



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 27, 2011

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JWI Dedicates Children's Library in Columbus, Ohio Battered Women's Shelter: 37th Library in Pledge of 100

Washington, DC — Jewish Women International (JWI)'s National Library Initiative (NLI), dedicated a **children's library** at **CHOICES, a Columbus area domestic violence shelter on Sunday, June 26th**. The library is the 37th in JWI's initiative to establish 100 children's libraries in homeless and battered women's shelters across the United States. The CHOICES Shelter library dedication in memory of Marguerite (Marge) Turnbull was followed by a community reception at the Ohio State University Hillel.

The CHOICES library was donated by Turnbull's son Bruce and his family as a tribute to Turnbull's deep commitment to volunteerism and her work with disadvantaged girls and their families. The family chose to endow a library in her name in the community where she and her husband, Robert, had lived for close to 50 years.

Marguerite Turnbull worked for over 15 years at the Job Training Program for the State of Ohio, where she retired as Director. She began her career as a social worker at the Columbus Metropolitan Area Community Action Agency. A pioneer for women's rights in her professional and community activities, she was a long-time member of the League of Women Voters, serving for over 20 years in retirement, as volunteer lobbyist and analyst for the Ohio League of Women Voters.

"My mother-in-law believed in JWI's work to empower women and girls," said JWI Board of Trustees Chair Susan Turnbull, "Her long-time advocacy for those who could not advocate for themselves made us realize that a library in her memory at a local shelter would keep her ideals alive. She taught her family and all who knew her how important it was to give to the community. We hope that the children who use the library will realize that one day they, too, may have the opportunity to give back and that books can help provide you with the tool to achieve

"The creation of a unique learning area for the children in the shelter is a very special gift and one for which we are most thankful," said Sharon L. McCloy-Reichard, CHOICES executive director. "This is a wonderful addition to the shelter. A tutoring area that is equipped with library materials will make it more user-friendly and, consequently, an inviting place for the children to learn. We are blessed with this very generous gift from Jewish Women International."

“Access to printed materials is the critical variable in determining a child’s ability to read,” said JWI Executive Director Loribeth Weinstein. “Giving a child the opportunity to crack the binding of a new book and learn to read it on his or her own is about so much more than books. It is about investing in a child’s future.”

Stocked with hundreds of new books and brand new furnishings, each of JWI’s libraries provide a safe place to read, a quiet place to study, and a chance for kids enduring difficult circumstances to continue to learn and grow. More information about JWI’s National Library Initiative, is available at: www.jwi.org/NLI.

CHOICES takes pride in being the premier direct service provider of accredited domestic violence programming in central Ohio. Since 1977, they have provided counseling, shelter, crisis intervention, education, and community and legal support and advocacy to central Ohio residents facing domestic violence. The agency has also been a leader in Ohio and throughout the country. There were no models for domestic violence programs when CHOICES was created; CHOICES now serves as a model. Of the 72 domestic violence agencies that now exist in Ohio, most have looked to CHOICES' foundation and experience when developing their programs.

Jewish Women International (JWI) is the leading Jewish organization empowering women and girls through economic literacy, community training, healthy relationships education, and the proliferation of women’s leadership. Our innovative programs, advocacy and philanthropic initiatives protect the fundamental rights of all girls and women to live in safe homes, thrive in healthy relationships, and realize the full potential of their personal strength. For more information, please visit www.jwi.org or contact us at 800.343.2823.

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