

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LANSING

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

Community

Oprah's Big Give As easy as 1-2-3???

Betsy Svanda, 2007-08 Community Vice President



Or should I say 1-2-3 go!!! The Junior League of Lansing was given the unique opportunity to partner with The Greater Lansing Food Bank and Oprah's Big Give.

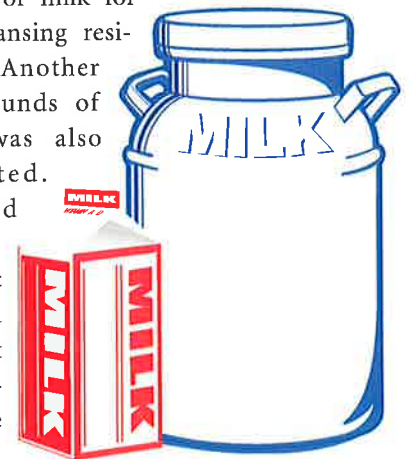
Due to Michigan's economy, Oprah selected The Greater Lansing Food Bank to receive \$10,000.00 for milk vouchers and challenged the community to give big as well. With the summer months around the corner, many Lansing children will go without free or reduced breakfasts/lunches that they usually receive during the school year. The Junior League of Lansing put its volunteer team together to help distribute 2,500 lunch bags to local schools as part of the "Milk Money 4 Kids" efforts. Two schools scheduled assemblies with a special appearance by "Farmer" Betsy Svanda (and baby calf "Bob") explaining the importance of milk and how the kids could help provide milk and other food for Lansing area families.



JLL organized the volunteer base while Gorsline Runciman Funeral Homes organized the actual collection of monies and food items. At last count, over \$3,400.00 was collected from area schools for The Greater Lansing Food Bank, which means over 1,000 gallons of milk for local Lansing residents. Another 200 pounds of food was also collected.

Portland Public

Schools, Donley and Pinecrest Elementary (East Lansing Public Schools), Fairview Elementary (Lansing Public Schools) and Radmore Montessori participated in "Milk Money 4 Kids." Not only did The Greater Lansing Food Bank benefit from the volunteer power of the JLL, but many area students were able to "Give Big" and make a difference in their community as well.



JLL Email Addresses

Just a reminder to use these emails:

FOCUS

focus@jllansing.org

New Member Recruitment

membership@jllansing.org

Webmaster

webmaster@jllansing.org

Public Relations

publicrelations@jllansing.org

Signature Fundraiser

fundraiser@jllansing.org

JLL Office (Nancy)

office@jllansing.org

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

Junior League of Lansing

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East Lansing, MI 48823
517-324-3734
office@jllansing.org
Focus@jllansing.org

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

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

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

President's Message...

Amy Suhrheinrich, President

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2008



For those of you who know me, know I like to talk, but remember talking is much different than "speaking." When I was a freshman in college, I had to take a speech class. I exhausted all creative options and a year and a half later I landed in Speech 101 (as a sophomore). It was a horrible experience. My first attempt at my first speech did not go very well. I was not able to talk and I then I could not walk. Somehow a little oboe player managed to unfreeze me and get me back to my seat. I remember watching the uncomfortable faces on the students in my class. I realized I had no choice but to figure out how to overcome this fear of "organized talking in front of people." I met with my professor, practiced in front of the mirror and so on. Well, hopefully tonight, after 20 years, I can put that college class to use.

Welcome! Tonight, we have celebrated, tonight we have remembered, and tonight we will look to the future! We are women. We are committed. We are Dynamic and we are the Junior League. The Junior League movement started back in the 1900s with one woman and one friend. They had a mission and they had vision to see how they could make a difference in their community. They were Women with Vision. Mary Harriman knew that there was more to becoming a woman than attending magnificent parties. She knew that there were people who needed representation and hope. She wanted to improve child health, nutrition, and literacy among immigrants on the Eastside of Manhattan. This movement, beginning with 80 women with vision, has now grown to over 165,000 women in 286 Leagues in 4 different countries! What a difference we have made in the past and what a difference we will make in the future.

