



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
Partner to Provide Free Health & Education Festival for Children
*Free Kindergarten Health Assessments Offered***

Charlotte, NC (July 14, 2010) -The Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. (JLC) and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) have partnered to sponsor **Kids HealthLink** and **Big Shots Saturdays**. This free festival is open to the public and provides free health assessments, including vision, hearing and dental; along with education topics for children in Charlotte and surrounding communities.

Last year more than 500 children received free immunizations through **Big Shots Saturdays**. The **Big Shots Saturdays** and **Kids HealthLink** events stem from the Junior League of Charlotte's Healthy Child Initiative (HCI). Spanish language interpreters will be available. Parents/guardians must bring official immunization records and at least ONE form of I.D.

Big Shots Saturdays will take place on four consecutive Saturdays.

Date: Saturday, August 28, 2010
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Location: Merry Oaks Elementary (3508 Draper Avenue, Charlotte)

Date: Saturday, September 11, 2010
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Location: Mecklenburg County Health Dept. (249 Billingsly Road SE)

Date: Saturday, September 18, 2010
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Location: Mecklenburg County Health Dept. (2845 Beatties Ford Road NW)

Date: Saturday, September 25, 2010
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Location: Merry Oaks Elementary

In addition, the Junior League of Charlotte will host two **Kids HealthLink** events this year during **Big Shots Saturdays** on August 28, 2010 and September 25, 2010.

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Kids HealthLink highlights include:

- Free kindergarten health assessments
- Free vision, hearing and dental screenings
- Free immunizations-Must bring a form of ID and immunization records
- Free entertainment and giveaways

“With our fifth annual Kids HealthLink and 13th year of **Big Shot Saturdays**, the Junior League of Charlotte continues its commitment to providing free and accessible health services for the children of the greater Charlotte community, setting them on a path to a new school year of good health and quality education,” said JLC President Elizabeth Kovacs.

The JLC’s Healthy Child Initiative (HCI) is a multi-year commitment to raising the awareness of children’s health issues, particularly in the areas of mental, dental and physical health in our community. Additional sponsors include Carolina Panthers Charities, Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Earth Fare, Levine Children’s Hospital, Mecklenburg County Health Department and Speedway Children’s Charities.

About the Junior League of Charlotte

The Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. (JLC) is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community. Through its actions and leadership of trained volunteers, the JLC is a leading force in improving the lives of children and its families in the Charlotte community. The JLC annually contributes over \$90,000 to community projects and over 25,000 volunteer hours. Projects that are supported by the JLC include: Junior League of Charlotte Family Resource Center at Levine Children’s Hospital, Kids in Motion, Kids HealthLink, Give Kids a Smile Day, Big Shot Saturdays, Junior League of Charlotte Puppet Theater and more. For additional information on the Junior League of Charlotte, call 704-375-5993 or visit the website www.jlcharlotte.org.

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