

July 2016

FOCUS



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
LANSING

President's Message: The Power of Being A Junior League Member

By Kelly Miller, President 2016-2017

Over the next year, as we honor our past 85 years and look forward to our 100th year of service and beyond, I want you to think about what you consider philanthropy. People define it in many ways. Forbes Magazine says it's all about giving incredibly large sums of money, while nonprofits often say it's all about changing the lives of those less fortunate than yourself.

The definition of philanthropy is actually quite simple, it means "the practice of giving money and time to help make life better for other people."

This definition, this true meaning of philanthropy is the momentum behind the Junior League. This is what we do today and what League members have been doing since 1901 - making life better for other people. The very first publication of the Junior League Bulletin, published in January 1911, said the following: "What members give in money and

volunteer assistance certainly fulfills to a large extent the purpose of the League. But that is not all. What the members gain in a broader knowledge of existing social conditions through their own experiences, through our meetings and lectures, and through personal contact with the trained workers is of the utmost importance. If this knowledge helps us collectively and individually to take our place in the world with a broader viewpoint, larger sympathies, and more human understanding, then, and then only, can the Junior League be counted as an integral part of the great movement for civic and social betterment."

Today in 2016 the modern women of the Junior League have greatly succeeded in this mission. It has been driven further than even Mary Harriman imagined it would go. But Why? Why is Junior League just as

important today as it was 100 years ago?

It's because of the HOW. We know that we can only make a difference if we understand the root of the problem and train ourselves on how to make a difference. It's this understanding that sets a League member apart.

We all joined the Junior League for one reason or another. We stay to To Learn. To Grow. To make an impact. We have a total of 400 members in our League. Every single one of you is part of a global network of 291 Leagues. In 4 countries. With over 150,000 members. It is this training, developed through League work, that propels us to be the ones who will go on and change our communities for the better. You joined League and just by joining you are making a difference. You are all part of a massive worldwide women's movement.

You develop and grow by becoming part of perhaps the greatest

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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.

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network of mentors that ever was. From the actives I've toiled on committees with to the sustainers who have taken me under their wings - I'm driven by your love of League.

Our sustainers not only sustain our League they sustain our community. Once you complete your active years of training, you don't go off into the sunset with your glass of Chardonnay. You take everything you learned and you serve on Community Boards, School Boards, Committees, State Government, or US Congress. You raise money and awareness for so many important causes, you start your own charities that go on to change lives across the State. We have First Ladies, Actresses, Famous chefs, and a Supreme Court Justice among the members of the Junior League. All of these women - every single one - will tell you the same thing about their success: "I learned it in the Junior League."

Honor our past and celebrate our future. Celebrate the changes we've made or still need to make - for change is good. Change doesn't mean anything was wrong before, change is what allows us to develop, to grow - to continue to be a relevant, driving force in Lansing for the next 85 years. Change allows us to be as effective as we can be for our community, our members - the women of Today.

I want you to learn, to grow, to discover your impact. Know that by just being a League member you are helping to make life better for other people. You have a voice. A voice backed up by 150,000 women in 291 Leagues across 4 countries. You are making a difference. You are a philanthropist, You are a Junior Leaguer. Be proud of that. I am proud to be your President for the next year, we are going to do some amazing things!

Kelly



STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

By the Capitol City Delegates: Elizabeth Battiste & Alexis Chadderdon, SPAC Co-Chairs

The State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC) of the Michigan Junior Leagues is dedicated to empowering members throughout the state to use their voice to enact real policy change at the local and statewide levels.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Day at the Capitol 2016! We had a record turnout for our League, and we look forward to an even more successful year to come. Dayt at the Capitol is an information-packed day with informative speakers, networking with women from Leagues across Michigan, and advocating with our local legislators in support of our key issue areas: foster care and human trafficking.

Over 14,000 children in Michigan are currently in the foster care system and the Michigan State Council (MSC) SPAC is committed to improving the lives of foster children, encouraging others and making it easier to foster children, and doing our best to empower and encourage birth parents to be reunited with their child in a happy and healthy environment.

In order to do that, we are focused on 6 key foster care areas in the short and long term:

1. Digitize and merge children's medical and mental health records
2. Reimburse daycare on a daily – not hourly – basis
3. Ensure foster parents are receiving the proper tax incentives
4. Provide basic services to foster children in a timely manner
5. Standardize early intervention services for foster children
6. Expand on foster care identity theft protections

Human trafficking continues to be one of our top priorities. This works well with our focus on foster care because victims are generally more vulnerable women and men, many of whom are in or coming out of the foster care system. Most recently, the Human Trafficking Notification Act was passed, requiring public places including adult entertainment facilities to post contact information for the the

National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline. MSC SPAC testified at hearings before the state legislature in support of this important measure.

The State Public Affairs Committee continues to be supported by our lobbying firm, Capitol Services. For over 20 years, Capitol Services has worked with Junior Leagues across the state to empower members to advocate on behalf of our issues. With their help, we have a great track record of getting results that have a true impact on the lives of Michiganders.

