

## JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LANSING

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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.*

# FEAST Your Eyes!

*Marcia Gresens, Signature Fundraiser Chair*



On December 14, WKAR invited "FEAST," the Junior League's Signature Project, to participate in filming a segment on the importance of nutritious eating. We chose Elmhurst Elementary in Lansing as the school to showcase. Elmhurst has two second grade classes that participate each month in JLL's FEAST program, with 45 superstar students between Jodi Bigg's and Tonya Coscarilli's classes. Sue Sulzman, Principal of Elmhurst, has been a huge supporter of our program, which is why this is the second year that Elmhurst and these teachers have participated in FEAST.

Our Junior League stars were **Bethe Day, Ann Vogelsang, and Jenifer Main**. This group of JLL members looks forward to seeing the Elmhurst children each month. On December 14, Bethe read the book **Chicken Noodle Soup and Rice**, by Maurice Sendak, while Ann and Jenifer warmed up and passed out individual bowls of chicken noodle soup to the children. The book, snack and taping were a huge success! Look for a sneak peak of WKAR's program at an upcoming GMM.

If you would like to participate in the FEAST program, the following is a listing of the dates. Each school reads at a different time on Fridays so call **Marcia Gresens**, or **Lisa Gnass** we would love to help you get involved.

Reading is every second Friday of the month except for April, during which we will read on the third Friday. Below is a list of our books and the associated healthy snack.

- 2/8 *Walter the Baker*, soft pretzel and hummus
- 3/14 *Bread and Jam for Francis*, wheat bagel quarters with fruit flavored cream cheese
- 4/18 *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*, pasta salad in a bowl
- 5/9 *How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World*, apples and a slice of Swiss cheese



## Let's Go to the Movies!

Please join us at  
The Eastwood Towne Center's NCG Theatre for  
a showing of **Fool's Gold** starring Kate Hudson and Matthew McConaughey

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Check-in from 6:00 to 6:30

**6:45 pm GMM**

Cost is \$8, which includes movie, small pop and popcorn.  
Send checks to: Holly Hatch, 1027 Robins Rd., Lansing, MI 48917  
or pay at the door.

DIAM: McRee Guest house: laundry detergent, used or new family oriented DVDs

## JLL Email Addresses

Just a reminder to use these emails:

### FOCUS

focus@jllansing.org

### New Member Recruitment

membership@jllansing.org

### Webmaster

webmaster@jllansing.org

### Public Relations

publicrelations@jllansing.org

### Signature Fundraiser

fundraiser@jllansing.org

### JLL Office (Nancy)

office@jllansing.org

*FOCUS* is the newsletter of the Junior League of Lansing, published 9 times each year for the use of its members. Any inquiries regarding *FOCUS* may be directed to the office staff or the following address:

#### Junior League of Lansing

271 Woodland Pass Centre, Suite 115  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
517-324-3734  
office@jllansing.org  
Focus@jllansing.org

Junior League of Lansing, Michigan reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and a commitment to voluntarism. The JLL strives in all endeavors to be sensitive to the special needs of our members and guests. If there is a special need, please notify the Education Vice President, Kate Powers.

*FOCUS* accepts advertisements to help offset the publication costs. For advertising rates or to place an advertisement, please contact the Junior League of Lansing office.

*FOCUS* submission are due by 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday following each GMM. Email submissions should be sent to Focus@jllansing.org in Microsoft Word. Articles should include a title, author and author's placement. All photos should be digital and sent to the Focus email address with the word "photo" in the subject line. Photos must include a caption with the names of those pictured and the title of the accompanying article.

# President's Message...

Becky Myers, President



## *And the greatest of these is love...*

As Junior League president I have the opportunity to spend my time with members of our community discussing current community needs as well as promoting our mission. This is truly one of the highlights of my year. All that training pays off, as I realize that those questions they are going to ask me, I actually have answers to. However one question stands out as the most frequently asked... "why do I do what I do (i.e. spend my time with Junior League and most especially commit myself to the time necessary to serve as president)?" What a great question and what a wonderful opportunity to share our message. However, my response has changed through these many months of holding this position. What I have come to realize is that I do what I do out of love. And with pink hearts abounding throughout town and the anticipation of Valentine's Day approaching what would my February letter be without a little reflection on love?

Many a song has been written about love, love makes the world go round, love is all we need and of course, love will keep us together. However it's the love of community, organization and each other that enables us to do all that we do. We have heard—find that which you love to do and you'll never work a day in your life. There is so much truth in that phrase. Yes, our work may take time and challenges may arise but being truly connected to the task allows us to persevere and even find pleasure in it.

Love and leadership make powerful allies. With love, leaders automatically inspire connection, teamwork and creativity. We were made in the image of love. Therefore, it makes sense, to consciously connect with that love whenever we step into a leadership role. One does not even need to talk about love for others to feel it. In fact, love is far beyond the boundaries and limitations of any language. Simply intending to be an instrument of love is enough to open our hearts and make miracles happen. So, with the opening of bow hunting season for our favorite little cherub I would encourage you all to seek out those things in your lives that touch your hearts. Here is where you will really make a difference.

Our annual meeting last month allowed us to see how our organization remains strong and continues to serve the Lansing community. With the voting in of a new board of directors to assume their leadership roles in May, we assure our legacy of trained volunteers will continue. We were inspired by our sustainer panel, as they shared with us how their love and commitment to Junior League continues today. What a treat to see how league has touched their lives and the riches they receive from their membership. Our January meeting also allowed us the opportunity to meet and get to know our new member class. I am thrilled to see that so many women in our community want to make a difference and that they chose JLL as a platform to do so.

In December the Junior League was named as this year's recipient of the Ballentine Award. This award is given to an organization for their commitment to the community and the service in which they provide. St. Vincent Catholic Charities established the Ballentine Awards to honor Don Ballentine, for his selfless dedication and career long caring for the poor and vulnerable. Don served as President and CEO for St. Vincent Catholic Charities from 1980 to 2000. In 2001 Don passed away. However, we know that his spirit of embracing those in need still continues through the works of so many in our community.

I look forward to seeing you at the Eastwood NCG Cinema on February 12th for movie night. Where I am sure you all will agree, that a little eye candy like Matthew McConaughey on the big screen will be a great beginning to our Valentine celebration.

*Hugs and kisses,  
Becky*

# Sustaining Notes *Sustaining*

Jane Bitsicas, Sustaining Advisor



The holiday whirl is over, and it was wonderful to see all the members who attended the Holiday Open House on December 5. Thanks again to **Kathy Colby** for hosting at her lovely home! And a big thank you to **Pat Brogan** who coordinated the food and beverage contributions, and **Carolyn Boger** and **Irene Hathaway** for setting up, and to all who contributed refreshments.

Fellow Sustainers **Mary West**, **Ginny Brooks**, and **Diane Tarpoff**, joined me as guest panelists at the January GMM. Thank you ladies for sharing your personal perspective on Sustainer hood, and for inspiring the current members!

The Sustainer Committee met on January 16. We discussed future events and planned for the upcoming Kentucky Derby party on May 3. Our Sustainers Extraordinaire, **Kathy Colby** and **Ginny Brooks** volunteered to host the Derby Party, and it promises to be the best ever! Your help is needed, so please contact Ginny or Kathy to help.

Do not forget the MSU School of Hospitality Auction on **February 9, 2008**. The auction starts at 5:00 in the Kellogg Center's Big Ten Rooms. The auction benefits the JLL Endowment Fund and is open to all. MSU's School of Hospitality Business hosts the annual auction pre-party from 4:30 to 5:45, and JLL members are the special guests. **Ginny Brooks** and **Suzie Brewster** are working with the students on the pre-party, which is limited to 80 people, so call Ginny with your reservation right away.

Something else to keep in mind...next May is the 25th Anniversary of our Endowment Fund! Sue Mills will be gathering a group of volunteers to plan a celebration. Please call Sue if you wish to help!

**Newsy Bits**—You know you have lots of news to share with us, so send me your items and I'll be sure to spread the word here. What could be more romantic than a Christmas day engagement? **Sharon Regan's** son Patrick popped the question and Stacy Woodworth (a third grade teacher from Haslett) said yes! A July wedding is being planned.

#### Upcoming events:

February 9, 2008—MSU Auction 5:00, pre party 4:30 – 5:45

May 3, 2008—Kentucky Derby Party

May 14, 2008—Celebration Dinner/Meeting



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Okemos, Michigan 48864  
Phone (517) 347-5030

# Member Relations *Membership*

Darcy Pace, Member Relations Chair



Happy New Year to everyone from Member Relations!!

