



## JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ARLINGTON

*Women building better communities*

*Press Release*

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### **CAMP FIRELIGHT GIVES CHILDREN REASON TO SMILE BRIGHTER**

*Junior League of Arlington provides assistance to special camp designed for children infected with HIV or affected by AIDS*

**(ARLINGTON, Texas, September XX, 2007)** – Several members of the Junior League of Arlington recently participated as counselors in the 2007 session of Camp Firelight, a week-long program for children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Held this year at Camp Thurman in Arlington, approximately 80 Tarrant County children (many who live at or below poverty level), received mentorship and guidance from several volunteers of the AIDS Outreach Center.

“Working at Camp Firelight is truly an inspiring opportunity for JLA,” said Paula Kurecka, 2007 Camp Firelight Counselor and JLA member. “Everyday I looked forward to being around these children to give them a chance to be ‘just themselves’ and to build trust with them that led to a long-lasting friendship.”

Established in 1997 by the AIDS Outreach Center, Camp Firelight provides the opportunity to have a fun, structured, stress-free, and stigma-free camp experience. Children take part in summer camp activities such as swimming, fishing, playing games, arts and crafts, as well as, social time with other children who share similar experiences. Funding for this annual program comes from grants and donations from organizations such as the Junior League of Arlington. One of eight community projects for this year, JLA provided both volunteers and \$7,500 for camp rental, transportation, t-shirts and camp supplies.

“Many of the services we offer are geared toward adults affected by HIV/AIDS,” says AIDS Outreach Executive Director Gary Isaacs. “What’s so special about Camp Firelight is that it’s one of our only projects where the primary focus is on youth. Through the funding and volunteers provided by JLA, we are able to give these kids an opportunity to get away from life and have some fun- an experience that otherwise they probably would not have.”



#### *About AIDS Outreach Center*

The AIDS Outreach Center is the leading organization in Tarrant and eight surrounding rural counties, serving men, women and children with HIV and their families, educating the public about HIV prevention and advocating for sound HIV public policy. The 40 member staff, along with hundreds of dedicated volunteers, is responsible for providing a wide range of social services, outreach activities, testing and counseling, prevention education programs and public policy advocacy. For more information, visit [www.aoc.org](http://www.aoc.org)

#### *About Junior League of Arlington*

The Junior League of Arlington (JLA) is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and to improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. Since 1982 the JLA has supported and promoted efforts, programs, services and opportunities for women’s and children’s issues in Arlington, Texas. For more information, visit [www.jlarlington.org](http://www.jlarlington.org).

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