

News Release  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Walk 4 Life raises money for Mesa County women**

GRAND JUNCTION -- The Junior Service League of Grand Junction will have the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Walk 4 Life fundraiser 8 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, at the Botanical Gardens. Money raised will provide mammograms for underinsured or low-income women in Mesa County.

“This year 211,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 43,300 will die,” says Janice Burtis, event co-chair. “Early detection is so important. The earlier treatment can be started, the better the chances for survival.”

Closer to home, 5,600 women in Colorado have been diagnosed with breast cancer and 900 of those will die this year. In Mesa County, 40 women will die of breast cancer. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. The Walk 4 Life event is meant to raise awareness about breast cancer detection and raise funds to help provide mammograms for women who need them.

What was once thought to be an illness which affected women, more and more men are being diagnosed with breast cancer each year. Breast cancer in women has increased by 52 percent from 1973 to 1998, and by 26 percent in men during the same period. This year 1,600 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 400 will die.

“We are trying to increase the presence of men at the event,” Burtis says. “Not only so they can support women in their battle against breast cancer, but also to raise awareness that breast cancer can strike in men as well.”

Pre-registration for Walk 4 Life ends Sept. 30. Costs are \$25 for individuals, \$20 per person for teams five to 10, and \$15 per person for teams of 11 or more. To register for Walk 4 Life, visit [www.jslgj.com](http://www.jslgj.com) or call 255-1814.

Junior Service League of Grand Junction is a service organization of women committed to working together to improve the community through effective volunteerism and fundraising.

JSL Members raise funds through community events, which are donated back into our local community through grants awarded annually. JSL has awarded more than \$600,00 in grants and during the past seven years has provided more 10,000 hours of community service.

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