This month the KUDOS awards went to members of the Signature Project Committee: **Marcia Gresens**, **Lisa Gnass**, and **Jessica Schaub**. As the Chair of the committee, Marcia has shown herself to be an excellent leader in many ways, all of which have been very beneficial to the success of the project. Lisa, in addition to doing a great job fulfilling the role of Vice Chair, has passed out over 20 information packets to women interested in JLL. Jessica developed a "Passport" book which is filled with activities and healthy eating tips and is linked to the book being read that month. We can all be proud of the Signature Project group and the fantastic work they are doing this year!

We have some fun upcoming events planned! Please look forward to a Girls' Night Out in February. March will bring Easter and our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. We will jump into Spring with a Progressive Party in Old Town. Please watch for more information on each of these events.

Don't forget those who have gone the extra mile. You can let us know by nominating them for a KUDOS award! You can find the KUDOS Nomination Form on the website and send the name and reason for the nomination to Darcy Pace at [dpace@pacehowedesign.com](mailto:dpace@pacehowedesign.com).

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# New Members

**Andrea Branoff** — Andrea moved to East Lansing this August after marrying her husband, Andrew Branoff. She was raised in Nashville, TN and has been living in Chicago, IL for the past few years. She graduated from Indiana University with a Bachelor of Arts and has been working in the advertising industry. She has also always had a passion for pilates, which is the career she is focusing on in East Lansing. Andrea is joining Junior League as a way to be involved in volunteer work in the area. She has done work with homeless shelters, breast cancer awareness, special needs children and the Ronald McDonald house in the past. She enjoys visiting with family and friends, travelling, doing pilates and yoga, volunteering, dancing and reading in her spare time. She is excited to meet her new member group!!



**Lynn Garrett** — Lynn was born, raised and continues to live in the East Lansing area. She has a MA in Special Education and is currently working as a Teacher Consultant. She is married to Mike a Physician Assistant. Lynn enjoys water sports, traveling, scuba diving and spending time with her children Austin 3, Lauren 20 months and her 2 dogs, Meg and Loki and cat, Apollo.



**Virginia Gibson** — Virginia works as the Director of Insurance Service for MERS. She has a Master of Healthcare Administration from the Medical University of South Carolina. Except for ten years, Virginia has lived in the Lansing area her whole life! Virginia joined JLL because she wanted a way to volunteer in the community and an opportunity to meet new people.



**Kimberly Gregory** — Originally from Grand Rapids she has resided in the Lansing area off and on for the past 9 years. Kimberly graduated from Michigan State University with a BS in Political Science and Public Administration/Public Policy. She is currently working in Business Development. Kimberly is married to David, a lobbyist and Partner with Kelley Cawthorne. She enjoys running, traveling, shopping and hanging out with friends and family. She is an Alpha Chi Omega Advisor and is involved with American Legion in South Haven, Michigan.6



**Lilly Gretzinger** — Lilly has lived in the area for only a few months! Originally from San Antonio, Texas she attended Bucknell University where she received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She is married to Alan who is a CPA and who is currently in his first year at MSU College of Law. Through Junior League, Lilly would like to meet new people in the Lansing area and is looking forward to volunteering in the community. Lilly enjoys golf, skiing, knitting, and learning to cook.

**Samantha Griggs** — Samantha is originally from New York, has lived in the Eaton Rapids area for less than a year. She is married to Jeff, a Sales Director. Samantha has a BA in Communications from Niagara University. She is currently busy at home with 7 month old son, Jack Ryan. Samantha enjoys spending time family and friends, volunteering , traveling, reading, skiing and entertaining. She hopes to meet other women with like interests and give back to the community through volunteering.



**Tiana Hawver** — Tiana is a Promotions-Events coordinator for Motion Marketing-Media in Lansing. She is a graduate of Great Lakes Christian College in Lansing with a double major in Biblical Theology and Family Life. Tiana enjoys reading, spending time with friends and traveling. She is currently serving as president on the Board for Shared Pregnancy Women's Center in Lansing. She has also volunteered with the children's choir at church, as well as with women's ministry in various areas. Tiana has joined JLL because she is interested in being more involved with the community.



**Stephanie Bredahl** — Stephanie was born and raised in the Okemos area. She graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Hospitality Business and is currently working in Real Estate for Tomie Raines. Stephanie enjoys working out, spending time with her family and her yellow lab, Sophie. She joined Junior League to meet new women, volunteer and network in the community.

**Kimberly Brown** — Kimberly is originally from Tennessee and only recently moved to the Lansing area with her husband Ethan who is a law student. Kim is an Assistant Director with the March of Dimes and received her BBA in Marketing at the University of Tennessee. She has 2 cats and enjoys scrapbooking in her free time. She is anxious to meet new people in League and to get involved in our social and volunteer activities.



**Shelly Bugg** — Shelly is a Junior Recreation Tennis Coordinator and lives in East Lansing with her husband Barrett and 2 cats, Joey and Bella. She has a B.S. in Physical Education and Sports Medicine from the University of Indianapolis and an M.S. in Technical Education and PTM Medicine from Ferris State University. She is originally from Goshen, IN and has lived in the Lansing area for eight years. She likes to golf, play tennis, and work out. She is looking forward to joining League so she can give her resources to the Lansing community to build a better place for children and families to live.

**Michelle Fink** — Michelle who resides in Haslett, has joined the Junior League of Lansing because she enjoys networking, would like to meet new women, and wants to get more involved in the community. Michelle has lived in the Lansing area for the past twenty years and is active in a variety of volunteer committees. Currently, she serves on the Grand River Connection, Red Dress Run, and Duffy Daugherty Awards committees. She holds a degree in commercial recreation from Michigan State University; further, she has obtained her real estate license. Michelle is the manager of programs and events for the Lansing Regional Chamber. When not at her (main) job, she spends time as a real estate agent for Stuart and Associates Realty, as well as an event coordinator for Glenbrier Golf Course. She enjoys spending her free time golfing, running, reading, and playing with her dog 'Bogey'.

## New Members *continued*



**Heather Henning** — Heather is a Financial Analyst for the Michigan Lottery. She has a Bachelors degree in Business Administration from MSU. She has a dog, a labradoodle, named Peyton. She enjoys running and spending time with family and friends. Heather has joined Junior League to meet new people and become more involved in the community.



**Kristen Hicks** — Kristen has lived in the Okemos area for the past 2 years. She is originally from Sioux Falls, S.D. She is married to Stephen, an Investment manager and Lawyer. Kristin received her B.S. from Marquette University and her M.A. from Indiana University in Speech-Language Pathology. She is currently home and very busy with her two children, Andrew 5 yrs and Sarah 1½. Kristin enjoys volunteering at her son's school, reading, traveling, playing piano and exercising. She hopes Junior League will allow her become more involved in her community and meet new and interesting women.



**Joanne Holton** — Joanne is a Banking Manager and lives in Leslie with her husband Scott and 3 dogs. She is originally from Toledo, OH where she attended The University of Toledo. She has lived in the Lansing area for 14 years. In addition to Junior League, she participates in various other volunteer activities including Habitat for Humanity and CRA Activities through work. She joined League so she could be a part of a positive and productive group of volunteers. Joanne's hobbies include reading, playing golf and cooking.



**Kristy Kellom** — Kristy is an Educator in Design Technology. She graduated from MSU with a Bachelor of Arts in Interior Design. Hobbies and interests include people, Jesus, and art. She is originally from Frankenmuth, MI but has joined JLL to meet new people and help to make Lansing home for her and her husband Ryan. She also looks forward to contributing to the community with JLL.



**Kelly Kobus** — Kelly is the owner of A Piece O' Cake. She graduated from Albion College with degrees in French and Art. She has three dogs. Kelly enjoys traveling, cooking, baking, scrap-booking, and reading. She has volunteered with SAFE Place. She was also a FLES (foreign language in elementary schools) volunteer teaching French to fourth graders. She has joined JLL meet new women and make new friendships. She is also hoping to get more involved in the community.



**Katie Leonard** — Katie is an attorney, recently graduating from MSU College of Law. She is originally from Grand Haven and has lived in the Lansing area for the past 7 years. Katie enjoys reading, working out, cheering on the Spartans and traveling. Her latest trip was to Croatia in August. In the past she has been involved with Gilda's Club and the Grand Rapids Festival of the Arts. Katie joined Junior League of Lansing to meet and socialize with other women and to become more involved in the community.



