



DECEMBER 2011

FOCUS

Newsletter

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LANSING

JLL VOLUNTEERS SUPPORTING SPARROW WOMEN WORKING WONDERS 5K/0K/8K RACE

Alexandra Wiesner,
Done in a Day Committee

The Junior League DIAD Sparrow Committee awoke with the sun and helped register participants on Sunday, September 11, 2011 for the Sparrow's Foundation W3 5k/0k/8k race. This day was also a day of remembrance as it was the 10 year anniversary of the tragic September 11, 2001 attacks. So, it was nice that so many of us shared the day



working together to promote health and wellness in our community. The race is in its 8th year and has raised well over half a million dollars for support of the psychological and physical health of Mid-Michigan women.

The race continues to grow and offer different opportunities for runners, walkers or sitters. This year, it added the 8k option for veteran runners and continues to offer the 5k and the special revitalization Ok event. The Ok event brings health and wellness services provided by elite salons, boutiques and health/beauty experts for participants to enjoy without even getting up from their seat. Active member, **Daniela Cibelli**, was on hand volunteering her skills as an esthetician for her salon. Sustainers **Deb Atkinson**, **Barb Hagan** and **Sheila Dubenion-Smith** were in

integral roles to ensure the success of the event. W3 Honorary Chair, Coach Suzy Merchant, and the MSU Women's basketball team cheered on the participants, took pictures with fans, and signed autographs.

Those of you that haven't attended the Sparrow Women Working Wonders 5k/0k/8k event should really give it a try. You can choose to run or walk the event and strollers are welcome. You can get revitalized with reflexology, massages, or manicures. You can sample food from local eateries. You can talk to the MSU Women's basketball coach and players and let them cheer you on. All of these rewards for your donation to a cause that is making sure your local hospital has all the newest and advanced equipment for women's needs. See you next September!



Thanks to the JLL volunteers that did a great job at the event which included (from left top) President Elect Becky Paalman, Samantha Hughes, President Kate Powers, Amanda Campbell, (from left, bottom) Thuy Pham, Alex Wiesner, Allison Treppa, Jennifer Edmonds, and Gabe Johnson.

*Women
building
better
communities®*

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MISSION STATEMENT

Junior League of Lansing, Michigan is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KATE POWERS, PRESIDENT 2011-2012

"With great power, comes great responsibility."

—Ben Parker, Uncle of Peter "Spiderman" Parker

*A*s the preeminent volunteers in the Lansing area, Junior League of Lansing members have a duty to our community. This is never more evident than during the time that we choose a Signature Project. Every three years, the active membership of JLL selects a project and we then provide time, talent and funding to that organization.

Thoughtful consideration is made, by our Community Research Project Development committee, by our board, and ultimately by our membership. This process mirrors the three year time line of our signature project commitment and requires input from our community, through our sustainers, our partners, and our advisory board members. It is certainly not easy, or quick for that matter, but we owe it not only to our mission, but to the agencies that we serve, to be as thorough as possible.

After two years of research and deliberation, we have narrowed our project selections down to two: The Allen Street Neighborhood Association, as they attempt to grow their farmers' market to a year round endeavor; and the Capital Area Literacy Coalition, as they continue to create readers of all ages in the Lansing community. While these projects are exceptionally diverse from one another, they both meet the Junior League of Lansing's focus area of assisting families and children at risk.

Our process is far from done. In January, at our annual meeting, both candidates will return to meet with our active membership and share their stories, and why their partnership with JLL would be mutually beneficial. In the meantime, I encourage all of our members to ask questions and to look further into these potential projects. The influence that we hold in the Lansing area requires our diligence in making this decision.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to see this process come to fruition, and to have such stellar individuals guiding the process. I would be remiss if I didn't thank **Polly Synk**, **Erin Skene-Pratt** and their team, as well our Community Vice President, **Jaimie Hutchison**, for all of their hard work in the development of our next community commitment. Please feel free to contact me, or any of them as the selection progresses.

