

July 2015
FOCUS



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LANSING

2015 High Heels and High Tea

By Heather Frick, VP Fund Development

The Junior League of Lansing held its first annual High Heels & High Tea event on April 26, 2015 at the University Club. This event was a social fundraiser where over 140 attendees gathered to sip tea, eat an assortment of delicious finger sandwiches and enjoy a selection of petits fours. Guest wore gorgeous hats and stunning heels, but more importantly, laughed, caught up with friends and celebrated spring. Attendees included guests from children to adults who mingled and shopped as we raised funds to support the Junior League of Lansing's Mission.

The event was a huge success through the collaboration of membership and community sponsors. It was the generosity of Presenting Sponsor: Lake Lansing Family Practice; Raffle Sponsor:

Kellie's Consignments; Reception Sponsors: Lululemon Athletica, State of Fitness, Heat, Higher Healing Center, Azzi Jewelers, Shining a Light, and Lights on Studio; and Supporting Sponsors: Foster Swift, Land Visions and Realtor Dana Zecchino of Coldwell Banker Hubbell Briarwood.

Thank you to all the sponsors, attendees and ad hoc committee members for supporting the first annual High Heels & High Tea event. It was a fun event, filled with high energy and enthusiasm. We look forward to building on this year's successes for next spring. The outstanding efforts this year will assist JLI's efforts to make an impact in the greater Lansing community.



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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.

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.



Thirty-two members of the 2014-2015 Junior League of Lansing New Member class officially became Active Members at the May Celebration.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"THIS ORGANIZATION IS ABOUT EACH OF US, TOGETHER"

By Michelle Lange, President

It is hard to believe that the May Celebration has come and gone, and the clock has already started ticking on the year I will spend as president of the Junior League of Lansing. I've often been asked what I want to do during 'my year' in the Junior League. To me, the answer is simple - I just don't want to do too much damage! I'm only kidding...kind of? I'm sure I can't single handedly take down an entire organization that has been around since 1948. Well, at least not in just one year.

What I would really like to do during "my year" is to make it "our year."

This organization is not about who the president is at any given time - it is about each of us, together. I want each of us to WANT to be at Junior League events and meetings, not feel as if we HAVE to be here. I want us to feel connected, and happy with our decision to be part of this organization. One of the things I love most about the Junior League of Lansing is that we band together in good times and in bad. In my years as a member of this organization, I have seen us accomplish large scale volunteer projects

with the Volunteers of America, Care Free Dental, and Judson's Love Clothing Center, to name just a few. I've seen us celebrate the important moments in each other's lives through birthdays, weddings, baby showers and job promotions. And I've seen us be there for one another when we have a member in need, whether they are fighting cancer or just having a bad day. I have never witnessed a more generous and supportive group of women, and I couldn't be more proud to be part of this League.

We're heading into an exciting time in the next league year - we're rolling out Community Outreach; we have a fantastic group of 32 new women who officially became active members; and we are going to continue on with our legacy of being leaders in the community, whether it be through our volunteer work, or taking the skills we have learned here in the Junior League out into other organizations. We are going to do great things during "our year."

Enjoy your summer! Looking forward to seeing everyone in September!

Michelle

“What I would really like to do during *my year* is to make it *our year.*”

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

By Sarah Gonzales Triplett

Recruitment for the Junior League of Lansing kicked off in September with a reception generously hosted by **Jackson National Life** in their vibrant “The Zone” location in downtown East Lansing. Two more events followed at **MICA Gallery** in Old Town and the **Michigan Chamber of Commerce** which drew women from across the mid-Michigan region.

New member recruitment culminated with the annual cookie exchange at the home of **Sustaining Member Deb Atkinson** who was kind enough to open the doors of her beautiful home to allow New, Active and Sustaining Members the opportunity to enjoy appetizers, exchange holiday cookies and celebrate the season with a glass of holiday cheer. Through this event, New Members participated in their first community service project by bringing a dozen cookies to exchange and a dozen cookies to donate to the **Volunteers of America**.

In February, New Member training began with a one day retreat designed to introduce the New Members to the key aspects of the Junior League of Lansing – the core Mission of our organization and values – with an overview of how we

work together to achieve a common goal both inside the organization and within our community. The highlight of this retreat is learning about the significant role that the Junior League plays in the community by visiting just three of the many organizations that JLL has supported over the years; **St. Vincent Catholic Charities, Ele’s Place, and The Ronald McDonald House**. The day would not have been as successful without **Sustaining Member Joan Bauer**, who graciously joined the NM retreat as the tour emcee. Her presence and voice was a tremendous addition to highlight the vast outreach and impact of the JLL.