**Amy Lothamer** — Amy was born and raised in the Lansing area. Amy graduated from Michigan State University with a BS in Dietetics. She is currently working as the Marketing Director with Lothamer PC. Amy is married to Jesse, President of Lothamer PC. She enjoys exercise and spending time with her children, Jackie 6 yrs and Josh 2yrs. She joined Junior League to make new friends and give back to the community.



**Ann McHenry** — Ann is an auditor who obtained her Masters degree in Accounting at Michigan State University. Ann has lived in the Lansing area for 19 years and is originally from Okemos where she currently lives with her cat, Mikey. She enjoys running, watching sports, reading, traveling with friends and hanging out with her family. She is looking forward to joining JLL so she can give back to Lansing, meet new and fun people around the area and feel good about what she is doing with her time.



**Lydia Millbrook** — Lydia and her husband Roger live in Lansing with their three children, Cara (10), Max (2½) and Henry (8 mo). She has lived in the Lansing area for most of her life! Lydia is a graduate of Spring Arbor University with a Bachelor Degree in Management and Organizational Development. Her hobbies include reading and spending time with her family. Lydia joined JLL to meet other women in the area and do something meaning for other less fortunate.



**Thuy Pham** — Thuy is a medical claims adjuster with AIG. She has a degree in communications from MSU. She has three children—Damien age 5, Carter age 3, and Landon age 17 months. Thuy was born in New Orleans, LA and moved to Lansing when she was in grade school. She has joined JLL for the opportunity to network with other women in the community and to give back to the community through volunteer.



**Kristen Pricco** — Kristen and her husband Steven live in Lansing with their 6 month old daughter, McKenzie Rose. Kristen is relatively new to the area as she has only lived here for two years. Kristen is a stay-at-home mom and is looking to make new friends and get to know the Lansing community better since she is a native Detroiter. She has a B.A. in Psychology and a B.S. in Merchandising Management from MSU. Her hobbies include singing, playing piano, cooking, baking, movies, reading—she is a huge music lover!



**Amanda Purdy** — Amanda is a Real Estate Agent. She is a graduate from U of M. She recently moved to Lansing from Novi/Northville area. She has a Shiba Inu named Ginger. Amanda enjoys downhill skiing, hiking, traveling, concerts, and outdoor activities. She has worked as a committee member for Relay for Life previously. She has joined JLL to meet new people and have the opportunity to give back to the community through volunteering.

**Cassy Puskala** — Cassy Puskala, who resides in Lansing, has joined the Junior League of Lansing because she hopes to make

*continued on page 6*

## New Members *continued*

new friends, become more involved, and have fun with peers. Cassy has lived in the Lansing area for the past ten years and is originally from Texas. She is active in the community and is involved with a variety of volunteer organizations. Currently, she volunteers for the American Cancer Society, Junior Achievement, and the Susan G. Komen Foundation. She holds a degree in finance from Michigan State University. Cassy is a branch manager for Mercantile Bank in Lansing. During her free time, she enjoys reading, working out, and doing things with her seven-year old daughter, Abigail. Cassy has a yorkie and a cat.



**Amy Reid** — Amy is a lifelong resident of the Lansing area. She graduated from Lansing Catholic Central and is an Alumni of Western Michigan University. She started her own business ten years ago providing residential and business interior design services as a consultant. She currently resides in Bath, MI with her husband

Bob and two children, Victoria and Bobby. Her daughter is in eighth grade and her son is in fourth grade at St. Thomas Aquinas. With both of her children in school, she is able to dedicate more time and energy to volunteer activities and looks forward to being a part of Junior League.



**Torye Santucci** — Originally from Washington D.C., Torye and her husband Ben currently live in East Lansing and have lived in the area since 2003. Torye received her B.A. in Statistics and Economics from the University of Michigan and her M.A. in Advertising from MSU. She currently works as a Marketing Manager. Torye is

excited about joining League so she can become more involved with community outreach and to meet new people in the community. In her free time, she likes to travel, cook, and exercise.



**Jennifer Schick** — Jennifer was born and raised in the Lansing area. Jennifer attended LCC and WMU and is currently attending CMU. She is married to Jack who is an attorney and lobbyist. Jennifer is busy at home caring from their three children, Jackson 12, Carson 4, Colson 2 and dog Oliver. She enjoys reading and running. Jennifer

hopes to make new friends and assist with needs in the community while in Junior League.



**Bridget Seitz** — Bridget was born and raised in Michigan. She has spent the last 4 years in East Lansing. Bridget is currently a Doctoral student in the Dept. of Pharmacology and Toxicology at MSU. She is married to Ted, a lawyer at Dykema. Bridget has a 5 year old son, Mitchell, a 3 year old daughter, Natalie and Newfoundland dog named

Tully. She enjoys cooking and spending time with her family. Bridget is looking forward to wonderful friendships and community involvement with the Junior League of Lansing.



**Stacey Shaffner** — Originally from Brighton, Mi., Stacey has lived in the Haslett area for the past 9 years. Stacey is a graduate of MSU with a degree in Humanities with a triple concentration in Engineering, Art and History. She is currently the Marketing Director for NuWave Technology Partners. She enjoys

spending time with her boyfriend, Dewey, his daughter,

Madison and her two dogs, Kodi and Katy. Stacey enjoys running, rollerblading, kayaking, boating, yoga, traveling, reading and shopping. She joined Junior League to make new friends and make good things happen.



**Nicole Shcuppner** — Nicole is currently a law student at MSU. She is married to Paul who is an orthopedic resident at Ingham Regional Medical Center. She has joined Junior League to have more opportunities to volunteer in the community and to meet new people. Nicole enjoys running, reading and outdoor activities. She attended Columbia University in Chicago and has a BFA in Interior Architecture. She also attended the Aveda Institute in Chicago and is a cosmetologist.



**Becky Tanis** — Becky an undergraduate of MSU and a graduate of Cleveland State University. She is currently working part-time as a speech pathologist through the Clinton County RESA. She is married to Scott and has 2 children, Hailey 5 and Aiden 3. Becky enjoys spending time with her family, enjoying the outdoors, skiing,

boating and traveling. She joined Junior League for social and volunteer reasons.



**Maggie Terry** — Maggie and her husband Luke live in East Lansing with their two children, Olivia and Adeline. She stays at home with her children and works part-time in financial management services/office management and marketing for an online baby gifts company, Frogleggs.com. She is originally from Grand Rapids and moved to Lansing five years ago from Chicago. Maggie received her undergraduate degree in Marketing from University of DePaul (she also attended MSU!) and began taking Master-level classes in Education at DePaul. Maggie enjoys traveling, foreign cultures, snorkeling, water sports and boating. She is joining JLL for the community service opportunities and to meet new people.



**Sonia Wade** — Sonia works for AIG as a Medical Claims Adjuster. Originally from Tampa Bay, Florida, Sonia moved to Lansing about 1 1/2 years ago. She enjoys running, swimming, triathlons, reading and travel. Welcome, Sonia!



**Christina Williams** — Christina is an Interior Designer. She graduated from MSU with a Bachelor of Arts in Interior Design. She has a cat named Meko. Hobbies and interests include spending time with family and friends, and playing tennis. She has joined JLL because she would like to get involved in the community, and she is looking forward to meeting new people.

Welcome

Nicki Proulx, CRPD Chair



The results are in!

For the past few months, the CRPD Committee has been conducting a Community Assessment Survey to determine what issues and needs the Greater Lansing community is currently facing. The purpose of the survey was to help us determine whether our Focus Area still reflects the current needs of the community, and to assist us in selecting our next Signature Project.

Approximately 110 surveys were sent to various community leaders, schools, churches, politicians, and organizations asking them to, among other things, identify what they felt were the most important needs of the Greater Lansing community. Of the surveys we received back, the following issues and needs were identified:

- Childhood obesity
- Childhood diabetes
- Child poverty/Child welfare
- Osteoporosis
- Homeless women and children
- Mental health / counseling services for women, children and families
- Guidance counseling for children and youth in the neglect process
- Respite services for those caring for chronically ill relatives
- Services for youth escalating towards delinquency
- Jobs with living wages
- Training/education for higher-skilled jobs
- Access to affordable and consistent food and shelter
- Health/fitness of the aging
- Health/fitness of teens
- Involvement with kids to encourage staying in school/graduation
- Dental clinics for the poor
- Early Childhood Education—Birth to 5 / Access to quality and affordable early child education and care
- Hunger
- End of life care
- Homeless shelters for families
- Housing / maintenance of housing for low-income and refugee families
- Funding for the arts
- Environmental issues, e.g. Protecting water supplies
- Economic Development
- Youth Programs
- Neighborhood Development, e.g. Development of strong neighborhood associations
- Promoting volunteerism
- Building capacity of area nonprofit organizations

The CRPD Committee will be making a brief presentation regarding the results of the survey at the March GMM, at which time there will be an opportunity for discussion on how these results fit into our current Focus Area.

