



Lemont Junior Woman's Club
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WOMAN'S CLUB 119th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION PUTS FOCUS ON CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

Lemont, IL – April 23, 2009 - The Crisis Center for South Suburbia is one of the many organizations that the Lemont Junior Woman's Club (L.J.W.C.) donates to, so it was no coincidence that the Club celebrated its Federal Organization's birthday with the Crisis Center in mind.

At the L.J.W.C.'s April General Meeting, committees engaged in a little friendly competition decorating giant cookies to celebrate the General Federation of Women's Clubs' (G.F.W.C.) birthday and its history. On hand to judge the cookie-decorating contest were members from the G.F.W.C. Illinois and Fifth District Boards: Debbie Strahanoski, G.W.F.C. Illinois President; Teresa Sanford, G.F.W.C. IL Director of Junior Clubs; Karen Meyer, G.F.W.C. IL Northern Region VP; Mary Jo Murphy, G.F.W.C. IL 5th District President; and Jeanette Wells, G.F.W.C. Public Relations Chairwoman. Photos of the event and winners will be available to view on the Club's website (www.lemontjuniorwomansclub.org).

The giant cookies decorated during the competition were baked by L.J.W.C. members, gift-wrapped in pizza boxes (donated by Aurelio's Pizza in Lemont) and given to the Crisis Center for South Suburbia, in recognition of G.F.W.C. & G.F.W.C. Illinois' commitments to organizations to prevent domestic and child abuse. April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and readers can learn more about preventing child abuse by visiting www.preventchildabuseillinois.org.

Debra Marillo, Director of Community Relations and Development at the Crisis Center, indicates that witnessing domestic violence in the home makes children victims, too, scarring them emotionally. "When mothers seek refuge with a crisis center (a lot of times there are more children than women, as some have more than one child), the strange environment takes a toll on children's emotional well-being. The homemade gifts given by the Lemont Junior Woman's Club definitely brought smiles and helped brighten the day of the women and children at the Crisis Center for South Suburbia," states Debra.

The Crisis Center for South Suburbia serves the southern and southwestern suburbs, and Chicago for victims of family violence. According to Debra Marillo over 300,000 women report being a victim of abuse every year. The state of Illinois has only 115 beds for those victims, with the Crisis Center for South Suburbia providing 35 of them. Debra also states, "More programs and facilities are needed to accommodate women. There are not many places available that can provide the victims' privacy and safety by protecting their identity and whereabouts. Safety is the number one concern." For more information, call 708-429-SAFE (7233) or visit www.crisisctr.org.

The G.F.W.C. is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. Federation Day commemorates the official birthday of the Federation. On April 24, 1890, members of 63 women's clubs from throughout the United States came together to form the General Federation of Women's Clubs at a ratification convention in New York City. The Lemont Junior Woman's Club was established in 1993 and is a member of the 5th Junior District Federation of Junior Woman's Clubs, as well as, the General Federation of Women's Clubs. To learn more, about the L.J.W.C. or G.F.W.C. visit www.lemontjuniorwomansclub.org.