Thank you to everyone who has added your voice to these important issues. Whether it's attending Day at the Capitol or simply lending your voice online, your activism has made a difference! Please stay up to date with the MSC SPAC by searching for "State Public Affairs Committee of the Michigan Junior Leagues" on Facebook.

SPAC Capitol Day 2016



85 YEARS OF SERVICE TO LANSING

By Kelly Miller

Our new year, 2016-2017, officially welcomes in our 85th year of service to the Lansing community!

All that we have done and accomplished over the past 84 years {immediate relief grants to hundreds of area organizations - scholarships - countless children's programs - health clinics - those beautiful bronze giraffes still standing tall at Potter Park Zoo - and so much more} would not have been possible without all of the amazing women that came before us.

Each and every member over the past 85 years is a remarkable woman in her own right - smart, talented, visionary. Each leaving a piece of her heart with this organization. There have been times over each member's Active years where she's given so much to League that her home, her job, her family have come second. That is why we are still here. Still serving our community. Our members want to do everything they can to make Lansing a better place. Because it's our place, our community, our home and every single one of us has made a commitment to make it the best it can be. The Junior League of Lansing is our Legacy.

The work we do over the next few years will complete our first century of service. Honor this amazing feat for an organization made up completely of volunteers - to be looking forward to our second century of service to improving our community.

I leave here with you these words from an unidentified Sustainer who wrote a document titled "Founding and Early History of Lansing Junior League" that is on file in our office archives (a copy has been posted online for our Members who would like to read it in its entirety) - I believe it was written for an incoming New Member class sometime in the early 1950s:

"In the Spring of 1931, three young Lansing women, sparked by the energetic Vera Eddins, ... met to discuss Lansing's lack of a women's service organization -- in particular, a Junior League. As the daughter of a General Motors Executive, Vera had lived in many places and was well aware of the advantage a membership in Junior League could mean to a young woman. Being very community minded, she had the vision to see the potential of a Junior League in fast growing Lansing. With the help of Ruth Shumway and Betty Coleman, both lifelong residents, a nucleus of 18 young women were gathered together to bring into being the Lansing Junior Service League. Through the cooperation of the Association of Junior Leagues of America we had been provided with the framework for a workable set of by-laws; and more important, permission to use the name Junior Service League. There was of course no hint as to whether the Lansing group would ever be eligible for membership in A.J.L.A.

I'm sure your sociology courses are still fresh enough in your young minds that you recall the 1930's as memorable for some of the worst depression years our country has known. The need for our type of Volunteer Service was great.

In early years one attempt was made to become a part of A.J.L.A. [AJLI], but our town as well as our membership was too small, our achievements unproved. But in September of 1948 our seventeen year dream came true as we became a member of the wonderful family of Junior Leagues of America. ... At the time we affiliated with the A.J.L.A. the members who had become Sustaining at the mandatory age, took an intensive training course along with the actives ... This large Sustaining Group continues its great interest and support of the League as they have gone on to fill hundreds of important positions in our ever expanding community.

I hope these reminiscences of an old Sustainer have given you just a little bit of the spirit of the League, whose ever forward looking enthusiasm has contributed so much to a better community for all of us. I envy you all as you start on what I know will be one of the most gratifying and enriching experiences of your lives. Go to it."

HIGH HEELS AND HIGH TEA

By Leah Ann Sherer

The Junior League of Lansing held its 2nd Annual High Heels & High Tea event on Sunday April 24, 2016 at the MSU University Club. This event is a social fundraiser that raised \$11,000 and had close to 200 attendees. Guests had an amazing time mingling, shopping, laughing and dining on an assortment of delicious tea sandwiches, salad, mini scones and petits fours, and a variety of hot teas. Attendees wore beautiful and stylish hats and heels and included children, adults and tea connoisseurs.

For the second year in a row, the event was a huge success due to the dedication and support of membership and community sponsors. It was the generosity of Presenting Sponsors: Walmart, Lake Lansing Family Practice, and Douglas J, and Supporting sponsors: Azzi Jewelers, Vision

Care, Soulful Earth Herbals, Curvaceous Lingerie, Matilda Jane Clothing, Foster Swift, Realtor Dana Zecchino of Coldwell Banker Hubbell Briarwood, Riehl Solutions, Hilltop Yoga, Wesley Reece Independent Cabi Stylist, Stephanie Collier, Financial Advisor with Northwestern Mutual and Realtor Hillary Henderson of Coldwell Banker Hubbell Briarwood.

Thank you to all of the sponsors, attendees, and ad hoc committee members for supporting the 2nd Annual High Heels & High Tea event. It was a fun event, filled with entertainment, laughter, high energy and enthusiasm. The funds raised from this year's efforts will continue the JLL mission and make an impact in the Lansing community.


























Patricia J. Scott

PLACEMENT NIGHT

By Karissa Chabot-Purchase

This March's "Choose Your Own Adventure" Placement Night focused on the idea of career pathing—the process by which members map out the skills and experiences that might best enable them to attain their 'volunteer' career goals within (or even outside of!) League. Nominating/Placement spoke with members about the fact that there aren't single, linear paths to end 'destinations' within League—there are actually a variety of ways for members to obtain the training and leadership experience so many of us joined League to take advantage of.