After three additional training meetings hosted by **Clark Construction** and a tremendously successful Kids in the Kitchen event, the 32 members of the 2014-2015 Junior League of Lansing New Member class officially became Active Members at the May Celebration.

New member recruitment is not the work of just one committee or a handful of individuals, it is due to the collective efforts of the entire JLL working together to grow the organization and invest in the future leaders of our community.

Thank you to every Active and Sustaining Member who reached out to friends, family members, colleagues and others, to encourage them to join the Junior League of Lansing. Your efforts are not only evident in the large New Member class size of 32, but in the amazing women who have chosen to join the JLL this year. The newest active members of the JLL represent a broad age group, come from different backgrounds, each hardworking, and bring a host of new talents to the organization. It has been a pleasure to get to know these women over the past few months and I look forward to their bright future as leaders in the Junior League of Lansing.

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LANSING'S NEWEST 32 MEMBERS

Michelle Adams

Alicia Guevara Warren

Zoe Ahlstrom

Jessie Hartmann

Meghan Bartow

Molly Korn

Elizabeth Battiste

Caroline Liethen

Melanie Biel

Stephanie McGuire

Kersten Bond

Dorothy Najeebah Mateen

Jennifer Bott

Chido Nedziwe

Renee Brunette

Jenny Patterson

Kristyn Carmichael

Rachel Santorelli

Sarah Clarke

Elizabeth Scrauben King

Morgan Cole

Emily Schwarzkopf

Meghan Connolly

Leah Ann Sherer

Rebecca Coudron

Jessica Tramontana

Katrina Daniels

Jonna Tury

Kourtni Egger

Ana Whitman

Colleen Gould

Megan Doyle-Busque



KIDS IN THE KITCHEN 2015

By Dorothy Mateen

Kids in the Kitchen 2015 co-chairs, Kersten Bond and I took on leadership roles, however our success was truly a product of the hard work and dedication contributed by all of the committee chairs and new members. With just under three months to solidify the plans, it was important to agree on a date, time and practical strategy to accomplish the task. Equipped with 32 ladies and a generous budget, thanks to a \$2225 contribution from Jackson National Life, the new members decided to split into four groups: Activities & Stations, Budget & Fundraising, Day of & Logistics and Public Relations & Communications.

Activities co-chairs, Kristyn Carmichael and Meghan Connolly worked with their team to choose cost effective activities that aligned with the Junior League's Kids in the Kitchen initiative. With the aid of the Budget & Fundraising committee, Chido Nedziwe and Morgan

Cole, it was decided that the bulk of the budget would be spent on securing food options that could be used to demonstrate healthy meals and snacks. Partnerships with local organizations were then sought out to add an educational element, as well as subsidize the raffle. A number of ladies in the activities committee gathered gifts from local businesses, but "self proclaimed gym spaz," Mel Beil went above and beyond, securing 14 separate offerings from six different athletic and recreational establishments.

Once the date, location and main details were set, our PR & Communications chairs Leah Ann Sherer and Jessica Tramontana worked with their small, yet mighty group, including Elizabeth Baptiste and Rachel Santorelli, to spread the word through local publications and media outlets. Leah Ann made it her personal mission to hand out tons of KITK 2015 flyers and also filled the role



of spokesperson when the WILX News 10 cameras arrived. After all was said and done, 125 children and their families attended the event. There was such excitement that at one point, the ground shook (in fact, a 4.2 earthquake just south of Galesburg occurred just before 12:30 that afternoon)!

Logistics co-chairs, Rebecca Coudron, Jenny Patterson and Alicia Guevara Warren were instrumental in solidifying how the day would unfold. Logistics committee member Sarah Clarke, an education consultant at Cavanaugh School, facilitated securing the space by approaching the principal, Ms. Angela Tarry regarding use of the facilities for the occasion. The central location of the school and the versatility of the space (inside and out) proved to be a perfect match. Logistics co-chair Rebecca Coudron's neighbor, Steve Whelan, a local police officer, was gracious enough to provide security and Jenny

Patterson utilized her MSU connection to book Sparty for a couple of hours.

In watching and listening, it quickly became apparent what value Junior League's Kids in the Kitchens all around the world provide by sharing knowledge about nutrition, exercise and overall well being. It was powerful and moving to observe youngsters find joy in contemplating their eating habits, as well as engage in physical activity. It was also clear just how much joy and satisfaction our new member class found in being of use in such a profound way. Through a mutual desire to give back, Junior League sisters bonded and deepened in genuine care and purpose. With anticipation, we look forward to building on this foundational experience and strengthening in our dedication to volunteerism and improving our community.