## Membership Changes

- (A) **Burditt, Jodie**  
3104 Trappers Cove Trail, Apt 3C  
Lansing, Michigan 48910-8456  
517-272-9699
- (A) **Clark, Karyn**  
Non Resident Active (NRA)  
635 West Grace, Apt 602, Chicago, IL 60613  
Cell: 313-319-7847, may change
- (S) **Cornelius, Marilyn**  
Email: marilyncornelius@comcast.net
- (S) **Cotter, Martha**  
NO MAIL PLEASE (in nursing home)
- (A) **Fishell, Barb**  
Add .com to Work Email: bfishell@loeye.com
- (A) **Henderson, Hillary**  
1352 Foxcroft Road  
East Lansing, Michigan 48823-2189
- (A) **Johnson, Gabrielle**  
Michigan Department of Civil Rights  
Civil Rights Representative
- (A) **Kelly, Sheila**  
1607 Snyder Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823
- (A) **Lanstra, Emilie**  
Non Resident Active (NRA)  
25 South Knoll Avenue, Apt 307  
Pasadena, California 91101-2165
- (S) **Lawton-Essa, Julie**  
736 Glenhaven, East Lansing, Michigan 48823
- (A) **Mitchell, Diana**  
5053 Madison Avenue, Apt C02  
Okemos, Michigan 48864  
Delete Home email, Delete Home Phone  
Use Cell Phone Number: 420-7572
- (S) **Morgan, Elizabeth**  
Transfer in  
2223 Tanaracke Drive, Okemos, Michigan 48864
- (A) **Powers, Kate**  
New email: mkspowers@gmail.com  
Cell 517-648-1011
- (A) **Regan, Courtney**  
3954 Par Lane, Okemos, Michigan 48864-3384
- (A) **Schmitt, Hillary**  
Non Resident Active (NRA)  
332 McKinley Street  
Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236  
Cell: 313-247-5594
- (A) **Shanker, Melissa**  
Senior Active  
3697 Beech Tree Lane  
Okemos, Michigan 48864-3867  
517-207-0279
- (S) **Smith, Bernice**  
5091 Willoughby Road, Holt, Michigan 48842-1054
- (S) **Stone, Melody**  
2589 Robins Way, Okemos, Michigan 48864-3379

# Fall 2007 Interview Results

Katie Strong, Placement Chair



The polls have closed and the results are in! Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Nominating/Placement Advisors and each active JLL member, no chads were left hanging. Thank you for participating in this process. One hundred Junior League of Lansing Active members participated in this survey. This is well over 90% of our current

membership. More specifically, the demographics of members taking part in this interview are summarized below in the table. We did learn that our original demographics were not inclusive of all members, so we added additional categories as interviews proceeded. We appreciated the training opportunity and by no means meant to exclude any members with the original category listing.

Membership Demographic	# of Members
Single and working	16
Single and working with child	1
Single and not working/school	2
Married and working	17
Married and not working/school	1
Married with children and working	42
Married with children and not working/school	10
Retired	1

The recurrent and overwhelming trend from membership is a very positive outlook on the current status of the League, placements, and the work we do with our community partners. In other words, you really enjoy your time in the League. This is great news! Please know that this feedback was shared with the Board and taken under consideration.

Specifically, the majority of members were very pleased with their current placements, including the expectations, responsibilities, and time commitment of their specific placements. Members enjoyed the benefits of getting to know one another through committee work, organized Chairs, being a part of a team and knowing they are making a difference. Other members appreciated the opportunity of being pushed out of their comfort zone to develop new skills. Some members were surprised that their responsibilities began earlier than expected, i.e. in the summer. Many committees (Board, Signature Fundraiser, Done in A Day, just to name a few) are well underway in their work in early summer. Perhaps, it needs to be better communicated to membership that, despite the fact that JLL does not conduct GMMs during the summer, much work takes place in June, July and August. We heard that better communication regarding time frames for committee work is appreciated by our members. Additionally, feedback was received on promoting more collaboration between councils and committees so that we can work more effectively. Some members requested the FOCUS deadline be reconsidered, as time around a GMM is so busy, it is difficult to get articles in by 5pm the day after a meeting.

As you know, part of the mission of Junior League is to develop the potential of women. We asked our members what skills they were seeking to learn or improve upon. The list was endless, but here is a portion of the comments: be involved, public speaking, fundraising, branching out—attend more socials, learn to delegate, learn about the community, increase skill awareness within my committee, increase leadership, improve time management, increase organizational skills, looking at the big picture, personal development, networking, skills to put on a resume, how to moti-

vate people, sales skills, management and organization, assertive-ness, confidence, working in a group as a part of a team, PR/communications, grant development, improve League's diversity, train in usable skills, live in balance, maintain deadlines, be more flexible, expand friendships within League, and stay true to our mission.

We are in the second year of the Signature Project, FEAST, a collaborative venture with the Greater Lansing Food Bank and the Lansing Public Schools. As you know, our Signature Projects have traditionally lasted three years. Therefore, the CRPD committee will begin to survey the community to determine needs/risks (housing, poverty, health, arts, etc.) that are present. Our current Key Results Area is "Poverty—Access to Housing, Food and Support Services." Overwhelmingly, our membership feels that this Key Results Area continues to reflect the current interests of our membership and the needs of the community. A few members indicated that they would like to see JLL investigate supporting the aging female population, as well. Some of our members indicated that FEAST is difficult to understand and want more communication on the Signature Project. Other members feel that they would like to see us target a wider range for the next project. Members indicated that they would like to have projects that can sustain themselves after our initial support of three years. Members suggested the following organizations as potential partners for future projects: Advent House, Child Abuse Prevention Services, City of East Lansing, City Rescue Mission, End Violent Encounters (EVE), Habitat for Humanity, Highfields, Inforum, March of Dimes, MSU Association of Graduate Students, Ronald McDonald House, Safe Kids Coalition (car seat checks), Special Arts Program, Tri-County Office on Aging, and University Support to Underprivileged Women. All of this information has been shared with the CRPD committee and will be considered during this research year.

The membership had a whole host of great ideas for events they would be interested in participating in with the Member Relation Committee. Over 30 ideas were given ranging from a golf league to girls' night outs to family events. Specific ideas have been shared with the Member Relations Committee. However, some members indicated they think the events sound great, but it is difficult to fit them in to their busy schedules. It was recommended that perhaps our website have a "classified" section listing such events hosted by Member Relations.

The final poll question was with regard to GMM location. The vast majority of members (over half) like meetings as they are now, that is at the Hannah Center for most meetings and then special meeting venues for the September and May meeting, November In-Home Meeting, and a Movie Night in February. Some members responded to make sure that cost is considered when changing venue. Others are in favor of changing the venue of meetings to increase energy and awareness of our organization and to decrease the expense of meeting space. Members gave feedback that they would like meetings to be held in the greater Lansing community, not always in East Lansing or Okemos. Some members would like to have the meeting at a location where dinner can be ordered or have dinner as an option before the meeting begins. A list of potential meeting spaces was generated and shared with the Board for consideration and future planning.

As JLL is a membership-driven organization, your opinion and feedback are important. Thanks again for participating in this year's interviews. Winter Interviews are just around the corner, so don't be surprised when your advisor contacts you!



## Membership A Chair? Do I Dare?

Beth Cook, Nominating/Placement Advisor



**Y**es! Chairing a committee is a great way to expand your skill set. You will have the opportunity to become a better public speaker by giving committee updates at GMMs and improve your writing skills by writing FOCUS articles. You will learn how to plan and run a meeting, delegate, oversee a project, motivate and manage a group, as well as monitor a budget. While these responsibilities may seem a bit daunting, remember that in most cases you will receive a year of on-the-job training before taking charge, with plenty of training opportunities (OPS, MSC training, etc.) along the way. Typically, you would start your leadership role as the Vice Chair of a committee. As the Vice Chair, you will work closely with the Chair, learning first-hand all the ins and outs of the placement so that you will be ready to move up to the Chair position the following year.

If you are interested, be sure to tell your Advisor before January 29. The Advisors (also known as the Nominating/Placement Committee) will compile the requests and make recommendations to the incoming Board. The incoming board will meet on February 6 and make the best possible match of requests to open positions to determine next year's Leadership Team.