Our League's history dates back to 1931 when three young ladies decided that this community would benefit from trained volunteers and service projects. The Junior Service League was formed in 1931 and then became the Junior League of Lansing in 1948. We have a strong foundation that the women before us created and we have a duty to continue their work. As we look into the future, we must look back at the past. One thing that you will find is the Junior League continues to create, change, and thrive.

As I have grown through my Junior League experiences, I remember past presidents telling us "It's all about Heart," "We must Light the Fire Within," "We are Dynamic Women Impacting Lives" and "We are not our Mother's Junior League and We must Step out of the Box." The underlying theme that remains the same is our ability to adapt to Change. Each year we move forward, we must take what we've learned from the past and incorporate that into the change we face in the upcoming year. I believe that we can continue to do this because We are Women with Vision. We are the Junior League.

There is no finer example of adapting to change than the women who set forth to discuss the possibilities of an Endowment Fund. They knew 25 years ago that women were continuing to volunteer, but had less time to raise funds for the Junior League's Mission. If we wanted to give time, we needed to find a way to insure our financial stability and their vision was an Endowment Fund for the Junior League. It is now a thriving reality and boasts one-half million dollars. I look forward to celebrating its 25th anniversary in the upcoming year. It is my vision that we can educate one another about the importance of this source of revenue that allows us to achieve our Mission.

I believe we have a membership that looks forward to the challenge of change. During my tenure, which has not been that long, I have seen change in action. When I was a Provisional, which is now referred to as a "new member," the President had an additional phone line installed in her home. We no longer have this need because of our ability to communicate through e-mail, cell phones and Blackberrys. These technologies have allowed us to better use our time. Technology continues to move us forward, whether we want to jump on board, or not. This will be an area that we will begin to research this coming year and it will not be easy with the economic climate that we face here in Michigan. The current climate we face also requires us to compete for the time of our members in their ever demanding schedules and the fundraising dollar within our community. We are able to adapt, to move forward and remain an agent of change within our community because We are Women with Vision.

continued next page

The 2008–2009 Board



BACK ROW: Lynn Fiedler, Sustainer Advisor; Molly Chan, Secretary to the Board; Kate Quinn, Education Vice President; Alex Wiesner, Treasurer; Dawn Kroeger, Community Vice President; Nicole Shumway, Fund Development Vice President

FRONT ROW: Amy Suhrheinrich, President; Becky Paalman, Communications Vice President; Renee Knake, Membership Vice President; Tracy Jelneck, President Elect

Residential and Commercial Interior Design

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Tünde

INTERIOR DESIGN

4050 Hunsaker Dr. #128; East Lansing, MI 48823



A New Face on the New Board

Mary Boyer, 2007–08 Nominating Chair



As the old adage goes, nothing endures but change. And, of course, the Junior League of Lansing is no exception.

It is with a fond *adieu* that we bid farewell to **Veronica McNally** who will be transferring to the Junior League of Birmingham due to a new job opportunity for her husband. Veronica had been slated to head up Fund Development on the incoming Board.

Fortunately, this vacancy has been quickly filled. With great pleasure, the Nominating Placement Committee announces that **Nicole Shumway** has agreed to become the Fund Development Vice President for the 2008–2009 League year. She is both excited and eager to start her new position. Congratulations, Nicole!

Membership New Member Training

Shelley Davis Mielock, Chair, New Member Recruitment



The new member class had their final training meeting on April 8th at Beggar's Banquet. Sustaining Advisor, Jane Bitsicas, came to welcome the class and share her League experiences. Jane also explained the role of sustainers and the exciting events they participate in each year. The class also celebrated the wonderful success of this year's *Kids in the Kitchen* event. Renee Knake ended the business portion of our meeting with an overview of Roberts Rules.

We're so excited about the wonderful group of women who joined Junior League this year and look forward to bringing in another dynamic class this fall. If you know someone who is interested in joining League, please send their contact information to me at membership@jllansing.org.

President's Message *continued from page 2*

All of the vision that we have, can become reality with training, planning and support of the women in this room and our sustaining membership. Together, with collaboration, we can continue to move forward because We are Women with Vision.

I challenge each of you in the upcoming year to think about what your personal vision may be and how we as a group of trained volunteers can continue to make a difference within our community and our membership as we have for the past 60 years.

