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NEWS RELEASE

**Litchfield Aid Holds Annual Meeting and Celebrates 100 Years of Service
to Junior Republic by Making Major Gift**

The Litchfield Aid of CJR held its annual meeting at the Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR) on October 5. President Bibby Veerman presented checks totaling more than \$56,000 to CJR Executive Director John F. Boyd, representing proceeds from the Aid's 64th Annual Open House Day Tour, as well as funds from the Aid's endowment and contributions from members.

Approximately \$52,000 of this contribution will be used to make important improvements to CJR's programs and facilities. Projects to be funded in 2011-12 through the Aid's generous gift include a youth employment program, a mandatory driver's education drug and alcohol program and holiday gifts for students enrolled in CJR's Litchfield residential program; summer camperships for boys residing at CJR's Winchester Group Home and dress clothing for job interviews for students living at the Junior Republic's East Hartford Group Home; furnishings, computers, recreational and cultural field trips and holiday gifts for boys and girls at CJR's new Family Support Centers in Meriden and New Britain; and a culinary arts program and holiday gifts for boys and girls associated with CJR's Danbury Program. The Aid's contribution will also support a culinary arts program on CJR's Litchfield campus for boys and girls associated with its Torrington Program, and a gender-specific program to help girls from CJR's Torrington Program develop a positive self image. Through the Aid's support CJR will also be able to purchase new lobby furniture for its Waterbury Program and a new stove for its girls' residential program, as well as holiday gifts and food baskets for needy families served by its Waterbury programs.

An additional gift of approximately \$4,120 was donated for CJR's Alumni Scholarship Fund, which helps former students obtain a college or technical school education after graduating from high school. \$200 was also contributed to purchase books for the library in CJR's Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center.

Officers for 2011-2012 were announced: Barbara "Bibby" Veerman, President; Kim D'Andrea, First Vice President; Ruthann Olsson, Second Vice President; Julith Sink, Recording Secretary; Martha Green, Corresponding Secretary; Patricia Lee, Treasurer; and Carol Bramley, Assistant Treasurer. Marie Wallace and Barbara White are Members-at-Large. Ruthann Olsson resides in Norfolk; all of the Litchfield Aid's other officers reside in Litchfield.

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Saturday, July 14 was announced as the date for the 2012 Open House Day Tour of Litchfield, with the Preview Tour and Party scheduled for Friday, July 13.

Mr. Boyd extended gratitude to Mrs. Veerman and the members of the Aid for their efforts on behalf of the Junior Republic. “The Litchfield Aid and its members continue to be the most stalwart friends to our organization,” stated Mr. Boyd. “This year marks 100 years of service to CJR and the boys and girls we serve,” he said, referring to the exceptional way the Aid and its members have supported CJR, both financially and as advocates in the community, since 1911.

“The Litchfield Aid’s many important contributions over the past 100 years have been invaluable to the Junior Republic, and we are very grateful for this special commitment to CJR and the boys and girls we serve,” he noted. Mr. Boyd indicated that funds donated by the Litchfield Aid make a vital difference to CJR’s work with young people from communities throughout Connecticut and that the Aid’s activities inspire the involvement of others in the community.

“The role that Aid members fulfill as goodwill ambassadors in the community has never been more important to CJR than it is today,” stated CJR President Anne J. Fitzgerald. According to Mrs. Fitzgerald, many of the Junior Republic’s most committed friends and supporters have been introduced to the organization through their participation in the Litchfield Annual House Tour. Mr. Boyd and Mrs. Fitzgerald expressed particular gratitude to Mrs. Veerman for her leadership over the past year as President of the Aid.

A voluntary organization comprised of approximately 150 active members, the Litchfield Aid was established in 1911, just seven years after the founding of the Connecticut Junior Republic, for the sole purpose of supporting CJR programs and facilities. Since that time, the Aid has raised millions of dollars to benefit the Connecticut Junior Republic and the children and families served by the organization.

Every year, members of the Aid approach homeowners in the area to participate in the Annual Open House Day Tour of Litchfield. Five houses are selected based on historic, architectural, or other notable characteristics, including location. A Preview Party is held at a sixth site, creating a festive beginning for House Tour weekend.

A digital photo of Litchfield Aid President, Bibby Veerman (left), presenting the Litchfield Aid’s 2011 contribution to CJR Executive Director John Boyd and CJR President Anne Fitzgerald (right) is attached.

Founded in 1904, the Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR) provides care, treatment, education and family support for at-risk, special needs and troubled young people so they can become productive and fulfilled members of their homes, schools and communities. Today, the organization’s combined programs serve more than 1,000 boys and girls annually in ten locations throughout Connecticut.

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The Junior Republic conducts a residential program for court-referred young men on its Litchfield campus. Special, vocational and alternative education programs are provided for boys from communities throughout Connecticut in this location through CJR's Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center. Transition and related services are also provided.

CJR also provides residential care for boys at its group homes in East Hartford and Winchester and short-term, residential crisis intervention for girls at its Center for Assessment, Respite and Enrichment (CARE) in Waterbury. A broad spectrum of prevention, early intervention, family support, and intensive home-based services, and aftercare, are provided for boys and girls through CJR's offices in Danbury, East Hartford, Meriden, New Britain, Torrington and Waterbury (two sites).

A private charitable organization, the Connecticut Junior Republic is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). CJR is supported by gifts from individuals, businesses and organizations, and through service contracts funded by the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) of the Connecticut Judicial Branch, the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS), and by Connecticut's public schools. For further information, please contact Hedy Barton, Director of Development and Public Relations (860) 567-9423, extension 252; or by email: hbarton@cjryouth.org.