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## **Junior League of Hartford Members Honored by Chrysalis Center**

HARTFORD, CT (November 18, 2011) – The Junior League of Hartford, Inc., is proud to announce that two of its members, Mary Lynn Gorman and Susan Redfield, were honored at the Butterfly Bash, the seventh annual fundraiser of Chrysalis Center, Inc., on November 4. Mary Lynn Gorman is a resident of Avon and Susan Redfield is a resident of West Hartford.

Both women are long-time members of The Junior League of Hartford and were honored with the Community Support Award for their volunteer work with Freshplace, a collaborative project between The Junior League of Hartford, Inc., Foodshare, and Chrysalis Center, Inc.

“Susan and Mary Lynn were among the first people to volunteer at Freshplace, helping patrons to select nutritious foods for their families,” said Maryellen Shuckerow, chief development officer at Chrysalis Center. “Susan and Mary Lynn consistently give their time making a difference for people living in poverty in Hartford's Upper Albany neighborhood and mentoring new volunteers as they join the project.”

As volunteers, Mary Lynn and Susan are instrumental in keeping Freshplace shelves stocked and the entire center looking inviting for the members. Both women also work directly with members, shopping with them to choose their food for the week and helping them plan delicious, healthy meals for their families.

Freshplace opened in 2010 and is the first client-choice food pantry of its kind in Connecticut targeting the root causes of hunger. As a client-choice food pantry, members choose their own foods such as they would at a grocery store. Client-choice pantries help to instill dignity and recognize personal and cultural preferences among food pantry participants. All members meet with a project manager to develop a Freshstart Plan to set goals for becoming food secure and have monthly follow-up meetings to monitor their progress. The University of Connecticut's School of Allied Health has also partnered with the collaborating agencies to evaluate the program through a randomized, controlled, participatory research study, and results are promising.

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*Pictured from left to right at the Butterfly Bash, are Junior League of Hartford President Wendy Avery, Community Support Award winners Mary Lynn Gorman and Susan Redfield, and Junior League of Hartford President-Elect Sarah Thrall.*

**Celebrating 90 Years of Service - The Junior League of Hartford**

The Junior League of Hartford, 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. For 90 years, the League has researched current community needs and developed and implemented targeted community service projects to address those needs. This year, the League celebrates the anniversaries of its programs The Clothes Horse, Souper Sustainers, Links & Laughter, The Backpack Program, and Freshplace. The League's current community impact focus is the Alleviation of Hunger in Hartford. For more information, visit [www.jlhartford.org](http://www.jlhartford.org).

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