Attending the West Orange Junior Service League's inaugural past presidents luncheon are (front, l. to r

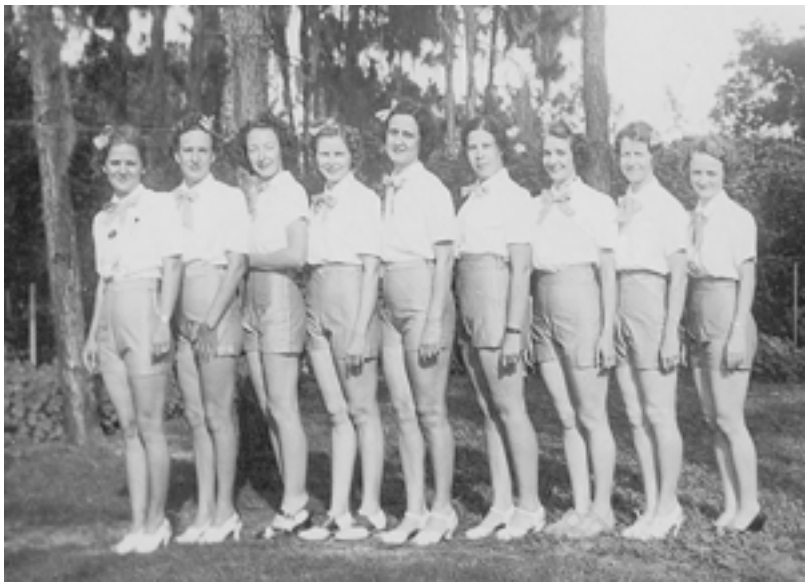
N ever underestimate the power of a woman when she sets

For 75 years, the West Orange Junior Service League has devoted countless volunteer hours and signif

Membership spans all seasons and walks of life, from single women to working professionals to stay-at-

To these women, being part of a service organization is more than just opening up their checkbooks. Ea

Windermere resident and WOJSL immediate past President Cara Hennen has a special place in her hea
“When I started, we would serve about 80 meals on a Friday,” Hennen said. “Over the years, it has incre



Members of the Winter Garden Welfare League, now known as the West Orange Junior Service League

During the past seven years, she has nurtured friendships with the other nonleague volunteers and refer

“Daily Bread is a jewel in our backyard that not many people are aware of,” she said. “A lot of the people

After many years as WOJSL’s Daily Bread liaison, Hennen handed the reigns to Ocoee resident Lynne S

For the past three years, Stephanie Hodges of Gotha has focused on serving Edgewood Children's Ran

"I am passionate about working with young people and hopefully making some sort of impact," Hodges s

WOJSL members organize a variety of activities for ECR residents, such as ice- and roller-skating, bowl

"We try to be as creative as possible," Hodges said. "I think it is fair to say they enjoy getting out and exp

"There have been so many rewarding experiences with the ladies. The league not only provides new exp

Members help each girl celebrate her birthday with a gift and treat. Also, last summer, the girls' bedroom
"We try to do anything we can do to make these young ladies feel special," Hodges said.

Hodges contended that the girls have made just as much of an impact on the league volunteers as the v

"Our mission is simple, to make sure these girls feel important and valued during a transitional time in th

"I joined the league because it seemed like a great opportunity to give back to the community and to cult

It is not unusual to find a contingency of WOJSL volunteers working alongside the Rotary Club of Winter

Donations are also an important part of the league's work. Some of the most recent recipients of financia

Throughout the past seven decades, WOJSL members have executed a number of creative fundraisers

Currently, the league relies primarily on two annual events to raise funds for its projects. Last fall, WOJS

“We added the 5K because we wanted a new way to reach more people,” said Erin Boyd, current WOJS

The third annual Oakland Park 5K is scheduled for Oct. 27 at 7:30 a.m.

The spring fundraiser is when WOJSL hopes to raise enough money to fund its budget. In its third year,

Guests can cheer for their horse of choice as it races toward the finish line during prerecorded races. To

A silent auction featuring numerous items, services and packages from local businesses adds to the app

According to Winter Garden resident Dawn Gilmore, chairwoman of the ways and means committee, the

“We are depending upon the community members and businesses to help us reach our goal this year w

A unique program linked to WOJSL and steeped in Southern tradition is the annual debutante ball. Since

High school juniors and seniors are recommended by members and voted on by the league. Once accep

Keelee Sines Aaron, whose mother, Angie Sines, was an active WOJSL member, completed the debuta

When it was time for Aaron to host a party, she took the girls to Old Town for a Fabian concert, and end

“It was an honor to be chosen as a debutante because it was a unique experience, and it gave me the c

“Being a debutante taught me many important skills that I am able to use in everyday life,” said Alexandr

Though not a fundraiser, the goal of the debutante program is to encourage young girls to become involv

Tomooka, who is a senior at the University of Central Florida and studying event management at Rosen

Many WOJSL members either went through the debutante program as teenagers or their mothers were

The positive impact WOJSL has had and will continue to have in west Orange County is a tribute to the

West Orange Junior Service League members attend the group’s 25th anniversary silver tea, held at Ru

“We receive nearly $70,000 in requests from organizations during the year,” Boyd said. “Last year, we v

For more information about the West Orange League or third annual Run for the F
or visit www.wojsl.com on the Web.

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