The Nominating Placement Committee partnered with Arrangements to fill the room with map-related décor and members took a 'Placement Personality' quiz that directed them to relevant Council tables for facilitated discussions on placement opportunities. Special thanks to current and past League leaders who volunteered to facilitate engaging and informative discussions at each of our five Council tables, including:

Melody Kindraka	Kayla Byrd-Daniels
Emily Stevens	Heather Frick
Lisa Gnass	Dana Zecchino
Wesley Reece	Jenny Corr
Andrea Barnes	Jackie Lillis-Warwick



KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

On Saturday, April 30, 2016 the Junior League of Lansing gathered at the Gier Community Center for this year's Kids in the Kitchen event. Several families from the Greater Lansing Area came out to participate in a variety of activities centered around healthy lifestyle habits. Organized by this year's new member class, Kids in the Kitchen featured Lettuce Live Well, Chef Cecilia Garcia, Sugarbusters, interactive hula hoop and zumba demonstrations as well as a visit from Sparty! Lettuce Live Well enabled children to imagine what a healthy meal of their choice would look like by guiding them to draw meals exemplifying proper serving sizes. Chef Cecilia Garcia demonstrated live crockpot cooking. Participants enjoyed both the blueberry oatmeal and tacos onsite before taking the recipes home to enjoy again. Sugarbusters used visual aids to show families how much sugar popular beverages like Powerade and Coke actually contain. Participants

also enjoyed other hands on activities including a yogurt parfait station, a DIY trail mix station and a garden demo where children planted their own green bean seeds. Kids in the Kitchen not only provided an opportunity to help prevent childhood obesity in the Lansing area through fun interactive learning but it was also an opportunity for the Junior League of Lansing to engage directly with our community which made this event a great success.



A YEAR IN NUMBERS

By Andrea M. Barnes

The Junior League of Lansing fiscal year 2016–2017 was a financial success! Through managing our expenses and an outstanding fundraising effort, not to mention a very generous contribution from the Endowment Fund, we were able to meet and exceed our goals.

For 2016 we obtained approximately \$32,200 from dues. Dues were paid by 121 actives and 260 sustainers. This was an improvement over the prior year total dues collected of \$31,800. Dues represented approximately 28% of our revenue to date.

Our Fundraising efforts remained strong and improved from the prior year, up to approximately \$42,000! The Signature Fundraiser collected \$15,232 and Lunch with League brought in \$15,459. For the second year in a row, the High Heels & High Tea was a major success, raising approximately \$11,375 (which includes a \$5,000 donation from Walmart). Fundraising represents approximately 36% of total revenue to date.

Other revenue raised consists mainly of the transfer from the Endowment Fund, which increased from \$27,684 in the prior year to \$28,647 for the 2016-2017 year. A huge thanks to the Endowment board, and those of you that have donated to the Endowment Fund. Without continued funding of the Endowment, League would be without a significant source of revenue to fund our budget.

Taking a look at expenses, our Community Project related expenses including Community Outreach, Legacy Sponsorship, Done in a Day Projects, Community Response Grant, Community Impact Grant, and Kids in the Kitchen increased from approximately \$20,000 in the prior year to approximately \$25,000 for 2016-2017. We are happy to note that a community impact grant was approved this year, which is the main reason for the increase in expense within this category.

Our Fund Development council did an excellent job managing expenses for our fundraising efforts, and kept expenses consistent to the prior year, around \$10,000. Project expenses, including new member recruitment, SPAC dues, and AJLI dues did increase from the prior year, from approximately \$13,200 to approximately \$14,400. With a large new member class, and an increase in the number of active members paying dues, these expenses increased accordingly.

Finance Council would like to give a special thanks to all actives and sustainers who helped make this year a financial success. Thank you for paying dues timely, submitting appropriate check requests and monitoring the budget!

NEW! Visit our Storefront

Visit the brand new Junior League of Lansing - Lands End Storefront to purchase JLL merchandise!

<https://business.landsend.com/store/jllansing/>

The screenshot shows the Junior League of Lansing online storefront. At the top, the logo features a stylized 'JL' with the text 'JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LANSING' and the tagline 'Women building better communities'. Below the logo are navigation tabs for 'MEN', 'WOMEN', and 'PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS'. The breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > Women > Tops > Shirts & Blouses'. The main content area is titled 'CATEGORIES' and shows '5 Products' with a 'Sort by: Recommended' dropdown. A list of categories is displayed: 'Tops (17)', 'Polos (7)', 'Knit Tops (6)', 'T Shirts & Sweatshirts (2)', and 'Shirts & Blouses (5)'. Below this list is a 'SIZE RANGE' section with radio buttons for 'Petite (4)', 'Plus (5)', 'Regular (5)', and 'Tall (2)'. Two dark-colored shirts are shown as product images.