Being a committee Chair gives you the opportunity to really get to know some of your fellow JLL members, and by working with your corresponding Board member, you get to see how your role affects the big picture of League. It is also a required step before you can be a Board member—so keep that in mind!

## A Little Birdie Told Me-

**Lola Jane Henderson** was born December 28, 2007 to **Hillary** and **Brett Henderson**. She joins brothers **Hayden** and **Beckett**. She weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz. and was 19.5" long. Also, she is very cute!

**Kristi** and **Roger Moore** welcomed their second daughter, **Julia Marie**, on January 8th. She joins big sister, **Ella**. Congratulations!



## Planning Visionary Women Provide Thousands of Dollars

Amy Suhrheinrich, President-Elect



**W**here were you on May 14, 1984? You may not remember, but many sustaining members of this Junior League know the answer! On that date, a Declaration of Trust by the Junior League of Lansing, Inc. for the Establishment of an Endowment Fund was signed by then-President Mary W. Joseph and Treasurer, Sharon J. Wilson. The fund began with \$251 and has now grown to over one-half million dollars.

It took a group of visionary women to recognize that our League would benefit a great deal in the future from starting this fund. They realized that women had declining amounts of time and energy to raise funds. A mission was created, marketing strategies sought and many plans were followed to inform membership of its purpose. In the early nineties, the fund became self-supporting by reaching \$250,000 and we now receive tenders on a regular basis. There were many efforts and campaigns by members since its origination to continue to grow this fund. In 1990 the Capital Campaign was submitted to the National Junior League as a model project. There are many Leagues today who are just beginning to create endowment funds and we will be celebrating the 25th anniversary next year.

In 1988 the Junior League received the first tender from the Endowment Fund of \$2,000. As the Endowment Fund continues to grow the trustees are able to provide us with an annual donation. On January 14, we happily accepted a tender of \$25,522.75 from the Endowment Fund! I hope that when you receive your dues notice this year, you will think back to these visionary women and continue to support their efforts. It takes all of us to make a contribution to continue their mission: to enrich and perpetuate the work of Junior League. All contributions to the Endowment Fund are permanently invested. Only the interest earned on the funds is distributed to the League for League projects. A gift to the Junior League of Lansing Endowment will assist the Junior League in being able to fulfill unmet needs in the community forever.

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INTERIOR DESIGN

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# Annual Meeting & General Membership Meeting Minutes *Planning*

January 15, 2008 • 7:00 PM

Welcome—Becky Myers President

## Featured Speakers

- I. **Mary West, Endowment Check Presentation**—**Amy Suhrheinrich**, President Elect introduced **Mary West**. Mary West advised that the Endowment Fund was started in 1984 with \$251.00 and has grown to \$538,000 to date. Mary presented the Junior League with a check for \$25,522.75. This is 5% of on the current account balance.
- II. **MSU Students Hospitality Event**—**Ginny Brooks**, Sustainer, introduced two members of the MSU Hospitality Committee. The MSU Samba Auction will be held on February 9th at 5:00 PM in the Big Ten Room at the Kellogg Center. A percentage of the proceeds from the evening will be donated to the JLL. For further information check SambaAuction.com. The Junior League Pre-Party will be from 4:30-5:45 with advance reservations to Ginny Brooks.
- III. **Sustainer Panel**—**Jane Bitsicas**, Sustaining Advisor, introduced sustainer panel **Diane Tarpoff**, **Ginny Brooks**, and **Mary West**. Each presented on why they have maintained their sustainership with the Junior League, then answered questions from membership.

## Annual Meeting Agenda

- I. **Call Meeting to Order**—**Becky Myers**, President, called the Annual Meeting to order at 7:54 PM.
- II. **Annual Meeting? General Membership Meeting?** What's the difference? **Katie Strong**, Immediate Past President, educated members on the difference between the Annual Meeting and the General Membership Meeting. She advised that to maintain our non-profit status, we as an organization must have an annual meeting.
- III. **Present 2008–09 Board Candidates**—**Mary Boyer**, Nominating Chair, advised that we had a majority to vote. She advised of the following corrections on the Nominating Placement Ballot. On Ballot two, vote for four, not two persons. On Ballot one, remove **Alex Wiesner's** name, as she was voted on last year.
- IV. **Present 2008–09 Nominating/Placement Candidates**—**Mary Boyer**, Nominating Chair, provided photos with names on the overhead screen of all candidates.
- V. **Present 2008–09 Recruitment/New Member Advisor Candidates**—**Mary Boyer**, Nominating Chair, provided photos and names on the overhead screen of all candidates.
- VI. **Voting for 2008-09 Board, Nominating/Placement, and Recruitment/New member Advisors**—Vote taken.
- VII. **Present 2008–09 Done In A Day Projects**—**Suzanne Johnson**, DIAD Chair, provided a brief description of each possible project. Ten projects will be selected.
- VIII. **Voting for 2008–09 Done In a Day Projects**—Vote taken.
- IX. **Meeting adjourned** at 8:07 PM.

## General Membership Meeting

- I. **Call Meeting to Order**—**Becky Myers**, President—called the meeting to order at 8:08 PM.
- II. **Approve minutes from November GMM Meeting**—**Becky Myers**, President- **Kate Powers** made a motion to approve November General Membership Minutes as printed in the

December/January issue of Focus. Second by **Suzanne Johnson**.

- III. **Icebreaker**—**Darcy Pace**, Member Relations Chair, had membership play Junior League bingo.
- IV. **Membership Recruitment**—**Renee Knake & Shelley Mielock**, Membership Recruitment Chair & Vice Chair respectively, provided a warm welcome to our newest members. Each new member was introduced by name and stood. Membership was encouraged to introduce themselves and make our new members feel welcome.
- V. **Signature Fundraiser Update**—**Becky Paalman**, Signature Fundraiser Chair; **Traci Riehl**, Signature Fundraiser Vice Chair & **Tracy Jelneck**, Fund Development Vice President, thanked the chairs and members of the committee along with membership for their support. Tracy advised that there were 300 people in attendance at the fundraiser which raised \$57,772. (After expenses, made \$43,117). Thank you to new member **Kelly Kobus** and owner of A Piece of Cake for the cake and cupcakes donated tonight to celebrate another successful fundraiser.
- VI. **Budget Presentation**—**Alex Wiesner**, Treasurer Elect, reviewed the budget on the table. Alex also requested the budget request for New Year to be turned in by February 5th. She also reminded membership that check requests go to outside sources to do a portion, so there is a 2-3 week turn around time. Thanked membership for their patience during the holiday season. Activity Booklets Created. (???)
- VII. **Signature Project Update**—**Marcia Gresens** and **Lisa Gnass**, Signature Project Chair and Vice Chair respectively, advised they have been to the schools three times and distributed 750 books, 250 english muffins, and 250 bowls of soup. JLL has completed a video with WKAR showcasing Elmhurst Elementary. They will show the video at an upcoming meeting. Looking for volunteers for the 2nd Friday of the month—contact Marcia or Lisa.
- VIII. **Community Service Update and Done In a Meeting**—**Beth Ann Whitaker**, Community Service Co-Chair, **Patty Black**, Community Service Co-Chair and **Jill Story**, DIAD committee member, collected Kleenex, combs, and toothbrushes for Otto Health Center. Volunteer opportunity with Haslett Food Bank. Junior League will collect food for the food bank. Information will be in a Broadcast e-mail. Community Service Opportunity with Ballentine Stepping Stones for Valentine's Party on February 5th, we need five more volunteers from 6-8 PM. Jill picked DIAD raffle winners.
- IX. **Chair Selection**—**Amy Suhrheinrich**, President Elect, requested members speak to their advisors if they are interested in a chair position. Chair selection will be held on February 6th.
- X. **MSC Training**—**Kate Powers**, Education VP, advised that MSC training is on February 9th. It will be held at Hannah Center. This is for any incoming Board member and anyone else who is interested. Members from all Leagues across Michigan will be here. Details in Focus. If interested in training, e-mail Veronica.

