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**Generational Keynote to give “Pearls of Wisdom” to 35 Young Ladies**

Jacksonville, FL— Empowerment Resources, Inc. will celebrate the accomplishments of the young ladies in the Journey Into Womanhood (JIW) Program. Staff and volunteers will also award scholarships to two local high school seniors at the Seventh Annual Journey Into Womanhood Celebration and Scholarship Banquet. The event will take place on Saturday, June 4, 2011 at 1 p.m., at the Deerwood Country Club, 10239 Golf Club Drive. Tickets are \$40 each.

The theme of this year’s banquet is *Pearls of Wisdom* and will feature talent performances such as poetry and skits by JIW Honorees, a delicious meal, inspiring generational keynote speakers and recognition of our two JIW graduates.

Journey Into Womanhood is a rites of passage program for girls ages 9-17, that focuses on their healthy transition from girl to young woman. It is facilitated by a dedicated team of experienced leaders and volunteers who help participants cultivate their self-awareness, develop leadership skills and put them on the path to positively impact the communities in which they live. Throughout the program year, participants engage in enrichment field trips, interactive workshops and community service projects.

The keynote address will include three women in their 30’s, 60’s and 90’s representing three different generations sharing with a fourth generation their pearls of wisdom. Angela Spears, former Anchor/Reporter for First Coast News, NBC 12/ABC 25, and now currently the community liaison at DaVita, will serve as mistress of ceremonies. Nannye Fletcher, author and former Duval County Public School teacher and staff nurse for the the City of Jacksonville Public Health Department along with Teala Milton Johnson, a retired Chief Public Affairs Officer for JEA will also offer inspiring words to the JIW participants and the audience of families, friends and volunteers.

“I am looking forward to hearing the pearls of wisdom that will be shared with the audience by such remarkable women,” said Elexia Coleman-Moss, Executive Director of Empowerment Resources.

Graduating from the Journey Into Womanhood program this year are Ashley Irven and Mone’t Yarbrough. Ashley is a senior at The Bolles School and will attend the University of Miami where she plans to major in creative writing. Mone’t is a senior at Samuel Wolfson High School. Upon graduation, she plans to enlist in the United States Marine Corp and later study to become a mortician.

For tickets or more information about the JIW program, please call 904-268-8287 or log onto [empowermentresourcesinc.org](http://empowermentresourcesinc.org).

**About Us**

*Since 2002, Empowerment Resources, Inc., a private 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, has empowered more than 500 youth and adults in Duval and surrounding counties through its signature programs, Journey Into Womanhood, Life Skills Workshops and Parenting Education Seminars and Coaching. Our programs help meet the needs of the community by exposing families to valuable community resources.*

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