LETTERS OF GRATITUDE RECEIVED BY THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LANSING

This year, JLL received the following letters of thanks. We would be remiss if we did not pass them on to all of the members and sustainers that contributed to this organization!

March 6, 2015

Dear Ann Vogelsang,

I have a lot of pride in the way this community takes care of our most vulnerable neighbors. Nowhere is that community spirit on better display than during Homeless No More. Thank you for the role you played in this important event on February 11, 2015, with your gift of \$1000.

It's always inspiring to me, a bright spot in the dark of winter, to see so many come together for a common purpose. One of my favorite parts of the process is being able to report on the very on the very real results of that night and I am happy to do that here.

By participating in Homeless No More this year, you helped provide:
1,700 safe nights in our Emergency Shelter, PLUS
76 days of housing and services for 11 homeless veterans, PLUS
5,249 services of refuge and recovery at New Hope Day Center, PLUS
19,148 meals in the Community Kitchen, PLUS
740 homeless families off the street

As part of the Volunteers of America family, you understand how important it is to step forward whenever this community needs us. I believe that's why you are part of this. There are blessings and there are challenges in this work, and it's vital that we see it through. I'm so grateful you are standing with us.

Patrick Patterson, Executive Vice President

11-5-14

Dear Friends,

Thank you for preparing dinner for our families on 11/1/14. As I'm sure you know, our families appreciate having a home cooked meal when they return from a long day at the hospital.

Sincerely,
Ronald McDonald House of Mid-Michigan Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers

November 2014

Susan Lupo,

During the season of giving thanks, I would like to express my warmest thanks for your support of MSU Safe Place. We are grateful for your generosity, which allows us to continue in our mission to serve those who experience relationship violence and stalking within MSU and greater Lansing Communities.

Your support truly makes a difference in the lives that we have touched this year. We wish you and your family the best during this holiday season! Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Holly Rosen, MSU Safe Place Director

December 11, 2014

Fellow Rescuers:

There have been many changes to Michigan's capital area since the City Rescue Mission opened more than 100 years ago. However, our mission remains the same: to provide food, shelter, and hope to those in need. As we operate on faith and remain privately funded, gifts from our fellow Rescuers, like you, enable us to impact our community 365 days a year, with free meals from our public dining room, and every night more than 140 women, children and men rested in the security of the Mission's shelter.

Thank you for your generous gift of towels and the \$120 for the purchase of more towels. Your compassion is greatly appreciated and will truly make a difference. As a Mission guest once said, "God is good and you are proof of that. It's so nice to know there are people out there that have a kind heart." Thank you for being a Rescuer. Thank you for helping us help others!

Mark Criss

Executive Director

COMMUNITY COUNCIL DRIVING CHANGE

By Kelly Miller, Community Vice President

This year caps off two years of change and development surrounding the face of Community Council. We said goodbye to some old favorite committees and hello to the new Community Outreach Committee. They, along with DIAD/DIAM, will be the drive of our community work helping to bring food and secure shelter to those most in need in our community.

The Issue Based Community Impact model, or IBCI as we know it, is an outcome of AJLI's significant research into how to transform Leagues to fit into today's communities and members lives. Issue based community impact provides Leagues an opportunity to more significantly and intentionally align all the functions of League under one issue. The Councils are now all aligned in service to be more effective and operate more efficiently.

RESPONSE GRANT RECIPIENTS

By Kelly Miller, Community Vice President

The Grant Committee received several applications this year for one of our Community Response Grants. The Response Grants were established years ago to provide relief to immediate needs in the community. This year the following projects were funded with these grants:

Child & Family Charities:

\$1000.00 to provide "A Good Night's Sleep" for Children in Foster Care. With this grant from JLL, CFC will be able to purchase a duffel bag, pillow, pajamas, underwear and socks for approximately 15 children and youth who enter foster care with the basics of what they need to have a good night's sleep their first night. These children come to us at all times of the day and night and often with nothing more than a trash bag full of their clothes. Approximately 180 children enter foster care each year through the agency.

Highfields:

\$1000.00 to help maintain a Family Preservation fund to meet needs that our counselors see as investments in the families with whom they work. The needs can be helping to secure medication, a bed frame to get a mattress off the floor, diapers, the electric bill or a legal consultation for example. The grant from JLL would be used to help strengthen a family, maintain their shelter and provide a safe environment for their children.