*continued on page 11*

# Board Meeting Highlights

Planning

## DECEMBER

- Nominating Placement advised the Board of the 2008–09 Board Slate:
  - President Elect—Tracy Jelneck; Secretary—Molly Chan; Communications VP—Becky Paalman; Community VP—Dawn Kroeger; Education VP—Kate Quinn; Fund Dev VP—Veronica McNally; Membership VP—Renee Knake; Treasurer Elect—Nicki Proulx. New Member Recruitment Advisors—Samantha Hughes; Ivana Marinig; Christie Lemon; Julie Morgan. Nom/Place Advisor slate—Sara Gillespie; Susan Lupo; Jessica Schaub; Nicole Godby; Hillary Henderson; Kate Powers; Polly Synk; Stacey Carl.
- St. Vincent invited Junior League Board members to attend a breakfast at St. Vincent's on December 7th at 8:45am. The Junior League will be receiving an award.
- The Board is currently looking at options for Outsourcing the FOCUS.
- The Board approved \$1,100 to St. Vincent Ballentine Stepping Stones for quarter 2.
- Forty one people went on the Sustainer Bus Trip to Chicago and had a great time.
- The common theme emerging from the Extreme Makeover Feedback was that members have a need for increased opportunities to socialize at meetings.
- The Junior League Logo will appear on all "Tables of Note" Printed material. Table of Note will be held on February 8th at Walnut Hills Country Club.

## NOVEMBER

- From this point forward, the complete General Membership Meeting Minutes will be printed in the FOCUS so they can be approved by membership at the following General Membership Meeting.
- We are happy to announce that Courtney Schnelker has been appointed to finish the Advisor term of Hillary Schmidt who has moved away.
- Junior League of Lansing will be creating a table again this year for the Lansing Symphony's Table of Note Fundraiser at Walnut Hills Country Club on February 8th from 2–4 PM.
- New member cookie Exchange will be held at Becky Myers house on December 18th from 7–8:30 PM.

## GMM Meeting Minutes *continued from page 10*

- XI. **Upcoming Events and Kudos**—Darcy Pace, Member Relations Chair, distributed sheets for any announcements. February GMM is movie night. March will be an Easter Egg Hunt. April will be a progressive Party in Old Town. Kudos Recipients—Lisa Gnass, Vice Chair of Signature project, organized the booth for Health Fit Expo and twenty packets to new members. Marcia Gresens for her excellent leadership skills. Jessica Schaub for creating the passport book.
- XII. **Announcement of Election Results**—Becky Myers, President
- a. **Ten Done In A Day Projects for 2008–09:** Caring About Kids, Back to School Back-Packs for Children at Ballentine Stepping Stones, Girls on the Run 5k, Mothers Day Gift Bags, Child Play Area—City Rescue Mission,

# Ballentine Back to School Backpacks

Community

Heather A. Gilkey, Project Chair



Thanks to the Junior League of Lansing, 17 kids at Ballentine's were able to start the school year with new backpacks and school supplies. The DIAD Ballentine Back-to-School Backpack project helped all the kids living at Ballentine start the new school year with new backpacks and school supplies (or educational toys, crayons & coloring books for the young tots). This year, we supplied backpacks to kids between the ages of 6 months to 17 years old. According to Christine at Ballentine, all the kids desperately needed the backpacks and school supplies.

Thank you to JLL members **Molly Chan, Beth Day, Beth Ann Whitaker, Valarie Green, Jane Campbell, Alex Wiesner, Christie Lemon, Becky Myers, Nancy Nyquist, Karen Olson, Darcy Pace, Jessica Schaub, Hillary Schmitt, Courtney Schnelker** and **Sara Smith** for helping make this DIAD a success!



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- a. **2008–09 Board Slate:** President Elect, Tracy Jelneck; Secretary to the Board, Molly Chan; Communications Vice President, Becky Paalman; Community Vice President, Dawn Kroeger; Education Vice President, Kate Quinn; Fund Development Vice President, Veronica Valentine McNally; Membership Vice President, Renee Knake; Treasurer Elect, Nicki Proulx.
- c. **2008–09 Nominating Placement Advisors:** Hillary Henderson, Susan Lupo, Kate Powers, and Jessica Schaub.
- d. **2008–09 New Member Advisors:** Samantha Hughes, Christie Lemon, Ivana Marinig, and Julie Morgan.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

# JLL Endowment Fund Contributors

The Endowment Fund Board would like to thank those who have supported the mission of the Junior League of Lansing by contributing generously to the Endowment Fund from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007.

## Benefactor

(gifts of \$1,000 or more)

Bernice Smith

Michigan State University  
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## Leadership

(gifts between \$500 and \$999)

Jan and Joe Foster Fund

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## Pacesetter

(gifts between \$250 and \$499)

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Kimberly Garrison

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(gifts between \$1 and \$99)

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Emilie Lanstra

Craig & Cathy Lazar

Mary Liechty

Ruby Anne Allen Magee

Claudia Maguire

Mary Jo Maguire

Ellen McKay

Maggie Papesh

Candy Parker

Shirley Paxton

Virginia Peery

Mary Beth Pirich

Thomas & Barbara Sukenik

Christy Swords

June Whipp

Alexandra Wiesner

Judith Wilkinson

Patricia Wilson

# Birthdays

February to March

## ACTIVE

Cibelli, Daniela	02/01
Melville, Amy Sue	02/06
Williams, Christina	02/08
Hawkins-Green, Valarie	02/09
Whitaker, Beth Ann	02/19
Swords, Christy	02/23
Fenech, DeAnna	02/24
Pace, Jennifer	02/29
Kobus, Kelly	03/04
Purdy, Amanda	03/04
Combs, Susan	03/05
Dowling, Tiffany	03/05
Mitchell, Diana	03/05
Regan, Courtney	03/07
Urbain, Julie	03/09
Gillespie, Sara	03/14
Rosenbaum, Rachel	03/16
Hicks, Kristin	03/17
Marinig, Ivana	03/18
Bellingar, Rosalie	03/19
Fink, Michelle	03/22
Branoff, Andrea	03/23
Quinn, Kate	03/25
Powers, Kate	03/31

## SUSTAINER

Olofsson, Pat	02/08
White, Gail	02/11
Hopping, Alicia	02/14
Liedholm, Margaret	02/15
Buta-Blair, Kim	02/20
Gucky, Janet	02/20
Archibley, Joan	02/21
Chegwidden, Janet	02/21
Benivegna, Susan	02/22
Charchut, Eleanor	02/22
Werbelow, Louise	02/22
Stearns, Libby	02/23
Stover, Besty	02/26
Foster, Jan	02/27
Wakeland, Pam	02/27
Regan, Sharon	02/28
Hay, Donna	03/01
Swift, Anne	03/01
Barron, Marni	03/02
Glick, Melody	03/04
Grewal, Susan	03/05
Spagnuolo, Teresa	03/07
Stover, Marlene	03/08
Fuller, Lori	03/09
McKouen, Polly	03/10
Murray, Debbie	03/13
Shepard, Nancy	03/14
Wirth, Peggy	03/14
MacDonald, Caroline	03/15
Martyn, Cheryl	03/16
Morrison, Julie	03/18
Foster, Liz	03/22
VanWieren, Mary	03/22
Roe, Char	03/23
Kelly, Jamie	03/24
McLean, Barbara	03/24
Dudley, Carolyn	03/26
Tuck, Suzanne	03/27
Hicks, Cathy	03/30

## Fund Development

# Celebrity Luncheon is Back!!

Tracy Jelneck, Fund Development Vice President



We are extremely excited to, again this year, have the Celebrity Luncheon as our Spring Fundraiser.

If you know of anyone in the community who would be willing to act as a server and can sell at least 20 tickets, please give me a call at 449-7233. We are also looking for individuals who would like to participate either at the event or with the planning. If this is a placement that you might be interested in next year, then this is the perfect opportunity to get your feet wet. I hope to hear from you all soon.



## Community You Deserve an Award!!!

Betsy Svanda, Community Vice President



**H**ow much time do you volunteer for Junior League? Well, you say, that depends on the placement, year, whether you are a New Member, Active or Sustainer? Imagine if you added all the hours together, what would be the total tally? Well you don't have to! The Junior League Volunteer Service Awards, supported through AJLI, wants to recognize the hours our members contribute to build better communities through Junior League volunteer opportunities.

These hours add up fast! When added together the GMM's, trainings, placements, DIAD's & Community Service Projects just this year may have added up to at least 100 hours per person. If that is the case for you, way to go! You have earned a U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award Bronze level, an award given out for 100 league hours in any 12 month period!! Additional hours in a given year can earn silver or gold awards.

For our wonderful Sustainers who have dedicated substantial time to past projects of JLL they may qualify for the "Call to Service" Award (4,000 hours over a lifetime). Qualifying hours for Sustainers can also include the activities in which Sustainers use their leadership training to better the community, such as sitting on other boards!!

