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**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF WORCESTER OFFERS
NEEDED FUNDING AND SUPPLIES TO SET FOR SUCCESS**

Worcester, MA– September 20, 2011 – The Junior League of Worcester is proud to, once again, announce its support of the Set for Success program. In partnership with the Friendly House and Worcester Public Schools, this program established by City Councilor Kate Toomey works to ensure that those in need attending the city schools have the supplies they need to thrive in the classroom.

As part of the effort, League members donated dozens of backpacks, numerous school supplies, and other personal donations to supplement the efforts. In addition, the group coordinated donation pick-ups throughout the City to ensure that the supplies were delivered to students in need as soon as possible.

Nearly 2,500 Worcester children and teens come into this new school year homeless or in the foster care system. Even beyond that figure, many families find themselves enduring extreme financial hardship. When basic survival is the family focus, school supplies are an unaffordable luxury.

“This initiative has become a critical component in ensuring children's readiness to learn and the grant aligns well with the 2011-2012 focus area of “Self-Sufficiency,” said Junior League of Worcester President Kate Halpin. “We collaborate with many partners in the community like Set for Success and the Worcester Public Schools, to understand the needs of our community and serve in a way that is meaningful and long lasting. Each year, the Junior League of Worcester gives back to the community in both community service time and monetary support. This year, there was an incredible need in the WPS for supporting underprivileged children who did not have the essential tools to start school -which we believe is critical to insuring a child's readiness to learn.”

The Junior League of Worcester has improved the lives of countless women and children in the Worcester Community for over 87 years. With a focus of promoting self-sufficiency, the

mission is to promote volunteerism, develop the potential of women, and improve the Worcester community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

If you would like to join the Junior League in supporting Set for Success, donations will be accepted at a variety of locations throughout the city. More information can be found at the cause website, <http://www.causes.com/causes/516847?m=eb7a7bc2>.