

SUMMER 2023



FOCUS

The Official Newsletter of the Junior League of Lansing



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Maggie Louks, 2021-2023 President



Over three years ago, I was elected to be President. I was honored to be the first two-year President of our League. With it came some unknowns, but I was excited and eager to see where this journey would take me. Now that I'm at the end of my term, I'm excited to share what the JLL Board has accomplished this year.

The Board continued to focus on our strategic plan. Our strategic plan focuses on membership, community impact, transparency, leadership, and operational goals. Our incoming Board will craft a new strategic plan in the spring.

One of our most significant changes in 2023 has been updating the JLLs mission statement to align with AJLI. Our mission now reads: ***The Junior League of Lansing is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.***

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Stacy Bogard

Communications Vice President

Ally Caldwell

Community Vice President

Lisa Biering

Education Vice President

Leia Cooper-Rigg

Finance Vice President

Lisa Whiting Dobson

Fund Development Vice President

Ana Whitman

Membership Vice President

Andi Earl

Sustaining Management Advisor

Meredith Jagutis

MISSION STATEMENT

The Junior League of Lansing is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

President's Message, continued from page 1

While what we do has not changed, how we talk about it is now wrapped in language that is more accessible, inviting, and collaborative. Additionally, the Nominating Committee worked hard to prepare the 2023-2024 slate and helped facilitate our second Community Fund vote. Our Active membership and leadership voted for Advent House to receive a donation of \$5,023. The Board also approved JLL's donation of \$1,000 to Ele's Place, one of our Legacy projects, to support its November Children's Grief Awareness Month Campaign and approved \$1,000 to the Greater Lansing Food Bank for its Empty Plates Dinner Fundraiser. With a focus on acknowledging hard work throughout the year, we also brought back "kudos." We had multiple monthly nominations of members recognizing each other for going above and beyond their placements.

The Board also continues to work on updating our policies and implementing the feedback and questions posed in the 2022 League Summit and 2023 Mid-Year Review. We have helped solidify processes and worked with our association management firm to strengthen our League.

For the last month or so, I've been reflecting on Stacy Bogard's question while driving home from the AJLI Annual Conference. She asked me, ***"What will you miss?"***

The first thing that came to mind was sarcasm - what could I miss from a full-time job that doesn't pay? But that's not really how I feel. I will miss all of it, the good, bad, and the ugly. The good things are spending time with all of you at GMMs, sitting around the board table thinking of our mission, discussing ways we can make members' experience in the League better, brainstorming ways we can fundraise more money to give back to the community - but the best "good" is the lifelong friendships.

The last three years have given me leadership experience that I couldn't have obtained anywhere else - I've learned to mediate, make risk assessments, coach people, be the person people vented to, be a cheerleader, and learn from my mistakes. I am always in awe of how lucky I am to be part of an organization that allows me to surround myself with the most intelligent, hardworking women. I'm going to miss all of it. And although my husband can attest I'm not allowed to watch the last episode of "The Office" because I cry every time I see it, Andy Bernard is so accurate when he says, "I wish there were a way to know you're in the good old days before you've left them." And that's precisely how I feel. When we have a big project or League event, it feels like a mountain to climb, but it is brief - it goes by so fast. So, I advise all League members to soak in every moment because it goes by so fast.

While I promise I'm not going anywhere - I will be on the Nominating Committee next year - it is my time to continue to Sustaining. I'm so excited to support our Active membership from a new point of view.

As this is the last time I will write to you as President of the Junior League of Lansing, I want to share some final thoughts. When I first took the gavel in July 2021, I promised to listen to your concerns, help you problem solve, celebrate our successes and continue to learn how to lead with each of you. My promise is forever. Even though we turn the reins over to our next leaders this July, please celebrate your accomplishments, share gratitude with all those who gave what they could, and, most importantly, cheer and encourage those who succeed you as they will continue on the legacy of your hard work. From the bottom of my heart, thank you all for this opportunity and your support.

INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Stephanie Collier, 2023-2025 President

During this time of transition from one League year into the next, I want to thank all of you, our members. It is always awe-inspiring when we get to the end of each League year and genuinely look back at our accomplishments. You have grown and strengthened as leaders through our GMM education series, SLBI (Small Leagues, Big Impact), and AJLI (Association of Junior Leagues International) opportunities and your experiences within your placements. Our community has benefited immensely through the hard work and dedication of all of you. You have provided countless hours of volunteer efforts, raised over \$21,000 net, and in turn, we've been able to disperse over \$25,000 back into the community through our grants. You are a truly gifted and fantastic group of women, and I am grateful and humbled for the opportunity to serve as your President for the next two years.



We have recently updated our mission to align with what the Junior League is today: ***The Junior League of Lansing is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.*** We are no longer simply developing the potential of women because we are all leaders already. We lead at home, in our careers, and in communities. Reflecting on this new mission allows us to set the stage for what is to come and strategically focus the efforts and impact that the Junior League of Lansing will have on our members and the community.

Before we look ahead to what's to come, I would like to take a moment and honor where we've been:

We have accomplished so much as a League (since being founded in 1931). In 1948, the Junior Service League became the Junior League of Lansing. With that transition, this year we celebrated our 75th anniversary as an Association of Junior Leagues International member. "The JLL played an integral role in bringing the American Red Cross and the Sight Conversation Program (later adopted by the Lions Club) to Lansing in the 1940s. In the 1970s, the JLL was one of the first organizations to pledge money for the Impression 5 Science Museum,"¹ and in 1973, the Cedar Chest was re-envisioned from the original Junior League shop called The Resale Shop (opened in 1939 originally). In the 1980s, some of our League's completed projects included a "60-plus health center at St. Lawrence Hospital, the parent recreation and involvement program of the Family Growth Center, a research guide called 'Lansing, a Capital Idea,' and Camp Highfields."² Then "the JLL started to extend our interest into public policy areas. In the 1990s, JLL led the charge in bringing Ele's Place, Ballentine Stepping Stones, and Otto Health Clinic to our community."¹ In the 2010s, we transitioned to an issue-based community impact focus and have been dedicated to the issues of food, shelter, and access to food and shelter by providing countless hours of volunteering and granting well over \$100,000 in support of our communities needs.

As we look to our future, I find that Jacqueline Novogratz, Founder of Acumen/Amazing Women, conveys it best: "Honor what is most beautiful about the past, and build it into the promise of the future."

Our past is inspiring and our future is bright. For the 2023-2024 League year, the Board of Directors will assess and update our current Strategic Plan, which will expire in June 2024.

As part of this planning, we recently created the Community Area Resource Examination (CARE) Task Force, led by our Community Vice President Lisa Biering. The charge of CARE is to review the issue area that the Junior League of Lansing will strategically focus on, beginning with the 2024-2025 League year. Through this process, CARE will seek to learn and understand the most underserved and pressing needs of our Greater Lansing community. The work of CARE, presented for membership review and dialogue throughout the fall, will be up for a vote in early 2024. Rest assured, we are staying open to the possibility that our efforts may need to stay right where they currently are. We invite all our members, Sustainers and Actives alike, to join the task force and directly impact this critical discussion. Please contact us at president@jllansing.org or community@jllansing.org to join.

Together we are the current stewards of this unique organization. When we stay focused on our mission through our commitment to grow and develop as civic leaders, our collective and strategic efforts will undoubtedly continue to compound and cascade positive impact on our community. Thank you to those who have created the legacy of the Junior League of Lansing, and I am excited to be partnering with all of you for what is to come.

1. JLL Member. "History." *Jllansing.Org*, 2023, www.jllansing.org/about/history/. Accessed June 1, 2023.

2. "Moving Right Along." *Lansing State Journal*, August 30, 1981. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/lugn215/44306602084/in/photostream/>

COMMUNITY

As community members, we are responsible for contributing positively to its well-being. The Junior League of Lansing’s members believe that. Our impact can be so much more profound when we pool our resources, creating greater unity, cooperation, and shared purpose among individuals.

For the 2022-2023 League year, our members engaged in collective and individual community service initiatives. Our highlights include the following:

- Giving more than \$25,000 in grants to area nonprofits working to solve issues around food, shelter and access to food and shelter.
- Volunteering more than 320 hours for area nonprofits.

