

Julia Woods and Mary Borowiec awarded 2010 JLS Shirley Wight Keeney Scholarship

This year, 13 applicants applied for the Junior League of Summit's (JLS) Shirley Wight Keeney Scholarships. Keeney was born in 1819 and her recent passing in late April was a significant loss to the League. Keeney was an active volunteer with many organizations in Summit, most significantly with the JLS as President from 1953 to 1955, Executive Secretary from 1965 to 1990 and a loyal Thrift Shop volunteer for almost 60 years. She was much loved and admired by years of League and community members.

In order to qualify for the scholarship, students must live in the JLS service area, rank in the top 1/3 of their academic class and plan to continue their education at an accredited four year or two year college. Two students were selected this year for the JLS award of \$2,500: Julia Woods and Mary Borowiec. The recipients represent what is best about our community and Shirley Wight Keeney – a commitment of service to others.

Julia Woods

Julia is an active member of the Key Club at Summit High School where she has served as treasurer and vice president. She was a founding member of the Summit High School chapter of Operation Smile and Invisible Children. She is the yearbook editor, head of the hair and makeup crew for the school drama club, and cross country team captain. She has volunteered in the Bridges Program, the Red Cross and worked on various projects including a cookie drive for service people in Summit, Pennies-for-Patients, peer tutoring, mentoring for autistic children, and Toys for Tots. As her counselor put it, "If there has been a cause for good on campus, Julia has been there both as leader and contributor."

Mary Borowiec

Mary has taught religion at St. Teresa's for the past four years and has been a tutor with the Elizabeth Port Tutoring program. Through the Bridges Outreach Program, Mary has spent one Saturday per month at the Newark YMCA where she serves lunch to families in the shelter and plans crafts for the children. She has also volunteered with the Association of Retarded Citizens and the Stepping Stone Camp. Julia is a senior representative on the Campus Ministry at the Oak Knoll School. She is the editor in chief of the yearbook and the layout editor of the Spanish newsletter. She was named a National Merit Letter of Commendation recipient and designated an AP Scholar with honor by the College Board. She was the recipient of the Williams College Book Award and the Aquila Award for Outstanding Achievement and Leadership. In her application she summarizes her volunteer experience by saying that she has learned, "the people we serve and help can teach us just as much as we can teach them if we open our hearts and minds to a new experience."

Photo: From left to right: JLS Scholarship recipient Julia Woods, JLS Community Assistance Chair Lorraine Teisch and JLS Scholarship recipient Mary Borowiec.