In the meantime, be mindful of the power that we, as women affecting change, have. Together, we can accomplish anything!

All my best,

WHY SUSTAINERS MATTER

Kim Hartman, past president, proud sustainer

*T*he 10 year anniversary of 9/11 was a time of great reflection for many. We all remember where we were when the events of that horrific day occurred. It was to be my first GMM as our Junior League of Lansing President. In those subsequent moments our lives changed and there existed a future of great uncertainty. One of those uncertainties was Junior League. How would we carry on? For many of us the turning point came when the president reassured us as he stood atop the rubble of the World Trade Center with the many rescue workers at his side. It felt like we could begin moving on once again.



Why for a moment I thought Junior League would end was incredible, especially without amazing mission and history. This organization has survived and strengthened over 100 years, including through World Wars and other national tragedies. We make a difference. During that time on national tragedy, I found my greatest support and strength from our Sustainers. While, they too, understood the magnitude of the tragedy they realized we needed to move forward and stay true to our mission. They offered great encouragement. Along with the many actives and the wonderful board I had, those very special sustainers made a big difference in helping me become the leader I needed to be. For that, I will always be grateful.

Truly, this is just one example of how a few sustainers were so important in making Junior League matter. I have many more examples. In recent years we have seen an increase in Sustainers resigning from our Junior League. Some feel disconnected, have other obligations or feel it "is not worth the money". Stop for a moment and think about your time in League. The opportunities afforded to you, the training and the friendship. Those things, in part, are sustained by Sustainers. Without a strong class of Sustainers League would not be able to do all they do for our members and our community. It is important you give an Active member the same opportunities you had.

If you are contemplating resigning, call an Active. Let them know you appreciate what they are doing. Offer to get involved. Tour the city and look at all of our projects in full swing, even the beautiful bronze giraffes at the zoo. Attend an event. Quite simply, League cannot function without being sustained in some way. I urge you to look at Junior League in a larger way. I think you will be surprised. Sustainers do matter!

THE SUSTAINING LINE...

JANET FREUND

I am surrounded by amazing women! That is my reaction to the first few months of my role as the Sustaining Advisor for this JLL year. **Kate Powers** is one of the smartest and funniest women I know. We are lucky to have her as our leader and I am convinced of that more each day. Every wonderful woman on the Board possesses talents that they are happy to share with all of us. As a sustaining member of this League and past president, I am assured that we are in good hands. Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns or comments as we travel this year together.



PAST HOLIDAY EVENTS

Chicago Bus Trip:

Friday, December 2, 2011

Holiday Open House:

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

at the home of Sustainer and JLL Past President,

Barb Sukenik

KUDOS TO:

Suzanne Tuck and **Lori Fuller** for planning the Chicago Bus Trip

Barb Sukenik for graciously opening her home for the Holiday Open House

Marybeth Hicks on her new book, Don't Let the Kids Drink the Kool-Aid

Kris Kildea for her Biggby franchise that will soon be opening in Fenton

Kim Hartman for reminding all of us why we are important in her FOCUS article

If you have a "Kudos" to share please contact Janet Freund, Sustaining Advisor at janetfreund@comcast.net or (517) 333-8409



Thank you so much for helping the Mission commemorate a milestone in our 100 years of service to Michigan's capital area. It was a joy to celebrate the opening of our Maplewood Center with you. We are so grateful, not only for your participation in our ribbon cutting ceremony, but also for your faithful support of this project.

The completion of our Maplewood Center has already made a difference in our community. Within weeks of opening the west side of the building for women and children, the number of guests finding shelter with us increased 225%. Tonight, more than 80 women and children will find refuge and rescue at Maplewood.

Thank you again for your support of the Mission and our determination to bring "rescue" to the lives of men, women, and children in need.