GRANTS

2023 is a special year. The League awarded three types of grants.

1. Community Fund Grant

Nominated and selected by the membership, Advent House Ministries received \$5,023.

2. Community Response Grants

Selected by a special Grant Review Committee, these grants range from \$500 to \$1,500. In total, we awarded \$5,000 to seven organizations:

- The Basic Needs Center for \$500
- Christ Temple Church for \$750
- Covered by Love for \$500
- Small Talk Children’s Advocacy Center for \$1,000
- South Lansing Ministries for \$500
- Southside Community Center for \$1,000
- STREETS 517 for \$750

3. Community Impact Grant

Awarded whenever the Reserve Fund exceeds \$85,000, \$15,000 was given to Who Am I – I am Me!, which is also known as the RISE Recovery Center. It is an addiction treatment center in Lansing founded by a mother and son who survived nearly a decade in the world of addiction. The center provides stable housing for those coming out of treatment, support groups and more to those in recovery. The grant will be used to purchase 41 beds and mattresses for the RISE recovery house.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Our members gave over 370 hours of their time to the community. Their volunteering efforts included: food distribution for local food banks, managing a community baby shower, arranging floral bouquets for hospice patients, ringing the bell for Salvation Army during the holidays, preparing dinner for a local shelter, and much more.



EDUCATION

2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

JLL provided four \$1,000 scholarships this year.

The traditional student recipients who are high school seniors with post-secondary education plans for the upcoming year are:

- Charlotte Kirschner, East Lansing High School
- Nia Long, East Lansing High School
- Jayci Simon, St. Johns High School

The nontraditional student who has plans to continue their education in a post-secondary or trade school in the upcoming year is:

- Dhan Bhandari, Lansing Community College

Thank you to JLL members who served on the committee to select the recipients: Stacy Bogard, Domonique Brace, Leia Cooper-Rigg, Maggie Louks, and Anita Nystrom.

TRAINING

Sustaining Member Advisor Meredith Jagutis and Education VP Leia Cooper-Rigg worked closely together this year tapping into the extensive knowledge base within our own League and community to provide valuable and impactful training for our membership.

In January, Meredith spoke about Fund Development and Ann Volgelsang on the Endowment Fund. In March, a wonderful training was provided by Sustainer Katie Strong on “Communicating with Confidence.” Our April training was a Placement Panel in which various leaders in League, Tricia Brentar, Brittany Risk, Leia Cooper-Rigg, Stacy Bogard, Stephanie Collier, and Maggie Louks, discussed various positions, leadership, and their experiences within League. Finally, in May we had Cornerstone Legal’s Katrina Hofstetter talk to us about the legalities of starting a business.



This year marks the 38th anniversary of the Junior League of Lansing Endowment Fund. The Endowment supports the mission of JLL in perpetuity, and we are grateful to our founding members for the foresight to establish this endowment fund to benefit the women of this community.

As of June 30, 2023, the current fund balance is \$696,739. As our Endowment Fund balance grows, its financial impact on our League will continue to grow.

Our members generously support our League annually through donations, tribute gifts in memory or honor of a loved one, and dues round-up. Thank you for remembering the Endowment Fund throughout the year; whether it's a year-end donation, birthday or Mother's Day gift, or to make a gift to let someone know you are in their thoughts, your gift matters.

We invite you to join the Legacy Society. Please consider making a gift of \$5,000 or more by pledge or an estate gift. For more information or to make a gift today, please visit jllansing.org/endowment-fund. Thank you to our existing members who have made this commitment.

Thank you to the 2022–2023 Endowment Fund Members who served alongside me this year: Jennifer Corr, Vice Chair and Secretary; Justine Bell, Endowment Treasurer; Joyce Bogard and Tim Vogelsang, Community Members At-Large; Stephanie Collier, JLL Board Ex-Officio. The Board meets quarterly with our fund manager, Tri-Star Trust, led by Jack Kidwell, and moving forward, Dewey Doyle will serve as our Tri-Star Trust representative. Thank you, Jack, for your commitment and dedication to the Endowment Fund for the past eight years.

