

# Grants are awarded by womens' organization

by MARK GIFFORD

**WILLOUGHBY** - On Wednesday, March 24 Western Reserve Junior Service League (WRJSL) donated more than \$20,000 to non-profit organizations in Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula counties during their first 2010 awards ceremony.

This will bring total donations to date of WRJSL to the community to more than \$950,000.

The awards ceremony was held at The Fine Arts Association, 38660 Mentor Avenue in Willoughby.

WRJSL is a non-profit organization that has been helping Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula county organizations, in leadership, service, and financial support for more than 46 years.

All Hughes is the Community Research co-chair this year and said, "I find this committee and especially the WRJSL so rewarding because of how we help our community."

Pat Cassella is her co-chair. Many committee members of the WRJSL spend hours reviewing grant proposals throughout the year in determining which organizations are to receive funds.

Hughes began the event by welcoming everyone and introduced other WRJSL members in attendance, after which this year's WRJSL President Marlene Castilyn gave opening remarks.

The latest organizations and their representatives in attendance to receive funds were; Kelly Donahue, director of public awareness and Maribeth Curry from the Arthritis Foundation, Tim Kehres, executive director and Carole Niebes, director



**Marlene Castilyn, president of WRJSL recognizes all of the committee member's hard work and dedication for deciding on the current recipients of grants.**



**All Hughes, one of the co-chairs of the WRJSL Community Research Committee, welcomes guests to the grant awards ceremony at FAA in Willoughby.**



PHOTOS BY MARK GIFFORD

Western Reserve Junior Service League awarded financial support to charitable organizations. Accepting the grants are front row, left to right, Kathy Takacs of Rock Creek Area Community Projects Board, Loretta Panzarella of the Rock Creek Community Projects Board, Patricia Freeman of Extended Housing, Linda Weis of FAA, Debbie Monohan of Color Your Corner, and back row, Ed Takacs of Rock Creek Community Projects Board, Rikke Coach of Deepwood, Cindy McKinny of Western Reserve Counseling Service, Sonja Maier of Deepwood, Kelly Donahue of the Arthritis Foundation, Karen McLeod of Extended Housing, Brooke Marlowe of the Western Reserve Counseling Service, Tim Kehres of Big Brothers Big Sisters Northeast Ohio and Halle Chiappone of Color Your Corner.

of after school programs from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Ohio, Debbie Monahan and Halle Chiappone, co-founders of Color Your Corner, Rikke Coach, executive director from Deepwood Foundation, Karen McLeod, executive director and Patricia Freeman, property manager from Extended Housing, Linda Wise, CEO of Fine Arts Association, Loretta Panzarella, Ed and Kathy Takacs and Doris Karger from Rock Creek Area Community Projects Board and Cindy McKinny from Western Reserve Counseling Services, Inc.

Monahan from Big Brothers

Big Sisters accepted their award by saying, "On behalf of all the staff and kids... thank you for your continued support throughout the years. Your contributions have been greatly appreciated."

The Arthritis Foundation received their grant for a new program called Women and Arthritis: Impact, Empowerment, Control - Public Education Forum, which will help to promote more education and awareness to women with arthritis.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Ohio are receiving their grant to purchase laptop computers.

Color Your Corner, which enhances the lives of children facing serious medical challenges, received their grant to help redecorate children's bedrooms.

The Deepwood Foundation received grant money for their Foster a Camper Summer Scholarship Program.

Extended Housing is utilizing their grant for ADA compliant picnic tables and a multi-function tool.

The Fine Arts Association grant will be used for the Autism Music Therapy Scholarship Program.

The Rock Creek Area Community Projects Board provides the community with educational, recreational and supportive services while preserving the historic school house and its memories and is using their grant for a fire suppression system.

The Western Reserve Counseling Services, Inc. offers crisis oriented counseling and extended treatment for children, adolescents, adults and families. They will use their grant money for office computers.

A total of \$24,384.29 was awarded. WRJSL's mission is to promote enrichment of educational, cultural and charitable service organizations of Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties by providing volunteers, financial support and leadership. Applications for grants can be found online at [www.WRJSL.org](http://www.WRJSL.org). Grants are awarded by the organization twice a year.