SUSTAINER UPDATES

By Kim Hartman

Before I introduce our new Sustainers to membership, I'd like to say a few words. I am grateful for Michelle Lange and her board, who gave me the opportunity to serve as their Sustaining Advisor. These eight women gave me more than I could have ever given them. I found my time with them inspirational and, at times, challenging but their commitment to this league never wavered. As a membership, you should be very proud of this board, as they have done an outstanding job for all of us.

I was merely along for the ride... The best part for me; I am now blessed to call each one friend. To our new Sustainers, on behalf of the Junior League of Lansing, thank you for your time and hard work. Take pride in the contributions you have made while serving our organization and community. You are probably wondering, "What next?" As a Sustainer you will help sustain and perpetuate our League's mission. You will be helping our Active membership build upon an 85 year legacy that gave many of us the opportunity to make a difference in our communities, empower women and promote volunteerism. Be proud of all you have accomplished and what was accomplished before you. Remember you are part of a Lansing community where your time, funding, and training have made tremendous impacts.

If you ever forget why you are a sustainer, stop in Ele's Place and see the incredible work they do bringing hope to hundreds of families all because of one league member's desire to make a difference after suffering her own loss. Stop by St Vincent's and see a plaque with our name on the wall. Let your child or grandchild climb on the JLL donated giraffe sculpture at the Potter Park Zoo. Of course these are just a few of the hundreds of organizations, programs and facilities we have touched in the greater Lansing community.

Our reach extends beyond Lansing as well. We are part of the Michigan State Council of Junior Leagues. We are one of nine leagues in the state who have been instrumental

in influencing vital legislation for women and children. In addition, we are part of one of the largest women's organizations in the world. Collectively, as women, we are powerful enough to make a global impact. Our influence is tremendous and you help make this happen. Think about what you give to the organization rather than what you get. Remember why you joined, but as Janet Freund challenged us in her speech this year...remember why you stay.

What next? The good news, NO MORE meetings! It will be up to you to decide how involved you want to be going forward. Share your experiences, training, and positive ideas. When you write your check for your dues, remember what a difference you are making to the many actives who are working hard to perpetuate our mission and help build upon this 85 year legacy. This is your "What next?" Thank you and now I am pleased to introduce our new Sustainers!

Communications Survey Updates

This summer a group of sustainers will be reviewing all of the data each of you have provided so we may develop strategies in order to better communicate with one another. This is no easy task with the challenges of a multi generational organization and rapidly changing technology. Look for our updates and recommendations later this summer.

JLL Social Media and Branding Policy

Communications VP, Sarah Triplett and I wrote our new JLL Social Media and Branding Policy to help address potential issues, prevent misuse and provide directive with regard to our JLL brand and our social media platforms. Our branding directive and use of social media is guided by AJLI. You will now find disclaimers on our sites along with policy addressing how you may use sites as well as our name and logo.

Get the JLL “Pink Book” directory on your phone with SeeingSPOT

Download the APP Seeing Spot! Once the APP is downloaded open “contacts” to the left of the screen and the directory will appear. Press the name of the person you are looking for and their detailed information will appear. (The alphabetized member roster is combined sustainers and actives.) If you press the envelope icon on an individual’s site you access their email address. The best part is you may update or add personal information at your convenience. For those who use smart phones, this is a very handy alternative.

Endowment Donations

Please think of our JLL Endowment when honoring a friend or family member. Remember birthdays, anniversaries, new babies, job promotions, teacher gifts, or in memoriam. Think of ways to acknowledge members for their league work as well. You may donate via check or do so on our JLL website.

Simply Social Fun

Get your groups together for a movie, dinner or a day trip! Fewer sustainers are going on the Chicago Bus Trip. Our Communication Survey showed fewer than 10 of you has gone in the last couple of years. With other organizations offering similar trips, scheduling conflicts and the long day have made it difficult to get sustainers involved. Lori Fuller and I discussed Simply Social groups organizing day trips to Somerset, Art Prize, the DIA, etc., as an option. Let Lori know what you think!

Final Thoughts

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of the active members who made me feel so welcome. I will really miss all of you!! I also want to thank the following sustainers again for their support and contributions this year: Sandy Grettneberger, Janet Freund, Chrissie Brogan, Donna Gardner, Jane Bitsicas, Kate Powers, Deb Atkinson, Catherine Brennan, Amy Suhrheinrich, Nancy Nyquist, Katie Strong, Bridget Balesky, Kerry Brick, Ginny Brooks, Lori Fuller, Barbara

Clark, Joanie Stapleton, Courtney Schnelker, Barb Sukenik, Susan Combs, Susan Lupo and Janine Medler. Of course, Jim Hartman! Truly the greatest JLL supporter I know!

In closing, take the time to remember those we have lost this year and their contributions to our 85-year legacy. I leave you in VERY capable hands with Lori Fuller. Have a wonderful summer everyone!

