



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. Receives Telly Awards for
Touching Mental Health Documentary 'In Our Words'
*Focusing on Mental Health in our Community***

Charlotte, NC (August 10, 2010) - The Junior League of Charlotte (JLC) is pleased to announce that *In Our Words*, a documentary sponsored and produced by the JLC and WTVI has received national and international recognition in the 31st annual Telly Awards competition.

In Our Words was released in September 2009 and addresses issues of youth loss, grief, stress, distress, anxiety, abuse and neglect through the stirring testimonials of five families and commentary by health care providers in a way that identifies long-term solutions while providing hope and inspiration to youth and families facing similar struggles.

Elementary, middle and high school children shared how they handled (1) the loss of a mother due to breast cancer, (2) the loss of a friend in a bus accident, (3) military deployment of a father, (4) the loss of all family income and (5) gross neglect and adoption.

In Our Words has received praise as well from local healthcare professionals. This documentary was shown at the 2010 Mecklenburg County Public Health Forum on April 30, 2010, at the National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day community celebration on May 6, 2010, and on May 20, 2010 at Coulwood Middle School as part of Parent University.

"I have had several opportunities to view and facilitate discussion of the documentary, *In Our Words*. In each case, the honesty and courage of the children and families sharing their lives has deeply impacted the audience," said Libby Safrit MA LPA-HSPA, Executive Director of Teen Health Connection. "I have witnessed tears of empathy and contagious laughter as the movie closes. The honest depiction of the journey through grief and loss leaves the audience inspired by the unspoken words of *In Our Words*... we are resilient and there is hope for all."

In Our Words is a co-production of the Junior League of Charlotte, Inc and WTVI. Our producer is Beverly Penninger of Naka Productions, Inc. Music was composed by Jason Hausman of Hot Sake.

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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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