6, 2009 -- The Junior League of Evansville is donating copies of *The Littlest Volunteers* to each public library and second grade classroom in Vanderburgh, Gibson, Warrick, Posey, and Henderson counties, and is sending volunteers into classrooms to read the books with students. JLE, with support from Old National Bank, offers all materials, including activity packets and a teacher guide, as a proposed addition to second grade curriculums. *The Littlest Volunteers*, written by a member of the Junior League of Short Hills, New Jersey, contains activities that will provide students with first-hand experience in community service.

Actress Raven Symone, of The Disney Channel's *That's So Raven*, is featured in the audio version of *The Littlest Volunteers*, which is also included in JLE's donation. "It's very important that kids know about volunteering, and they need to know it's not difficult to do," Symone shared about the book. "I'm a strong believer in public service and I really try to do things that help kids," she added.

Junior League of Evansville President Erika Taylor summarized the natural way the book's message expands upon the League's Mission. "The Junior League of Evansville is committed to promoting volunteerism but we have never had a project specifically targeted towards young children. With this project, we are introducing the value and rewards of volunteering to children in a fun way. Research shows that early hands-on involvement helps establish core values like empathy, generosity and a commitment to community," said Taylor.

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## BOOK DONATION - 2

Supporting Taylor's comments, a number of statistics on the matter were provided in a recent journal article: "The Future of Volunteering: Children under the Age of 14 as Volunteers." The article indicated that volunteering among children ages 5-14 promotes healthy lifestyle choices, enhances social development, teaches life skills, improves the community, and encourages a lifelong service ethic. Other statistics mentioned include:

- 14% of non-volunteer children frequently used alcohol, only 7% who volunteered did.
- 13% of non-volunteers skipped school; only 7% of volunteers did.
- Children volunteers show increased confidence, responsibility, and desire to learn.
- Volunteer opportunities stimulate skills necessary for a productive adulthood, especially among children who may not see these skills modeled in their daily lives. These include task completion, punctuality, reliability, good grooming, and getting along with others.
- Higher probabilities of continuing volunteer activities into adolescence and beyond are realized when children begin volunteering at earlier ages.

For more information on *The Littlest Volunteers*, visit [www.LittlestVolunteers.org](http://www.LittlestVolunteers.org) or [www.juniorleagueofevansville.org](http://www.juniorleagueofevansville.org), or the book is available for purchase at Amazon.com.

The Junior League of Evansville 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. The Junior League of Evansville was founded in 1926 and has since had a major role in funding and developing some of Evansville's most beloved offerings: Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, Reitz Home Preservation Society, Swonder Ice Rink, Hands on Discovery museum (now known as the Koch family Children's Museum of Evansville), Little Lambs, Ark Crisis Prevention Nursery, and most recently, Playville, J.L.E. at St. Mary's and Deaconess Hospitals. For more information, visit [www.juniorleagueofevansville.org](http://www.juniorleagueofevansville.org).

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