Kim

sustainers@jllansing.org

MEMBER RELATIONS

The member relations committee was hard at work this Junior League year, bringing fun and unique experiences to provide opportunities for members to gather outside of our typical meeting environment. In October, the member relations committee partnered with new member recruitment to plan a mix and mingle at the Beer Grotto in Lansing. Lots of prospective new members and current members came out in large numbers to kick off the new Junior League year. East Lansing Threads opened their doors to us in December, just in time for holiday shopping! Members who battles the winter weather were able to shop with a discount after hours with wine and snacks! In February, to keep on track with New Year’s resolutions, we had a class at Pure Barre of Okemos. Everyone felt the burn. After class, participants enjoyed smoothies, mimosas and healthy snacks. Additionally, the studio offered us discounts on class packages and apparel. Lastly, a fun, mysterious pop-up event occurred in March at the Fieldhouse. Members enjoyed delicious appetizers and got some dance lessons from the decades!



2016 NEW MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES



Bree Anderson

Bree is the Associate Director of the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health, a nonprofit advocacy organization in Lansing. She has been involved in public service since she began at Michigan's State's James Madison College majoring in Social Relations in 1999. After graduation, Bree spent a year as a VISTA volunteer in Denver, CO. Since relocating back to the Lansing area, she has worked advocating for runaway and homeless youth and then as a Health Educator for the Ingham County Health Department. She currently resides in East Lansing with her husband Jeff and children Elaine and Max where she volunteers with their school PTO and co-chairs the ELPS Sexual Health Advisory Board. Bree is looking forward to meeting dynamic women from the Lansing area who are focused on making the community better and stronger for everyone in it.



Alicia Barefield

Originally from Metro Detroit, Alicia is a self-appointed Lansing native circa 2009. After studying international relations at Michigan State University, she currently works as a sales manager focused on state associations for the Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau. She has a strong penchant for lattes, hiking and equal rights. In her free time she enjoys trying new restaurants, taking in the arts, reading and traveling as much as her budget allows.



Tanya Baucom

My name is Tanya Baucom and I'm a Lansing native. I'm 38 years old, graduated from Everett High School in 1996, completed and received my undergraduate degree in Business Management from Davenport University and my Master's in Public Administration from Central Michigan University. As of May 2015 I opened Knockerball Lansing with my business partner. It has completely exploded and we were so busy once we started we didn't have time to think or breathe, it was just go, go, go! Not a bad problem to have! We've since hired 6 employees and will be hiring again soon. I'm not married and I do not have any children, however, I do have 6 nieces and nephews ranging from 5-13, they have my heart. So it's really just me and my adorable fur baby Dolce who's my main squeeze!



Tina Berisha

My name is Tina Berisha, I hold a bachelor of arts in Journalism and Public Relations from Michigan State University. I am the Communications & Community Support Coordinator for the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness, previously I was working as a field coordinator on a statewide Senate campaign and before that, I served as the Marketing & Communications Specialist for the Michigan Recreation & Park Association. I have a strong passion for working with nonprofit organizations, improving my community and fighting for issues I believe in. In my free time, I enjoy running, cooking, reading and finding hidden treasures in Lansing.



Laura Biehl

Laura is a public relations professional with nearly 8 years of experience in government, agency and corporate settings. She is currently deputy press secretary for Gov. Rick Snyder and handles all communications efforts for Lt. Gov. Brian Calley. Laura previously worked at Quicken Loans/Rock Ventures, the Michigan House of Representatives and Lambert, Edwards & Associates. She has degrees from Michigan State University where she was a leader in the coed community service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega.



Becky Brewer

Becky has lived in greater Lansing nearly her whole life and is a graduate of MSU with a BA in Interdisciplinary Humanities and an MA in Higher Education Administration. She currently works for MSU's Career Services Network as the Career Consultant for students in the Fine & Performing Arts, Languages and Humanities. As a career educator, Becky splits her time coaching students individually, teaching classes, managing events, and working with employers and alumni to hire talented Spartans. When she is not at work or involved in the community, Becky enjoys home improvement, cooking, movies, and having Midwest adventures with her husband Alex, preschooler Bella, and toddler Toby.



Nicole Ceccacci

Nicole is an auditor with the Office of the Auditor General at the State of Michigan. She currently lives in Lansing after moving for her job in 2013. Nicole's desire to build relationships with like-minded woman while improving the community she is a part of brought her to the Junior League of Lansing. In her free time, Nicole enjoys camping, kayaking and traveling to new places. She is also on a mission to find the best live music in Lansing.



Catherine Cleveland

Catherine graduated from Western Michigan University with a BBA in Accounting. She worked in Public Accounting for a year and a half in Kalamazoo and then moved to Chicago after getting married. She loved working and living there for two years until 2000 when she moved to the Lansing area. In Lansing, she worked at Delta Dental for 2 years until she had her twin daughters. She has since been a full-time mom with her twins and third daughter until most recently when she began doing the bookkeeping for A Piece O' Cake. She is also on the Parish Council at St. Martha's and president of her Homeowners Association. Catherine enjoys spending her time biking, working out, vacationing, helping in the schools and watching her daughters participate in their many activities. She is looking forward to becoming even more involved in the Lansing community through Junior League.



Molly Conley

Molly grew up in Marquette, MI. She moved to the Lansing area to attend Michigan State University, but remains a Yooper at heart. She currently works for the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University, where she teaches anatomy to first-year veterinary medical students. She lives in Williamston, MI, with her beloved beagle, Darwin, and enjoys running, cross-country skiing, reading and spending time with her nephews.