Greater Lansing Food Bank:

\$1200.00 to help provide food needs to the area's food insecure. With monetary donations down this year, this grant will go a long way to helping provide some immediate relief.

Our issue, Essential Needs, is now the frame around League and it's bigger than just community work. The time has come for us to LIVE Essential Needs in all of our League work. Essential Needs has become an extension of our Mission. As League members we live our Mission in everything we do for the Junior League of Lansing. Now we extend that to our issue, it just becomes a part of us. How? It's in the little things. Maybe you see that the City Rescue Mission shares on social media they are in need of immediate food donations at the shelter - here's your chance to LIVE Essential Needs - share the post on our member page and even your personal page. Let the Essential Needs of food and shelter be your guide from here on out. It seems big, this idea that as a League we are all responsible for living Essential Needs, but it trickles down to just become a habit each member can use in their League work. These little habits will make us big. As much as we'd like to, as a League we won't be community experts in the area of Essential Needs overnight, but we are all on this journey to get there together.

DONATE TO THE JLL ENDOWMENT FUND

The JLL Endowment Fund is “A Legacy for League, A Legacy for Lansing!” Are you already contributing to the Endowment and wish that you could give more but are not financially able to at this time? Have no fear! You can plan for gifts to be made from your assets after your death.

Contributing to the Endowment is an excellent way to provide for the future of JLL and will give you a lasting legacy in the community. You have several options for planned giving upon death.

One option is to name the Endowment as a beneficiary in your Last Will & Testament and Trust so that upon your death a specific dollar amount or percentage of your Estate or Trust are gifted to the Endowment.

Another option is to name the Endowment as a beneficiary on your investment or retirement accounts. By naming the Endowment as a beneficiary, you are continuing the impact that you have already made to the Endowment with your services to the JLL, and also providing some income tax benefits to your heirs.

Be sure to talk to your attorney and/or tax professional about maximizing the benefit to the Endowment and minimizing the taxes to benefit your family members and other heirs.

The 2015/2016 Chair of the JLL Endowment Fund Board is sustaining member Bridget Balesky and she can be reached at 517-290-9957.

“A Legacy
for League,
A Legacy for
Lansing!”

2015-2016 Chair of the JLL Endowment Board

Bridget Balesky
Sustaining Member
517-290-9957

Endowment Board

Chair

Bridget Balesky

Vice Chair & Secretary

Sandy Grettenberger

Treasurer

Patricia Scott (JLL immediate past
Treasurer)

Trustee

Jeff Powers

Trustee

David Wakeland

JLL President

Kelly Miller (JLL President Elect ex-
officio member of JLL Endowment
Board of Trustees)

DONE IN A MEETING

By Kelly Miller, Community Vice President

JLL members, you are amazing! Because of your commitment and generosity, we were able to do so much at each and every GMM this year. A huge thank you to you all for those goods and dollars you donated!!

September:

For Angel House we collected 72 items and \$93.00 cash the committee used to purchase additional items

October:

For EVE (End Violent Encounters) we collected 26 items and \$93.00

November: for Haven House we collected 55 items and \$55.00

January:

for Expectant Parents Organization we collected 12 items and \$174.00

February:

for St. Vincent Catholic Charities we collected 12 items and \$84.00

March:

for Salvation Army we collected 121 items and \$91.00

April:

for Greater Lansing Food Bank we collected 38 items and \$161.00

May:

for City Rescue Mission we collected \$311.00 used to purchase fresh food for their kitchen

These donations make a difference and we look forward to many years of continued amazing donations with this program.

“A huge thank you to you all for those goods and dollars you donated!”



A LEGACY FOR LEAGUE, A LEGACY FOR LANSING

The Junior League of Lansing Endowment Fund Board of Trustees expresses their appreciation and gratitude to the following members who contributed to the Endowment Fund from July 1, 2014 through May 18, 2015. In total, 155 members donated to the fund. Thanks for supporting the Endowment and ensuring your "Legacy for League and a Legacy for Lansing."