Thank you for this amazing opportunity and I look so forward to working with each of you this upcoming year.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge some of the people of importance to me. I saved this for the end because I knew it would be most difficult as they are such a strong support of me in the challenges that I take on. I could not have accepted this opportuni-

ty without their support and of course, their babysitting services.

My dear, dear husband, Rich and our wonderful children, Madeline and Richard who are at home this evening and I am sure you will thank us for that. My Father and Mother, Mr. and Mrs. Doug and Linda Kort; my Father-in-Law and Mother-in-Law, The Honorable Richard and Mrs. Beverly Suhrheinrich; my Sister-in-Law and Past-President Kim Hartman, who has been a terrific role model for me; the outgoing President, Becky Myers who has embraced me and provided me training and insight from the moment I jumped into the President-Elect position; the new members, who are excited to become a part of this organization and the active members who have provided encouragement for me to take on this role. I thank you and I look forward to being a part of this Board of Directors who hope to serve you in the best way that we can.

Good Night.

Meridian High School Teen Moms Mother's Day Recognition Event

Jaimie Hutchison, Community Service Committee



Over twenty mothers were honored at the April 25th event to acknowledge these young women. The Junior League of Lansing came through for this often overlooked population with two new outfits for each child, a fabulous Boston Market catered lunch and Mother's Day gift bags. The young

women were thrilled to receive a total of 5-7 new outfits per child as a result of these donations and the matching support awarded by the Lansing Jaycees.

Two organizations of caring and giving community members made this memorable event possible. As I arrived at the school I was saddened to learn that one week prior to the event, the principal and staff of MHS learned the daycare was being closed, the transportation assistance to and from school was being cut and the future of the program was dim after twenty years of providing such valuable services to these women and their children.

The event became a final celebration for the program as it exists today. Along with a great deal of appreciation and gratitude, there were some tears. Tears from Mrs. Doneson, the lead teacher for these women for many years; tears from two graduates who told me they would not be graduating nor as prepared for college as they are if it weren't for the MHS program. Although bittersweet in its end, the very appreciative women were thrilled. As noted in a follow up email this week from Mrs. Doneson, "the girls are still in shock!"

I would personally like to thank all of the new members,

actives and sustainers who surpassed expectations and donated two new outfits for each of these fabulous children. Thank you: **Melissa Shanker, Jodie Burditt, Amy Sue Melville, Kris Kildea, Kimberly Garrison, Betsy Svanda, Christie Lemon, Jill Story, Lisa Gnass, Kim Brown, Gennie Gibson, Amy Suhrheinrich, Julie Morgan, Courtney Schnelker, Jennifer Schick, Patty Black, Angela Emler-Dardas, Torye Santucci, Becky Myers, Lynn Garrett, Rachel Rosenbaum, Amy Lothamer and Maggie Terry.**

Thank you to **Jodie Burditt, Beth Ann Whitaker and Lynn Garrett** for joining myself and Lansing Jaycee members **Carrie May, Celestina Luna and Angela Clock** at the luncheon. Also, the fabulous desserts were a special touch at the end of the meal!

Thank you to my husband, Wayne, for his help in labor and support of this event as it took time, effort and our guest room for over a month. I would also like to thank my mother, Linda Danders, for donating four new outfits. Finally, thank you **Beth Ann Whitaker and Patty Black** for leading the Community Service Committee and bringing their giving spirits and actions along the way.

Together, we did make a difference. I was asked, "is this your job?" The young women were very interested in the Junior League of Lansing and the Lansing Jaycees and why we volunteered. Voluntarism was highlighted along with an awareness that we are one community and we are interested in doing our part to show our support for our community in its entirety. We may never fully understand the impact of this event, but I am proud that I was able to experience the synergistic energy that was created.

President's Annual Conference San Diego, CA



LEFT TO RIGHT: Jennier Goodwill, President of Kalamazoo; Susan Foley, President of Birmingham; Kimberly Whitmore, President of Flint; Julie Voigt, President of Saginaw Valley; Debra Urquhart, President of Ann Arbor; Lisa Filda, President of Detroit; Amy Suhrheinrich, President of Lansing

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Kimberly Garrison, 2007-08 Membership Vice President

Placement Award

The Placement Award is given to a JLL Member who consistently goes “above and beyond” her placement job description or, in addition to her regular placement, assists other committees or projects in an outstanding manner. This year’s winner of the Placement Award is going to go just a little differently than usual. After MUCH deliberation the members of the awards committee were unable to decide between the following two individuals that were both nominated numerous times for an award. That being said, we have given this year’s placement award to not one but two individuals who together worked so beautifully it is a shame it must end.