Stephanie Davis

Stephanie is the owner and photographer at N-Zo Moments Photography specializing in newborn and child portraiture. Her studio is located in downtown Grand Ledge, MI where she also resides with her spouse and three children. Stephanie has lived in the Greater Lansing area now for a little more than 10 years. The people of Lansing and surrounding areas has given so much to her and her growing business that she felt it was time to give back to such a great community. Stephanie is looking to build new and lasting relations with other women who are like-minded and share her hopes of being more involved and giving back to this amazing town. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her kids and husband taking trips and watching her girls at dance classes. She also enjoys golfing in the summers on a women's league, and attending MSU basketball games.

2016 NEW MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES, CONT'D



Megan Gill

Megan is a Legislative Assistant for Speaker of the House of Representatives Kevin Cotter. She currently lives in West Lansing, after moving to the area to work for the House in 2013. Megan would like to join the Junior League of Lansing to immerse herself in the community that she now calls home, both by giving back to local organizations and by getting to know other driven young women. In her spare time, Megan enjoys cooking, writing, and traveling around the state with family and friends.



Susan Gisholt

Susan lives in East Lansing with her husband and two girls. Susan is an Organizational Development Specialist at Dart Container. She earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in General Studies with a concentration in Art History/Philosophy/Italian. At Michigan, she was part of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society. She has a Master's Degree in Human Resources, Labor and Industrial Relations from Michigan State. During college and her Master's, Susan spent time studying and working abroad in Italy and Germany. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, yoga, travel and reading. Susan, who is originally from East Lansing, looks forward to working with the women in Junior League to give back to a community that has given her so much.



Bel Gonzalez-Morales

Bel is originally from Santa Clara, Cuba. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in English from Alma College in 2012. During her time at Alma College she was a member of the Barristers Society and Soccer team. Bel then went on to graduate from Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 2015, earning her Juris Doctorate. While attending WMU-Cooley Law School she earned the Student Leadership Award and Certificate of Merit for Gun Control Seminar. Bel currently works as a law clerk at Hude Legal Services, PLLC. She frequently volunteers for the organization Autism Speaks.



Emily Greenberg

Emily lives in Okemos with her husband and two children. After growing up in East Lansing, she attended The University of Michigan for Undergrad and then University of Kentucky for dental school. She moved to Chicago after that for a residency where she met her husband. They love Chicago but returned home to raise a family. She practices dentistry at Okemos Family Dentistry. Emily loves spending time with her family, yoga, working out and traveling the world!



Nicole Greenway

Nicole is a registered nurse and the Director of Personal and Community Health for Shiawassee County. She has lived in Texas, New Mexico and Chicago, but calls Lansing "home." She is excited for the opportunity to join Junior League, and invest more time and energy into her community. Nicole likes to garden, read, and ride her bicycle with her husband and two children.



Lisa Holcomb

Lisa is a third grade teacher at Hiawatha Elementary School in Okemos. This is her 5th year teaching and she absolutely loves it. Prior to becoming a teacher, she practiced Audiology for 12 years. She currently lives with her husband (Jim) and two children (Nate and Ashley) in Haslett. In her spare time, Lisa loves to spend time golfing with family, reading and watching her children's sports events. In addition to the other things she enjoys, she now is also looking forward to meeting other women in the area who share a common goal of helping our local community and setting a good example of volunteerism for her children.



Paige Kelliher

Paige is a recent graduate of Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN. She received a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Philosophy, and she currently works at the Michigan Association of School Boards as a Legal and Labor Relations Secretary. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her younger siblings and traveling around the Midwest. She's excited to participate in Junior League of Lansing because she enjoys volunteering and is passionate about making a difference in the Lansing community.



Ashleigh Kline

My name is Ashleigh Kline and I grew up in Rockford, Michigan with eight crazy siblings. I currently work at the Michigan House of Representatives as a staffer for Rep. Tom Cochran, and I am a part of the Progressive Women's Caucus. I am also completing my law degree at Michigan State University College of Law. I am on the board for the MSUCOL Modern Abolitionist Legal Society, which encourages fellow law students to pursue a career path designed to fight the problem of human trafficking. I am also on the MSUCOL Jessup Moot Court team (an international law competition) and serve as an associate editor for the MSUCOL International Law Review. I live in East Lansing currently, where I am renovating my first house along with my boyfriend. I have been interested and engaged in community service since I was young. In high school, my friends and I received the first service award at our commencement for leading the school in a community service group. I graduated from Central Michigan University through the honors program, where I completed 120 hours of community service. In law school, I participated in our yearly community service project each year. I look forward to continuing in my service over the years to come.