Susan Allis	Linda Dansby	Tracy Jelneck	Betty Moore	Denise Shaheen
Deb Atkinson	Carolyn Dudley	JLL	<i>In Honor of Sue Mills</i>	Nancy Sheldon
Kathy Ault	Darrell Duffield	<i>In Memory of Cheryl Martyn</i>	<i>In Honor of Mary West</i>	Nancy Shepard
Mary Ann Austin	Lynn Dwight	Jan Kahl	Lori Noyer	Erin Skene-Pratt
Suzanne Bacon	Caryn Edwards	Cathy Kerwin	Marilyn Nugent	Linda Smith
Bridget Balesky	Lynn Fiedler	Kris Kildea	Nancy Nyquist	Kristen Soltis
Candy Barnes	Barb Fishell	Marian Korroch	Beverly Oetzel	Marcia Spencer
Cheryl Bartholic	Gretchen Forsyth	Ruth Kositchek	Jennifer Pace	Dorothy Spousta
Zoe Bassos	Tula Frangos	Suzanne Kregel	Maggie Papesh	Charlene Sproles
Joan Bauer	Janet Freund	Michelle Lange	Candy Parker	Julie Stevenson
Susan Beniveгна	Lori Fuller	Suzanne Lasch	Susan Patterson	Katie Strong
Nancy Berger	Preeti Gadola	Cathy Lazar	Shirley Paxton	Amy Suhrheinrich
Jane Bitsicas	Katie Gallagher	Joan Legg	<i>In Honor of Debby Harrison</i>	Barb Sukenik
<i>In Honor of Susan Lupo</i>	Barbara Galloway	Christie Lemon	Virginia Peery	Betsy Svanda
Stacy Bogard	Donna Gardner	Mary Liechty	<i>In Memory of Doris Anderson</i>	Diane Tarpoff
Carolyn Boger	Trish Garvey	Margaret Liedholm	Mary Beth Pirich	Mary VanWieren
Fran Bradley	Marcia Gresens	Barbara Lindquist	<i>In Honor of Jane Bitsicas</i>	Angela Vlahakis
Patricia Brogan	Sandy Grettenberger	Anita Lindsay	Kristen Pricco	Betty Vlahakis
Chrissie Brogan	Linda Grua	Pat Linnell	Brenda Ramsby	Ann Vogelsang
<i>In Honor of Ginny Brooks</i>	Jo Hacker	Sandy Little	Janice Reed	Pam Wakeland
Ginny Brooks	Jody Haddad	Susan Lupo	Sharon Regan	Kim Watters
Linda Burnham	Erin Hagen	Katie Lynwood	Caryn Rhodes	Mary West
Kristyn Carmichael	Janet Haley	Ellie Marazita	Arcelia Richardson	<i>In Memory of Cheryl Martyn</i>
Shary Carr	Barbara Hamilton	Dorothy Martin	Kay Riegel	Alex Wiesner
<i>In Memory of Virginia Atayan</i>	Phyllis Harden	Karen McCloskey	Tunde Rigel	Judy Wilkinson
Alexis Chadderdon	Debby Harrison	Sally McCoy	<i>In Memory of Cheryl Martyn</i>	Patricia Wilson
Eleanor Charchut	Kim Hartman	Ellen McKay	Traci Riehl	Barb Wirtz
Barbara Clark	Donna Hay	Janine Medler	Rachel Rosenbaum	Dana Zecchino
Kristin Clark	Annie Hayes	Amy Sue Melville	Pam Ruth	Kerry Zsigo
Barb Cleland	Hillary Henderson	Kelly Miller	Nicki Sanford	
<i>In Memory of Cheryl Martyn</i>	Alicia Hopping	Suzanne Mills	Victoria Santucci	<i>In-Kind Donors</i>
Susan Combs	Anne Hopwood	<i>In Memory of Cheryl Martyn</i>	Jennifer Schick	Brenda and Steve Ramsby
Georgia Condon	Catherine Hornbach	<i>In Memory of Mike Pitsch</i>	Courtney Schnelker	Barb and Jim Cleland
Amy Crites	Karen Hubbard	<i>In Memory of Bill Stapleton</i>	Polly Schwendener	
Patty Croom	Katharine Hude		Patricia Scott	
Katrina Daniels	Phyllis Irwin		Melissa Seifert	

SAVE THE DATES!

Sept 15 - Kick off GMM
(please note due to the holiday & start of school,
the first GMM is pushed out one week).

Oct 13th - GMM (OPS training)

Nov 10 - GMM

Nov 12 - Lunch with League

Nov 19 - Raffle Ticket Turn in Party

**Mark Your Calendars!
Details to Follow**



**The Junior League of Lansing's office is located at:
1231 Michigan Avenue, Suite 204 in East Lansing, Michigan.**

**Contact the office by phone at: 517.324.8716
or email: office@jllansing.org**

Office hours are Tuesday & Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.



Becky Beauchine Kulka
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Enjoy your summer and see you in September!