

According to the National Center for Children in Poverty, children represent 25% of the total population. However, 41% of all children live in low-income families, meaning families living below the federal poverty level (FPL). This percentage has increased by 12% since 2000 and continues to rise. Poverty is also one of the primary contributing factors of abuse and neglect, which leads to removal of the children from their homes. In the case of children being removed from abusive and/or neglectful homes in many cases the child is unable to bring much with them. Many children leave all of their personal items and toys behind and arrive to foster care with only the clothes they are wearing.



In the Junior League of Martin County (JLMC) service area as of 2006 there were an estimated 14,000 children under the age of 18 living in poverty, with 4,600 of those children under the age of 5.

There are several local agencies serving the needs of these impoverished children and in particular foster children, such as United for Families. These agencies help thousands of children and families every day with clothing, food and shelter. However, donors often overlook the comforts of a warm pair of pajamas, as well as socks, underwear and bras. These small items offer a foster child a semblance of normalcy during a very tumultuous time. While inexpensive for donors, the value of these donations is priceless to children in need. The Junior League of Martin County recognizes small comforts have great meaning for these kids, and we are challenging our community to come to their aid, and have some fun, through the Pajama Jam.

The Pajama Jam Donation Drive will launch on March 1st, 2010 with JLMC members soliciting new children and youth pajamas, underwear, socks and bras of all sizes as well as cash donations to purchase these items for children from 2 years to teenagers. Collection bins will be spread throughout the community and items will be collected by JLMC volunteers.

JLMC members will also be challenged to host Pajama Parties at their homes, inviting others to join us in our commitment to help these children in need. JLMC hosts will request their party attendees to bring an item for donation to the party, or more if they are ambitious!

The official Pajama Jam is scheduled for Friday March 26th, 2010 at Wahoo's on the Waterfront. The theme will be Slumber Party, and local residents are invited to wear their (PG-rated) pajamas out on the town for a night of fun, live music and celebration! A live band (to be selected) will perform at the event. The cover charge will be a \$10 donation (to be used to purchase items for donation) or a donated item, and Wahoo's has generously offered to donate a free drink to participants who contribute. Contributing corporate sponsors, advertisers and area leaders will be present for the distribution of donated items to local agencies and organizations serving our community's children as well as recognition for all of the hard work they do every day. Also JLMC members who go above and beyond to make this project a success will also receive awards for most donated items, most volunteered hours, and more.



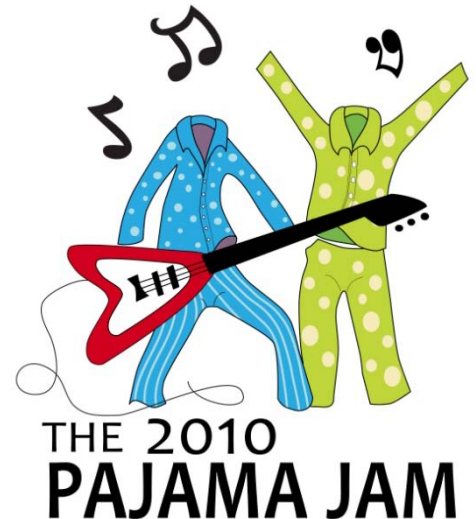
Event attendees will also be eligible to win prizes for their pajama enthusiasm in several categories, including Comfiest PJ's, Coolest Slippers, Best Night Cap and more! Prizes will include bar tab certificates and gift certificates to local sleepwear shops.

We hope to see you at the 2010 Pajama Jam!

The Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. (AJLI) is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

The 2010 Pajama Jam!

- When?** Friday, March 26th, 2010 at 8:00pm
- Where?** Wahoo's on the Waterfront
- What?** A night of fun, music and celebration, all in your comfiest PJ's, to solicit donations of pajamas, socks and underwear for local foster children
- Who?** The Junior League of Martin County will be presenting donations to the following local organizations:
United for Families
Hibiscus Children's Center
Children's Home Society
The 4Cs
And More!
- How Much?** \$10 cover charge or one donated item will get you in. Of course, additional donations are encouraged! Items requested are:
Children's/Youth Pajamas (tops and bottoms)
Children's/Youth Socks (one package)
Children's/Youth Underwear (one package)
Bras of all sizes
Items are for children aged 2 years to teenagers



Wear your favorite PJ's join us for the 2010 Pajama Jam- a night of live music and celebration to benefit foster children in our community! Win prizes for your pajamas in several categories, including Comfiest PJ's, Coolest Slippers, Best Night Cap and more!