Kaitlin Lapka

Kaitlin is a Capital Area native who has always held a firm belief in supporting our communities for the betterment of all. Kaitlin recently received her Bachelor of Business Administration from the Stephen M. Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan, where she focused on the dual subjects of marketing and management, and achieved a minor in urban and community studies. She currently works at the Arts Council of Greater Lansing as membership manager and is the lead coordinator for Arts Night Out, a new creative and collaborative project for Lansing area neighborhoods to begin in May 2016. Kaitlin's personal and professional interests stem both locally and internationally, as she has not only worked with East Lansing youth basketball camps for the past seven years, but has also researched economic development in Shanghai, China, written about city culture in London, England, and volunteered for urban community efforts in Quito, Ecuador. With a passion for combining positive business practices and creative initiatives to increase communities' physical, cultural and economic growth, Kaitlin is excited to become a new member of the Junior League of Lansing. (Editor's Note: Kaitlin transferred to the New York Junior League in May—we wish her the best of luck!)



Sara Larsen

A little about me... originally from Williamston and now living in Holt with my fiancé, I have a lot of passion for the Greater Lansing community having grown up here. I am the HR Manager for the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, I feel very fortunate to have a job I love and be a part of an organization I have such respect for that strives to create healthier communities. I also teach Spin classes in my spare time, I am a huge fitness junkie. My biggest passion is travel, I'm either returning from a vacation or planning my next one. I have actually been a part of JLL in the past, but due to moving away and moving back I wanted to re-do my new member year. Looking forward to re-connecting!

2016 NEW MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES, CONT'D



Kate Mortensen

Kate is an attorney at ChurchWyble, P.C., a personal injury law firm in Lansing. She currently lives in East Lansing, and has been located in the Lansing area since beginning college at Michigan State University in 2007. Kate feels that the Lansing area has given her a lot, and she would like to join the Junior League of Lansing to give back to her community and foster relationships with other Lansing-based young women who share common goals. In her spare time, Kate enjoys being outside, especially for MSU football games and tailgating, long distance running, kayaking, camping, hiking, and spending time with her dog, Maebe.



Jenny Norman

Jenny has recently relocated to East Lansing after living in Grand Rapids for three years. She is involved in her children's schools and has served as a parent council officer, coach and classroom volunteer. She is looking forward to joining Junior League of Lansing to become more involved in programs that benefit her community. Programs and services for children living with disabilities or illness are of particular importance to her. Jenny earned her B.A. from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and has three children.



Dione Peña

Dione is the Vice President of Human Resources at CASE Credit Union. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Management and Organizational Development from Spring Arbor University and her Master's Degree in Human Resources Administration from Central Michigan University. Over the years she served on the board and as Board President for both Susan G. Komen for the Cure Mid-Michigan and Greater Lansing Society for Human Resources Management (GLSHRM). Dione has a passion for serving her community and looks for opportunities to get involved whenever possible. She is a native of Lansing and she currently resides in Holt.



Amy Pickering

My name is Amy Pickering and I am currently a resident of Midland, MI. While my home may be in Midland, my "heart" belongs to the greater Lansing Area where my fiancé and I plan to relocate within the next year. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a Major in Management (expected Spring 2016) from Northwood University. I have been working for The Dow Chemical Company since October of 2013, with a breadth of experience in positions ranging from Customer Service to Sourcing/Purchasing. I am currently working as a Strategic Sourcing Coordinator, acting as a liaison between our Strategic Sourcing Managers, Vendors, Client Service Representatives, and APAY. I look forward to my involvement and cannot wait to grow deeper roots within the Lansing Community.



Tracy Pickering

Tracy is a 2012 graduate of Northern Michigan University, where she received a B.A. in International Relations. Following graduation she spent two years working as an English teacher in a very rural area of South Korea, and misses it dearly still. She returned to the U.S. in August 2014, and spent a year working as an ESL instructor in the greater Detroit area before recently taking a job as a writer for the Michigan House of Representatives. She's an avid reader, sewer, lover of all things home improvement-related, and a massive Detroit Lions fan. She likes to see the good in people and is looking forward to spending time with other like-minded women as members of the Junior League.



Eve Pourzan

My name is Genevieve Pourzan, but I like to go by Eve. In 2006, I graduated from Okemos High School. I decided to move west, and attended community college in California and finished my BA in Politics at UC Santa Cruz. I returned to Lansing to work for the state legislature, but soon found that my true calling was medicine. After spending two years finishing off science requirements at MSU, I now work for a urology office and am applying to medical schools.



Jessica Randall

Jessica currently works as a Leave of Absence and Disability Management Specialist at Dart Container. Outside of work, she serves on the Ingham County Women's Commission, volunteers to help low- and moderate-income families with their taxes via the Asset Independence Coalition, and sings in the MSU Choral Union. She holds a joint master's degree from the Sorbonne and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, a law degree from Georgetown and a bachelor's degree from American University. Jessica lives with her husband, two dogs, and two cats in Lansing. She is looking forward to meeting other community-minded women with her involvement in the Junior League of Lansing!



Jennifer Ronan

Jennifer is a group fitness instructor at the Michigan Athletic Club and manages rental properties that she and her husband own. She currently lives in East Lansing with her husband and 3 daughters. After graduating from MSU, she moved to Chicago, then returned to the Lansing area and enjoys the small town feel to raise her family. Jennifer has been wanting to find a way to give back to the community and feels the Junior League of Lansing not only gives back to the community, but also provides an avenue to meet other women who are like minded. In her spare time Jennifer likes to spend time with her family and friends, as well as tennis, skiing, running and shopping.



