

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ATLANTA, INC. RECOGNIZED BY PAGE TURNERS MAKES GREAT LEARNERS

Organization honored with 2019 YO Award at Annual Gala

ATLANTA, GA (OCTOBER 13, 2019) Encouraging Atlanta's children to open their imaginations to the joy of reading is just one of the core beliefs The Junior League of Atlanta, Inc. is proud to support. Recently, the civic organization was honored to be selected as a recipient of the 2019 YO Award presented on behalf of Atlanta nonprofit, Page Turners Make Great Learners.

JLA has partnered with Page Turners for four years by sharing the importance of reading in four local schools, impacting more than 1200 students. In addition, JLA has provided more than 1,000 books for students to add to their personal collections. Through the partnership, the organizations have teamed up to host Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebrations and earlier this year, *D.E.A.R. Day* in honor of award-winning author, Beverly Cleary's birthday and in support of the national campaign, *Drop Everything And Read*. With an organizational focus on supporting early childhood education, JLA has continued to impact the lives of Atlanta-area students to open their imaginations to the joy of reading one book and smile at a time.

The YO Award highlights community leaders and organizations who are dedicated to paving new paths to literacy. The acronym, "YO" means "You're Outstanding" and is abbreviated for the founders' friend, Yolanda Strickland. Mrs. Strickland strongly believed in community service and was a dedicated supporter of the organization. Recipients must exemplify are showcasing outstanding civic leadership and helping to raise awareness of the importance of literacy for young children.

"We are honored to receive this prestigious award from Page Turners Makes Great Learners. It is vital that we continue to support their good work to promote early literacy and ignite children's imaginations. We are proud to partner with such a dedicated community partner making a difference each day in the lives of children across Metro Atlanta," said Andrea N. Smith, JLA President.

JLA's work in early childhood education began in 1938 when it was instrumental in establishing the Atlanta Speech School - initially started as a school for deaf or speech impaired children to learn how to read and write. Now it is the nation's leading comprehensive center for language and literacy. Currently, JLA's education initiatives include the Journey to Literacy program where it partners with local libraries to increase early literacy skills through events with both children and parents. Children participating in the program have received more than 3,000 books to foster learning at home. The work to promote early learning has extended in recent years to participating as a sponsor of Georgia Pre-K Week and the Mayor's Summer Reading Club, just to name a few.

The YO Award was presented to The Junior League of Atlanta, Inc. during the *Storybook Evening Gala* on September 12,2019.

#####

About The Junior League of Atlanta, Inc.

Established in 1916, The Junior League of Atlanta, Inc. (JLA) is a nonprofit organization of over 3,000 diverse women committed to making a difference in the lives of women and children. It is committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. For more information on The Junior League of Atlanta, visit www.jlatlanta.org or call 404-261-7799.

Media Contact:
Chaundra Lockett
VP of Marketing and Communications
chaundrajla@gmail.com
228.365.8733