ENDOWMENT FUND



2023 DONORS LIST

Susan Allis
Deb Atkinson
Kathryn Ault
Bridget Balesky
Candace Barnes
Cheryl Bartholic
Zoe Bassos
Joan Bauer
Justine Bell
Stacy Bogard
Carolyn Boger
Susan Brewster
Geraldine Brown
Barbara Clark
Barbara Cleland
Stephanie Collier
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Patricia Croom
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Carri Lynn Engel
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Barbara Fishell
Gretchen Forsyth
Tricia Foster
Lori Fuller
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Pamela Gillespie
Susan Gisholt
Marcia Gresens
Linda Grua
Jody Haddad
Barbara Hamilton
Phyllis Harden
Debby Harrison
Annie Hayes
Charley Hays
Diane Hollister
Katharine Hude
Tracy Jelneck
Jan Kahl
Elizabeth King
Marian Korroch
Suzanne Kregel
Cathy Lazar
Mary Liechty
Barbara Lindquist
Pat Linnell
Sandy Little
Maggie Louks

Alexis Lupo
Susan Lutz
Katie Lynwood
Karen McCloskey
Ellen McKay
Janine Medler
Nanci Mooney
Betty Moore
Alexis Murray
Lori Noyer
Marilyn Nugent
Beverly Oetzel
Mary Lind Olson
Jennifer Pace
Maggie Papesh
Candy Parker
Jennifer Pope
Kate Powers
Kristen Pricco
Janice Reed
Pamela Ruth
Lisa Sack
Nicki Sanford
Catherine Schwartz
Patricia Scott
Nancy Shepard
Linda Smith
Marcia Spencer
Dorothy Spousta
Katie Strong
Betsy Svanda
Mary Van Wieren

Angela Vlahakis-Bigelow
Pamela Wakeland
Mary West
Lisa Whiting Dobson
Ana Whitman
Alex Wiesner
Barbara Wirtz

**SPECIAL
THANKS TO OUR
LEGACY SOCIETY
MEMBERS**

Anonymous
Ken & Ginny Brooks
John & Sandy
Grettenberger
Sue Mills
Mary Beth Pirich

FUND DEVELOPMENT

A NEW FUNDRAISER INTRODUCED



We switched things up this League year and introduced a new fundraiser event: bRUNch and Walk with League 5K, replacing our long-running Lunch with League fundraiser. The 5K fundraiser event allowed our community members to learn about the Junior League of Lansing’s impact on the mid-Michigan community, raise funds to further JLL’s mission, and as a member engagement activity. Half of our Active members showed up either as participants or assisted the day of. Seeing and meeting many of our members’ most prominent supporters, families, and friends was a pleasure.

The Fundraising Event Committee did a fabulous job executing a new fundraiser and ensuring our inaugural bRUNch and Walk with League 5K was a huge success, surpassing all goals set. The 5K saw 129 registered participants and 36 community sponsors and had a net profit of just under \$11,000.

Thank you to all our bRUNch and Walk with League 5K community sponsors, but a special mention to our community sponsors at the Marathoner level and above.



FUNDS RAISED FOR OUR MISSION

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our fundraising committees, Annual Fund and Fundraising Event, and with solid support from our membership, we raised just over \$22,000 toward our mission. It is an honor to know and work with a fantastic, inspiring group of women.

Thank You bRUNch & Walk with League 5K Sponsors!



Greg & Chrissie Brogan



- Alro Steel • Asian Buffet • Buhl, Little, Lynwood & Harris, PLC • Cedar River East • Children’s Ballet Theatre Cinderella • Costco • Delta Dental • Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC • GreenStone Farm Credit Services
- Hospice of Lansing Stoneleigh Residence • Dr. Heidi Hansen - Balanced Chiropractic Center, PLC • Henry’s Place • LorAnn Oils Marketing Resource Group, LLC • Mayfair Bar • Playmakers • Rathbun Agency
- The Coulter Agency - Farm Bureau Insurance

