



Michelle Obama

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Ladies First



Jackie Kennedy Onassis



Claudia Johnson



Patricia Nixon



Elizabeth Ford



Rosalynn Carter



Nancy Reagan



Barbara Bush



Hilary Clinton



Laura Bush

Michelle Obama carries on a tradition of service

By Erin Lawson
Voice Staff Writer

“Let’s Move,” the health initiative for kids to get up and get moving to stay healthy pushed by First Lady Michelle Obama, has everyone applauding her efforts of getting involved across the nation. She pushed for the Child Nutrition Act that allocated \$4.5 billion to support school cafeterias. Another personal project of hers is getting more help for military families. Always one to help out where she can, Mrs. Obama, is being commended as a great first lady who pushes for the people.

Ivan Hogan, a sophomore, and Barry Keyes, a freshman, both expressed how they think Michelle Obama is a positive

role model, because of how she promotes things that will help the people of America, including all her behind the scenes work as the First Lady.

Michelle Obama maybe the one we’re looking at today, but she is just one of many extraordinary women who came before her and set the bar high as the first ladies of the United States.

The First Lady of the United States selects specific causes to promote, usually not politically divisive, in which she would hire a staff who would mainly support these activities.

As the First Lady of the United States, they engage in various social causes, ranging from education to healthcare to women’s rights all in the name of helping their country.

When John F. Kennedy served as the President of the U.S., his wife Jacqueline Kennedy was responsible for restoring many historical paintings and furniture to the White House. Following her was Claudia “Lady Bird” Johnson, the wife of Lyndon B. Johnson. Mrs. Johnson promoted Great Society programs which focused on the environment and urban renewal.

These two women made history in the 20th century. Along with them includes the wives of former Presidents, from Richard Nixon, to present day President, Barack Obama.

Here are a few things the first ladies have helped promote in the United States.

Thelma “Pat” Nixon encouraged volunteerism and supported the Equal Rights Amendments, which affirms that men and

women have equal rights under the law.

“Betty Ford was honored to be an honorary co-chair with Alan Alda of the Equal Rights Amendment Countdown Campaign,” according to a CNN article.

Elizabeth Betty Ford was also one to support women’s rights, just as Mrs. Nixon did.

Eleanor Carter helped with mental disabilities, the elderly, community activism and volunteerism. She also supported the Equal Rights Amendment, just as former first ladies did.

“It was very important because as first ladies, they are sort of a role model for people in the U.S., especially women,” said Gabrielle Cole, a Nursing major.

See **FIRST LADIES**, page 10