Catherine Chin Schwartz

Catherine has settled in East Lansing after having lived in 11 locations within the last 20 years. Her career, as a USAF Officer and later as a Pharmaceutical Sales Rep, as well as her husband's job, took her many places. She is now a Stay at Home mother, who is focused on growing deep roots for her family. She volunteers at her children's school, and also plays the flute and piano. She has volunteered many places throughout the years and looks forward to continuing her sense of service in the mid-Michigan area while connecting with inspiring women.



Jessica Sender

Jessica is the librarian for the College of Nursing at Michigan State University. She currently lives in East Lansing, and has been in Michigan for a little over a year. Prior to moving to Michigan, Jessica lived and worked in Greensboro, North Carolina. Jessica attended Indiana University for her MLS, and is currently pursuing a second master's degree in educational technology. As someone who has always been active in the community in which she lives, Jessica is excited to join the Junior League of Lansing as a way of getting involved, giving back and connecting with the Lansing community. Jessica enjoys traveling, attending sporting events, musicals and exploring Michigan.

GREETINGS FROM THE JLL ENDOWMENT FUND CHAIR!

By *Bridget Brick Balesky*

I recently listened to a Minister at church talk about money. When we think about money, we typically think about earning it, spending it, saving it, and sharing it. The message about sharing money was particularly thought provoking. He said that research shows that the poorest give the most. The Minister said that when thinking about making a donation, many people ask themselves "what is the least I can give?" We were challenged to instead ask ourselves "what is the most I can give?" When it comes to donating to causes that are near and dear to your heart, the JLL Endowment Fund Board hopes that you'll ask yourself the latter question when making a donation to the JLL Endowment Fund.

The JLL Endowment Fund wrapped up its fiscal year on June 30th. As of May 18th, the Endowment Fund was valued at \$575,036. Thank you to the dedicated 2015/16 Board for their steadfast stewardship of the Endowment Fund. It was a pleasure to serve with Sandy Grettenberger-Vice Chair, Patricia Scott-Treasurer, David Wakeland & Jeff Powers Community Member Trustees, and ex officio Board member Kelly Miller-JLL's new President.

The Board's accomplishments included: 1) Adopted a new Gift Acceptance Policy which enables the Board to consider accepting a non-cash gift, for example, an asset that would need an appraisal or other special treatment; 2) Adopted a new Investment Policy; 3) Created the ability to donate to the Endowment Fund at www.jllansing.org with an immediate acknowledgement for the donor's tax records; 4) Researched starting a new Legacy Society for the Endowment Fund which may come to fruition this year; 5) Donors are now recognized and thanked at www.jllansing.org in the prior year donor list; 6) Planned Giving ideas are available at www.jllansing.org and can be sent to anyone who expresses interest; 7) An electronic archiving system was implemented to preserve Endowment Fund records, policies, donor lists over time; 8) Began using Facebook to promote the Endowment; and 9) Wrote a check from the Endowment Fund to JLL for \$28,647.49 to help fund the JLL Mission which could not have been done without your donations!

Please consider making a donation "In Honor Of" a baby's birth, a child's adoption, a relative or friend, a retirement, a new career, an anniversary, the purchase of a new home, or a milestone birthday. Your happy news, donation and the people that you commemorate will be added to the Donor List. Please give us the name and address of anyone you donate "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of" if you'd like us to send a note to the family about your gift to the Endowment Fund. Friends and family that you donate to the Endowment Fund "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" do not need to be JLL members. Imagine how much could be donated to the Endowment Fund if all 393 members select someone or a special occasion to commemorate through a donation.

Donations can also be made from a computer or by a check mailed to the Junior League of Lansing office. At the April GMM, Actives were given a demonstration of the ease of making a donation from a Smartphone. It is just a 30 second process after clicking on the "Donate Now" button at the top of www.jllansing.org.

Starting July 2016, the new Board includes Sandy Grettenberger-Chair, Ginny Brooks-Vice Chair, Andrea Barnes-Treasurer, Community Member Trustees-David Wakeland & Nathan Triplett, and Ex Officio member Alexis Chadderdon-JLL President Elect. Sandy can be reached at 517-339-5310 if you have questions regarding the Endowment Fund or if you are interested in serving on the Endowment fund Board in the future.

Thank you to all who donated to the Endowment Fund. Our 2015 donor list follows this letter. We celebrate the heart in every donation. (As always, 2016 donors will be acknowledged later in the year.) Special thanks to Sustaining Advisor Kim Hartman for her advice, Sarah Triplett for website changes, and Kate Powers for her fundraising expertise this past year.

Sincerely,

Bridget Brick Balesky
2015/2016 JLL Endowment Fund Chair
Bridget@brickinc.com

DONOR LIST

JLL Endowment Fund Board sends a heartfelt thank you to donors who supported the Endowment Fund from January 1 - December 31, 2015

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A special thanks to Ginny Brooks for securing a \$1,500 donation from the MSU School of Hospitality Auction in '15!

friendship photos

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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.



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