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBER MILESTONES



Ally Caldwell
Heidi Hansen
Chrissy LaFountain
Jennifer Pope
Allison Purtell
Cristin Rizor



Stephanie Collier
Emily Stevens



Susan Lutz

NEW MEMBERS



Connie Jordan
Molly Lewis
Kylee Mohammed

Liz Porter
Karenia Randle
Elizabeth Ronning



NEW SUSTAINERS

Justine Bell
Stacy Bogard
Dana Costello
Susan Gisholt

Danielle Grubaugh
Maggie Louks
Susan Lutz
Renee Price

Natasha Roberson
Catherine Schwartz
Jessica Sender
Laura Stoken

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS



Community Service Award
Catherine Schwartz



Leadership Award
Alexis Murray



Living the Mission Award
Stacy Bogard



Spirit Award
Shajuana Tyson



League for Life
Meredith Jagutis



Woman to Watch
Molly Lewis



Women Building Better Communities
Fundraising Event Committee



FIND THE GOOD DAY

In June, AJLI announced the inaugural year of **International Find the Good Day**.

International Find the Good Day will be held every second Thursday of September (September 14, 2023). The day builds awareness of The Junior League movement and highlights the good we do, the good our Junior League brings to our community, and the good that comes from connecting across the Association.

Stay tuned for more information about how the Junior League of Lansing will participate in **International Find the Good Day**.



FIND THE GOOD DAY
AN INTERNATIONAL DAY TO CELEBRATE THE GOOD IN AND ALL AROUND US

CREATED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR LEAGUES INTERNATIONAL

SUSTAINER UPDATE

Serving as your Sustaining Management Advisor this year has been rewarding and eye-opening, which seems entirely on par with living in a post-pandemic world. Individual interest in attending functions is very different, and as a result, events look different.

What compels us to gather and socialize? I hope to support the foundation of this organization we have chosen to belong to. I'm grateful to the many Sustainers who engaged and participated this year by attending General Membership Meetings, providing training, supporting the raffle and new fundraiser event, and especially for everyone who participated in the Sustainer and Past President Luncheon in May. The Year-End Celebration was a great reminder of the power of the League and the supportive and mission-driven membership.



The biggest hurdle for Sustainers has been communication. League has moved primarily to email communication and updates via social media. We know this can be challenging, but digital outreach and online access reduce expenses and improve convenience.

I'm excited to see what the next year holds! We hope to bring the small social groups back to life and see even more of you at GMMs and other events. If you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out!

Thank you for an amazing year and looking forward to the next one!

Members like you make the League!

In Memoriam

JLL commemorated long-time members who passed away during 2022-2023 at the Year-End Celebration.

Nancy Achenbach - January 10, 2023

Patricia Brogan - December 31, 2023

Carol Broviac - Fall 2022

Arylie Campbell - May 12, 2023

Marcia Grimes Spencer - May 11, 2023

Susan Richardson - January 31, 2023

2023-2024

JLL LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Stephanie Collier (2023-2025)

Treasurer

Lisa Whiting Dobson (2023-2025)

Secretary

Anita Nystrom (2022-2024)

Executive Vice President

Stacy Bogard (2022-2024)

Nominating Chair

Andi Earl (2023-2024)

Sustaining Member At-Large

Janine Medler (2023-2025)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Andi Earl, Chair
Maggie Louks
Susan Lutz
Alexis Murray

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Executive Vice President

Stacy Bogard (2022-2024)

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Brittany Risk (2023-2025)

Community Vice President

Lisa Biering (2022-2024)

Education Vice President

Leia Cooper-Rigg (2022-2024)

Fund Development Vice President

Ana Whitman (2022-2024)

Membership Vice President

Resa Tran-TenBrink (2023-2025)

Sustaining Management Advisor

Meredith Jagutis (2022-2024)



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LANSING

2501 Jolly Rd #110
Okemos, MI 48864

UPCOMING GMMs

September 2023 Tuesday 12	October 2023 Tuesday 10	November 2023 Tuesday 14	January 2024 Tuesday 9
February 2024 Tuesday 13	March 2024 Tuesday 12	April 2024 Tuesday 9	May 2024 Tuesday 14