Are you ready to go for the gold? Go ahead and log on, to [vsa.ajli.org](http://vsa.ajli.org) and start logging your hours. In the Volunteer Service Award section you will be able to track your progress towards a specific award.

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## Community DIAD 2008-2009 Projects

Karen Olson, DIAD Chair



**W**ith the increase in membership this past year, the DIAD Committee is pleased to have increased its offerings from seven to ten projects for the 2008-2009 year.

The projects that were approved are as follows: Sparrow Working Wonders 5K Race, Ballentine Back to School Backpacks, Caring About Kids, Ronald McDonald House Dinners, Mother's Day Gift Bags, Habitat for Humanity, Girls on the Run, Haven House Repair/Renovation, Pregnancy Services Center (Baby and Maternity items collection) and Children's Play Area (City Rescue Mission).

## Community Done In A Meeting

Daniela Cibelli, DIAM/DIAD Vice Chair



**T**hank you one more time for the generous donations at the September GMM.

We collected 4 packages of chocolates, paper towels and toilet paper and a good amount of cash that we used to purchase 10 packages of individually wrapped chocolates, 8 packages of paper towels and 6 packages of toilet paper. The donations were given to the Women's Center Of Greater Lansing

You can also check out their website, ([www.cacvoices.org/organizations/womenscenter](http://www.cacvoices.org/organizations/womenscenter)) for more information.

Another success for DIAM at the October GMM! We collected 20 pairs of kids socks, 22 pairs women's socks, 1 package of women underwear, 6 baby sleepwear, 5 gently used pajamas and 11 one-piece baby sleepwear and \$105 in cash donations to purchase more items. All of this will benefit Eve's House and supportive services for the victims of domestic violence, so all our donations are greatly appreciated.

Thank you again for the donations at the November GMM, we collect \$208 in cash for the purchase of diapers and wipes for Pregnancy Services

Happy New Year!!!! We started really great!! Thank you for the donations at January GMM for Otto Health Center, we collect more than 50 boxes of Kleenex along with toothbrushes and combs. We also have \$136 in cash, which we'll use to purchase more items.



## Caring About Kids

## Shop 'Til You Drop 2007

Courtney Schnelker, DIAD Committee



**H**undreds of foster care children had a happy holiday because of the Junior League of Lansing.

In November, 62 JLL members shopped for approximately 350 foster care children that ranged in ages from newborn to 18 years old. JLL members dropped the gifts off to the

Department of Human Services on Friday, November 30th. The children received their gifts during a holiday party that was held by the DHS.

The Ingham County Department of Human Services investigates hundreds of complaints of child abuse and neglect. Due to these unfortunate circumstances, these children are often taken out of their homes to ensure their safety. The DHS places these children in safe environments that can include placement with relatives, foster homes, or in care due to delinquent behavior. These children have to deal with the loss of their families and often are very poor, having few clothes or other possessions.

Caring About Kids was established in 1985 to raise funds to purchase the extras that public monies can't buy. At holiday time every year, it takes a total of about \$12,000 to buy the extras for these children.

A huge thank you goes out to the following members that were able to find the extra time to shop for these children: **Kate Quinn, Patty Black, Julie Howe, Jamie Hutchison, Nicki Proulx, Nancy Nyquist, Holly Hatch, Marianne Menna, Daniela Cibelli, Molly Chan, Nicole Godby, Lori Noyer, Mary Boyer, Kate Powers, Ivana Marinig, Karen Olson, Katie Gallagher, Susan Lupo, Jessica Schaub, Kimberly Garrison, Linda Hirt, DeAnna Fenech, Betsy Svanda, Katie Strong, Traci Riehl, Amy Suhrheinrich, Tracy Jelneck, Ro Bellinger, Angela Emlet-Dardas, Veronica McNally, Barb Fishell, Gina Brick, Jill Story, Shelley Mielock, Nikki Shumway, Ann Vogelsang, Michelle Thelen, Kirsten Soltis, Rachel Rosenbaum, Lisa Meny, Heather Gilkey, Amy Sue Melville, Stacy Slobodnik-Stoll, Kristi Moore, Marcia Grescens, Jenifer Main, Erissa Renfer, Christy Swords, Trish Foster, Sara Gillespie, Lisa Whiting-Dobson, Christina Burnham, Dina Ferris, Sara Smith, Amanda Lake, Michele Ballein, Suzanne Johnson, Colette Evangelista, Leslie Donaldson, Jennifer Pace, Diana Mitchell, and Jodie Burditt.** Every member had all of their shopping done on time—Thank You!

*Braving the snow and cold to shop for the kids.*



## New Member Recruitment Hosts Festive Cookie Exchange

Christie Lemon, New Member Advisor



**A** good time was had by all at the December 18th New Member Cookie Exchange. Over 35 women joined us at the beautiful home of **Becky Myers**.

Becky graciously opened her home to us for a festive evening where we enjoyed wine, appetizers and sweet treats. In addition to socializing and exchanging cookies for ourselves, we donated many delicious cookies to Volunteers of America and Haven House to be enjoyed during the Christmas season.

Special thanks go to Becky for her warm hospitality and to **Amy Suhrheinrich** for assisting in delivery of the cookies. Many thanks also to the many actives who attended—**Amy Suhrheinrich, Kimberly Garrison, Tracy Jelneck, Lori Noyer, Betsy Svanda, Kate Powers and DeAnna Fenech.**

*Dear Jill,*

*Isn't it almost time to pay dues?*

*Sincerely,*

*Pricilla Procrastinator*

*Dear Pricilla,*

*Yes! By now you should have received your Annual Membership Dues Notice in the mail. Payment is due by the 28th of February. The dues for Active and Senior Active Members are \$122.00 while Sustaining Members' dues are \$84.00. Members' dues must be postmarked by February 28, 2008 to avoid an additional late fee charge of \$16.00.*

*Please make sure to update any changes in personal information on the Directory Information portion of the Dues Notice. We want to make sure the 2008-2009 Membership Directory is as accurate as possible. If you intend to change your status, please notify Kimberly Garrison, Membership Vice President, in writing by February 28. If your financial situation warrants special conditions please notify Diana Mitchell, Treasurer, as soon as possible.*

*Mail your dues in early and have a chance to win a Biggby's Gift Card! Or save a stamp and an extra stop by bringing your dues to the February GMM!*

*Thanks in advance for your cooperation and paying your dues on time!*

*Sincerely,*

*Jill*

# Community Response Grants

Betsy Svanda, Community Vice President



The Community Response Grant, which can be handed out quarterly, has been awarded to three recipients.

**Ballentine Stepping Stones**, an ongoing service of St. Vincent's Home, has been awarded \$1,100. Ballentine Stepping Stones will use the grant monies to help meet the emergency needs of homeless mothers and children such as car repairs, bus passes, work clothes, school fees, school clothes for children, goal recognition ("Mom of the Month"), and gift certificates to local stores for pantry supplies and household items.

The second grant recipient is **The Jump Start Outreach Program of Ingham County Health Department**, which services close to 100 children and their families. The Program will use the \$500.00 granted to them to buy infant and children's car seats for families.

**R.J. Scheffel Memorial Toy Project** is the third recipient and will be using the \$250.00 to make "memory boxes" and toys for grieving children who attend Ele's place for comfort after the loss of a loved one.

Grant monies are still available. Applications can be found at [www.jllansing.org](http://www.jllansing.org)



## Community Refugee Services Coat Drive

*JLL Membership Comes Through in a Pinch!*

Patty Black, Community Service Co-Chair



In early November the Community Service Co-Chairs were contacted by a St. Vincent Catholic Charities/Refugee Services staff person. We were told there was an urgent need for winter coats for newly arriving clients of all ages, and asked if we could

possibly put the word out and gather up a few to at least tide them over. As usual the good people of JLL came through in a pinch, resulting in two carloads of coats and other winter gear being delivered over the next two weeks. We had over fifty coats and jackets, as well as snowpants, sweaters, hats, boots, and gloves. This was an outstanding response for a project, especially on short notice and at a busy time of year. Many thanks to all those who took time out of their busy schedules to scour closets and attics for useable warm winter clothing to donate.

Refugee Services provides resettlement assistance for several hundred refugees annually. These individuals and families are forced to flee their homes and countries due to civil unrest or political persecution. They arrive here with little or nothing, and are given assistance with housing, schooling, and employment. Refugees are from such countries as Afghanistan, Bosnia, Ethiopia, Serbia, and Vietnam—over twenty countries have been represented in the last seven years.

Thanks JLL for the help you have provided these deserving folks!