In Christian Service,
Mark Criss, Executive



CONTRIBUTIONS

DONATIONS

Ginnie Gibson, DIAD/DIAM Vice Chair

OTTO HEALTH CENTER was the recipient for September's DIAM Project. Otto Health Center provides primary care health services to youth and adults and had requested individual hand sanitizers. Thanks to everyone's generous support we collected 68 individual hand sanitizers and \$109 at the meeting. The monetary donations allowed us to buy an additional 77 items, which brought the total of donated items to 145. When **Patty Black** took the donations to Otto Health Center, they were very excited to see her with the donations since they were almost out.

ELE'S PLACE was the recipient for October's DIAM Project. Ele's Place is a healing center for grieving children. Thanks to everyone's generous support Junior League of Lansing delivered 98 journals to Ele's Place. As someone who believes in journaling when going through difficult times, I know these journals will be put to good use by all of those children dealing with the loss of a loved one.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF MID-MICHIGAN was the recipient for November's DIAM Project. Ronald McDonald House is a home away from home for families of seriously ill children who are hospitalized or receiving treatment at Lansing area hospitals. Thanks to everyone's generous support Junior League of Lansing delivered 63 household items to them. Thank you for your generous support!!

The January recipient for the DIAM project will be Baker Donora Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for seniors and youths in the Baker Donora neighborhood. I hope every has a happy and blessed holiday season.

BREAKFAST AT VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA

Patty Black

Eight members of the Junior League of Lansing fulfilled their Done-In-A-Day commitment on Saturday, October 22, 2011 by serving breakfast at Volunteers of America in downtown Lansing. The experience was a complete success! Our presence was very well received, and in fact the individuals we served expressed a great amount of gratitude. It was a very rewarding and heart warming experience for all.

As a result, the members of the Volunteers of America Done-In-A-Day Committee have decided to serve again. The next opportunity to serve will likely be in February, and we hope to serve during dinner.



DONE IN A MEETING RECIPIENTS

Please bring the listed wish list items to each General Membership Meeting.

JANUARY

Organization: Baker Donora Center

Mission: Place to gather to and work together to provide resources, education, and information for youths and seniors.

Wish List Item: After school snacks (crackers, popcorn, pretzels)

FEBRUARY

Organization: St. Vincent's

Mission: Provides services to individuals and families in need of emotional, physical, and spiritual support

Wish List Item: Shampoo/conditioner

MARCH

Organization: End Violent Encounters (EVE)

Mission: Provides shelter and support for victims (women & children) of domestic violence

Wish List Item: Plastic forks

APRIL

Organization: Haven House

Mission: Provides housing and support to families in the transition from homelessness to permanent housing

Wish List Item: Real utensils (new/used)

MAY

Organization: City Rescue Mission

Mission: Assists men, women, and children in meeting physical and spiritual needs

Wish List Item: Diapers/baby wipes

OUR NEWEST SUSTAINERS!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF LEAGUE!

Stacy Carl
Daniella Cibelli
Hillary Henderson
Diana Mitchell
Becky Myers
Lori Noyer

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Human Medicine

On behalf of Dr. H. Dele Davies, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics and Human Development in the College of Human Medicine, and the Board of Directors and Staff of the MSU Children's Health Initiative, we want to extend our sincere appreciation for your donation of the JLL Community Impact Grant to the MSU Children's Health Initiative.

This donation will have a tremendous impact on the appearance of the MSU pediatric sub-specialty clinic located in the Sparrow Professional Building across from Sparrow Hospital. Thanks to you, Lansing area children will soon be treated in a warm and cheerful space where children can feel more at home.

Due to your donation, the MSU Children's Health Initiative will be able to further its goals in creating a more welcoming healthcare environment for children and their families. We greatly appreciate your generosity and would more than happy to have you visit the clinic in the near future and again at its completion, once we have utilized the grant.

We greatly appreciate your generosity and kindness.

With gratitude,
Janet Quiring, Executive Director
Pam Miklavcic, PH.D., Associate Director

THE OLDHAM PROJECT

Thank you for your very generous gift of \$500.00, which will help to support The Oldham Project and our new Courageous Kids program.

Your support helps these children and their parents deal with diseases that are threatening their lives, through photography. These portraits offer children an opportunity to escape their disease for the moment and will provide their parents memories of a special time. For generations to come, these images will live on, thanks to your contribution. You are making it possible for The Oldham Project to help all these families find hope and begin to heal.

Again, on behalf of the Board of Directors, and the women, children and families already assisted by The Oldham Project, thank you for caring enough to make a generous gift.

Sincerely,

Terri Shaver, Executive Director
The Oldham Project

W3 DEB ATKINSON ENDOWMENT FUND

Women Working Wonders (W3) a committee with the Sparrow Hospital Foundation recently added an endowment fund to their fundraising abilities. As an instrumental person in this process, the endowment will be named after **Deb Atkinson**.

W3 has raised \$800,000 for the hospital in its existence since 2002. The funds raised go to women's health in our community. W3 has two signature events, the 5K/OK Run/Walk/Revitalize event and Dapper Dad's. The JLL provides many volunteers for W3. Congratulations Deb on sharing your time and talent with W3 and the **W3 Deb Atkinson Endowment Fund!**



JUNIOR LEAGUE FUND DEVELOPMENT

The Junior League of Lansing's fund development committee is hard at work raising funds to support our signature project, Carefree Dental, and executing other collaborative partnerships that include a diversity of people and organizations. Our mission is to promote volunteerism by training women and by charitable giving. It is impossible to achieve this mission without help from our community partners.

To date, we have connected with Becky Beauchine Kulka Diamonds and Fine Jewelry, M3/CAWLM, and NuWave Technology Partners and Rizzi Designs to provide support of our mission. We are in the process of garnering more partner support. If you are interested in receiving more information about the Junior League of Lansing and or a community partnership please contact **Melissa Seifert** at Melissa.a.seifert@gmail.com.

The Junior League of Lansing's Signature Fundraiser is the Sparkle raffle. The raffle tickets are sold for \$20 a piece by Junior League members. The winning prizes are \$2,500, \$1,000 and \$500 gift cards to Becky Beauchine Kulka Diamonds and Fine Jewelry which were generously donated to our organization. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket please contact Melissa Seifert at Melissa.a.seifert@gmail.com. The winning raffle tickets will be announced on "In Her Shoes" radio show on December 18th, winners will be notified via phone. All proceeds go back to the Junior League of Lansing to assist in our mission and signature project.

During this holiday season I am reminded of a quote I once heard "Donors don't give to institutions. They invest in ideas and people in whom they believe." - G.T. Smith. It is with this concept in mind that I hope you will look to invest in the Junior League of Lansing so we can build a stronger community. Happy Holidays!

CONDOLENCES

The Junior League of Lansing sends sincere condolences to the family and friends of Sustainer **June (Shorty) Stow** who passed away June 10, 2011 at the age of 92. Shorty was a member of the Lansing League since the early 50's. All who knew her will remember her capacity for love, kindness and generosity. She was a dedicated volunteer and was affiliated with many community organizations. She will be greatly missed by all.

Sincere condolences from the Junior League of Lansing to Sustainer **Janine Medler**, her mother Betty and their family and friends on the passing of Janine's father Lawrence A. Medler, Jr. on September 4, 2011 at the age of 86.

Ellen Allman passed away on Saturday, November 12th at 85 years old. Born in Detroit Michigan, Ellen grew up in Pleasant Ridge and moved to Fowlerville while she was in High School. She was a graduate of Fowlerville High School, received her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin, and her master's degree from Michigan State University. Ellen taught in the Lansing School System for over 30 years. She is preceded in death by two husbands (Jordan Jenkins and Russell Allman) and is survived by her six children and seven grandchildren. Ellen loved the arts, MSU athletics, Paris, Sarasota Florida, and spending time with her family. She especially treasured her many wonderful friends who gave her joy and greatly enriched her life. Ellen's family wishes to sincerely thank all of her friends for your kindness, your love, your prayers, and for adding so much to their mother's life.