Having trouble getting those  
New Year's resolutions to stick?

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# Membership Celebrity Luncheon's PIG Debut

Kimberly Garrison, Membership Vice-President



It is so hard to believe that it will soon be time to choose our placement for the 2008–2009 League Year! In March, the updated version of our Placement Information Guide (PIG) will be handed out—and found within will be the opportunity to volunteer for the Spring Fundraiser/Celebrity Luncheon. As this is a new placement choice I wanted you all to have a chance to see this as you start to narrow down your placement choices.

Many of you are aware that this fundraiser is not exactly “new.” For the past two years we have been lucky enough to have the fundraiser’s creator—*Super Sustainer Kathy Colby*—along with her staff and a few very committed actives handle the planning for us. However, after this year it is time for us to take this task over completely, so if this looks like a good fit for you be sure and let your advisor know! As always, if you have any questions, please give me a call at 347-5636.

## SPRING FUNDRAISER – CELEBRITY LUNCHEON

**Time:** January–May

**Purpose:** To plan and oversee a celebrity luncheon that will help increase our visibility in the community and allow our members to gain valuable fund development training. This fundraiser will help generate profits to support our mission and provide additional training opportunities for our membership.

**Volunteers Needed:** 1 chair and 3 full-time placements.

### Job Description:

1. Confirm vendor / date and time for event.
2. Recruit previous and new Celebrity Servers @ 20–24 for event.
3. Meet monthly (Jan.–May) to map out responsibilities, design tickets, celebrity aprons and table tents, and plan for promotion and sponsorship of event. Suggest weekly meetings or phone/email contact with committee members in the month prior to event.
4. Work with Finance Council and Public Relations/Marketing Committee.

Looking for committed and creative members to oversee this successful fundraiser which is a wonderful PR opportunity for JLL. This placement is perfect for members who may have more time in the spring.

**Time Commitment:** 2–4 hours a week during specified months.

**Location:** Currently at Texas Roadhouse, but could vary.

**Reference Contact:** Alex Wiesner, H: 333-0858  
Jessica Schaub, H: 323-6906

## Pregnancy Services of Greater Lansing

Dear Junior League,

Thanks so much for all the diapers — what a wonderful donation! Over the holidays we had served many families, and our “supply” had really gone down on diapers. And it is so hard to have a client come in, so needy and not be able to help! It really breaks our hearts!

So, thank you so much for helping us! Already today, since you brought them in, we have given several packages away.

You are all a total blessing! Have a wonderful New Year!

Sincerely,

*Nancy Kujawa - Thank you so much!!*

Nancy Kujawa  
Director

*IMAGINE...*

*...walking into an automobile dealership where the atmosphere is friendly, fun, and clean*

*IMAGINE...*

*...an automobile dealership that is here to overcome your negative feelings about buying a car*

*IMAGINE...*

*...salespeople who believe in working with you in an honest and upfront manner*

***Stop imagining...start experiencing!***



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## St. Vincent Catholic Charities

PROVIDING HELP. CREATING HOPE.

Dear Junior League,

Thank you for your very generous in-kind donation of the winter supplies. Many individuals in our community don't know how to assist those in need, especially those living in poverty, they like you trust that STVCC will know what to do if given the resources to serve. Shanell and her son Hubert were once homeless in our community; through the services STVCC is able to provide, due in part to your generous gift, this family is now self-supportive in a home of their very own.

Truly, we live in a community which embraces St. Vincent Catholic Charities mission and ministry to provide help and create hope for those we serve. To learn more about, and see first hand the many services STVCC provides, please join us for a "Tour of Hope." If you would like to take a Tour, please call Erica Newland at (517)-323-4734, ext. 1206.

Together we can transform the world,

*Andrea E. Seyka*

Andrea E. Seyka  
Acting President and CEO

December 3, 2007

Dear Junior League President:

I would like to extend a huge thank you to the Junior League of Lansing, MI for participating in the second annual SPANX fundraising promotion this past October. The program was a huge success, thanks to enthusiastic Junior League members like yours, and we hope everyone's wardrobes have gotten a boost from their Spanx goodies! Your Junior League placed 13 orders with the promotion code, and we have donated \$65 to your League (check enclosed).

Spanx is honored to be able to partner with the AJLI, and truly supports women like you who are shaping the world!

Sincerely,

*Wendy Lewis*

Wendy Lewis  
Manager, Public Relations & Marketing

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Dear Junior League:

Please extend our gratitude to the Junior League for the very generous donation of Christmas cookies to the Christmas Meal Program. The time and effort put into making them was greatly appreciated, surely you felt the joy from those who received them.

The Christmas Meal Program reaches out to hundreds of people each year and this year was no exception. Your efforts helped to ensure that each of the 330 individuals who received a dinner also received one dozen cookies.

Thank you again for being part of our Christmas Meal Program and helping us celebrate the true meaning of the season. I hope you will participate in this great holiday tradition again next year.

Sincerely,

*Kate Reed*

Kate Reed  
Development Coordinator

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Quarter Page Ad — 3⅜ x 4⅝ inches	1 issue	35.00

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**Junior League of Lansing FOCUS**  
271 Woodland Pass Centre, Suite 115 ■ East Lansing, MI 48823  
or send to: [FOCUS@jllansing.org](mailto:FOCUS@jllansing.org)

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Due to bulk mailing regulations for nonprofit organizations, we may not accept advertising for:  
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political parties, and specific travel arrangements.

We will accept business cards for financial institutions, travel agents, real estate agents, and insurance agents.

# Special Olympics Done In A Day

Angela Emlet-Dardas, DIAD Committee



**N**ovember 17, 2007, was a busy day for a number of volunteers who, in addition to attending the Signature Fundraiser on that Saturday night, took the time to participate in the Special Olympics DIAD at the Summit in Lansing.

Members **Angela Emlet-Dardas, Darcy Pace, Julie Howe, Susan Lupo, Stacey Young, Karyn Clark, Amy Sue Melville,** and Angela's daughter, **Ashlynn Emlet,** participated in this fun and creative event. Junior League of Lansing is a welcome organization at the Special Olympics event, where it has organized fun arts and crafts projects for the athletes for many years.

This year, we did something a little different, offering the athletes the opportunity to have a photograph taken of themselves, either alone or with other athletes, and then create a scrapbook page-type picture frame for the photo. Ashlynn did a great job taking the photos with a Polaroid camera so the Special Olympians could see their photograph develop right in front of their eyes.

Once they had a photo taken, Angela helped each athlete select a background and photo "frame" from pre-cut colored papers, which they then took to one of four tables set up with a myriad of stickers, letters, glue sticks, glitter and pens with which they could decorate their projects. Karyn, Darcy, Julie, Susan, Stacey and Amy helped the athletes with their creative ideas, transforming a photo and a few pieces of paper into works of art.

Each athlete left with a wonderful keepsake from the day, many of them showing off medals or new-found friendships in their scrapbook page frames. The athletes truly enjoyed the project, and it was a rewarding experience for all of us who participated to help them have fun and enjoy the camaraderie of their fellow athletes as they worked individually to create something special for themselves or to give to a loved one.

We took photos right up to the last minute we were there, taking 120 photographs. It's a great feeling to realize that over 100 Special Olympians took home a wonderful memory from the 2007 Special Olympics with the help of the Junior League of Lansing Volunteers.



Special Olympians working on their photo pages with the help of JL member Susan Lupo.



Darcy Pace, Susan Lupo, Angela Emlet-Dardas, Ashlyn Emlet and Karyn Clark getting creative with the Special Olympics athletes.



JL volunteers Susan Lupo, Angela Emlet-Dardas and Amy Sue Melville with the athletes.



Karyn Clark with the athletes showing off their creations.

# Calendar of Events

## February

Feb. 9 MSC Training  
9 am-3 pm  
Hannah Community  
Center



Feb. 9 MSU School of  
Hospitality Auction,  
benefiting the JLL  
Endowment Fund  
Preparty for JLL members begins at  
4:30 pm, auction at 5 pm

Feb. 12 GMM

Feb. 28 Membership dues deadline

## March

March 11 GMM

March 11 Day at the Capitol



March TBA Member Relations Easter Egg Hunt

## April

April 15 GMM

April TBA Member Relations Progressive  
Party in Old Town

## May

May 14 GMM — Country Club of Lansing

### NEXT FOCUS DEADLINE

**Wednesday, February 13, 2008 • 5 pm**

All articles must be send in Microsoft word with Times New Roman  
12 pt font. Email all articles as attachments to Focus@jllansing.org



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