Mary Lou Walworth age 78, a member of JLL for the last 50 years, passed away on November 17, 2011. Born in Grand Rapids Michigan, Mary Lou attended Mt. Mercy Academy in Grand Rapids and Michigan State University. She was an accomplished artist and gardener, and was a longtime member of The Peoples Church of East Lansing. She is survived by her loving husband of 56 years, William M. Walworth, Jr., and her four daughters and their families. She is also survived by her great-granddaughter, her two sisters and a brother.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE DINNERS



MID-MICHIGAN

Thursday, January 19

Thursday, January 26

Thursday, February 9

Thursday, February 23

Thursday, March 8

Junior League Members warm hearts and tummies with this upcoming Done In A Day.



We are so very grateful to the Junior League of Lansing for responding to the Challenge! By joining the MSU Community Music School (CMS) and the Challenge Grant Leadership Team, the Junior League's grant of \$250 for financial assistance for students with need will have twice the impact and will help keep music programs strong in our community.

We deeply appreciate the Junior League's support over the past year. Your total grant of \$750 helps us ensure that cost is not a barrier to music education and music therapy. Thank you for joining us in bringing music to people from throughout the community.

Most sincerely,

Rhonda Burkley

OPERATION BACKPACK AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS

Patty Black –
DIAD Committee



The DIAD St. Vincent backpack project took place in late August at the St. Vincent Home in Lansing. All of the backpacks and school supplies were previously collected in a community-wide effort; our job was to sort all the items into piles (crayons, pencils, notebooks etc.). This was a large undertaking since the people of Lansing are very generous! Then we grabbed an empty backpack and went down the tables selecting items to fill it. We had two “grade groups” with different requirements: elementary/middle school and high school. We filled many large boxes with the finished products. The kids served by St. Vincent’s various programs were to come the next day and choose their backpack. According to **Thuy Pham** our total number completed was 626!! That’s a lot of packing! A big thanks to DIAD participants **Bethe Day, Christie Lemon, Diane Sloan, Nanette Naser, Jennifer Edmonds, Amber Terakedis, Jacqueline Szalanski, and Kristen Pricco**, as well as the several children who accompanied their mothers. What a great project, and we can be sure we helped several hundred deserving children in the Lansing area get the school year off to a good start.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Nanette Naser, Community Service Chair and Jennifer Edmonds, Vice Chair

TEDDY BEAR HOSPITAL AND PICNIC: OCTOBER 1

JLL members, **Gabe Johnson, Amanda Campbell, Nanette Naser,** and **Jennifer Edmonds** along with three other friends volunteered at the picnic designed to teach children not to be afraid of doctors by allowing procedures such as x-rays and stitches performed on their teddy bear by medical professional volunteers.

PICK A PECK FOR PEOPLE; COUNTRY MILL ORCHARD: OCTOBER 30

JLL members along with other community volunteers and families enjoyed picking as many apples as they could to feed families in need in the greater Lansing area through food banks.

ANGEL CARDS FOR ST. VINCENT CATHOLIC CHARITIES: NOVEMBER 10 & 14

JLL Volunteers were at Schuler’s Books Café in Eastwood Towne Center to help fill out Angel Cards for St. Vincent Catholic Charities. These cards will be hung on Christmas trees in areas malls and businesses to help children in need in the Lansing area receive gifts during the holiday season.

ST. JUDE GIVE THANKS WALK; MERIDIAN MALL: NOVEMBER 19

JLL volunteers helped with set-up and registration at the Meridian Mall. This walk helps St. Jude fight childhood cancer.

HOLIDAY COOKIES; DECEMBER 13

The New Member Cookie Exchange donates an extra dozen cookies from each participant to food baskets donated to at-risk individuals and families in the Lansing area by the Volunteers of America.

Upcoming Community Service Projects

MITTENS FOR MICHIGAN: JANUARY

Watch for more information on this “warm” competition between other Junior Leagues to help families in need stay warm this winter.

Thank you for your support of community projects that greatly impact the Greater Lansing area.