Our first winner holds leadership qualities that continuously surface. Her character is her greatest asset and she always makes decisions that are in the best interest of League. If those decisions happen to cause her more work that is never a factor—she will do whatever it takes to get the job done, with the highest of quality and always with a positive attitude. She is always prepared to stay a little longer to get the job done and is great at “trouble-shooting” and coming up with creative solutions to problems.

As our Communications Vice President she has done nothing but go “above and beyond” throughout the course of the entire year. Her committee members have all found her amazingly helpful and ready to “pitch in” at anytime with our Membership Directory, Website, P.R./Marketing, and, of course, FOCUS. This position is such an important role in League and we have been so fortunate to have had such an incredibly qualified member at its helm. With all this however, she has done much more. She was instrumental and spent many, many hours in the editing and producing of our wonderful Report to the Community, which I hope most of you have been able to review. And finally, after recognizing that our newsletter costs could be improved, she researched, found and streamlined the process and might I say that the final product is just beautiful.

Our second winner for the Placement Award was also very much involved with the changes involved with FOCUS. This lady has always been very much a “behind the scene” kind of member and really stepped out of her box when she consented to be the Publications Editor. She had always shied away from taking a leadership role and yet when League really needed her she was there to take over what I feel to be one of the most “consuming and scariest” of all chair positions. Of course with any new placement there were difficulties but this gal always rose to the challenge. Sadly, one of these challenges was dealing with those of us who often submitted articles for FOCUS a little late. She basically “nipped this in the bud” so to speak, but I am the first to admit that sometimes tough love is the only course to take! As one nomination said of this member, “FOCUS looks better than ever and this reflects very positively on JLL—her job was done extremely well, her committee fully supported and all this with no complaining!”

So please help me congratulate our Placement Award winners, **Lori Noyer** and **Kay Donahue!**

New Member Award

The Super New Member Award goes to a New Member who has given “above and beyond” of her time and talents to support the efforts of this organization. Being a new member is a job in itself. There are many things to learn about how our organization works, where things are found and who is responsible for what. That being said this year’s New Member Award goes to a woman who has exhibited strong service and leadership abilities both behind-the-scene and in the spotlight. She has contributed a great deal to JLL. For example, behind the scenes you might have noticed her helping the Member Relations Committee with the Easter Egg Hunt at I-5 or the Progressive Dinner in Old Town. As an employee of our very own Member Relation’s Duo—Julie Howe and Darcy Pace, she obviously has terrific mentors to look to for guidance. In the spotlight, of course, she stepped up to co-chair the New Member project, Kids in the Kitchen. Her work helped pull all of the new members together to make the event a huge success. This year’s award goes to our very own Reese Witherspoon look alike, seriously, **Ms. Christina Williams.**

Spirit Award

The Spirit Award is given to a JLL member who embodies the spirit of Junior League voluntarism in her actions and interactions in the community and with other JLL members. This person consistently inspires others with her caring, understanding, enthusiasm and pursuit of excellence embracing the values of JLL.

This year’s winner of the Spirit Award goes to an Active member. This very special lady and might I add, dear friend, has given countless hours to Junior League while balancing her busy family life with four young children, the youngest of which was just born this past October. She and her husband have recently been instrumental in starting a new church in the area, and she alone serves as the director of the children’s program.

This gal exemplifies the JLL spirit because she walks and talks our mission. She has completely embraced her position as Community Vice President this year and has continuously gone out of her way to make new community connections for League. On two different occasions community leaders followed up with our outgoing President to relay what a tremendous League Ambassador this member is. She has gone above and beyond as a manager of her council’s committees; taking the time to train them to step up to the position of Community VP if this is something they would like to do. Along with this she has chaired council meetings and the Community Grants Committee, served on our Community Advisory Board, written policy and worked to make sure membership was aware of council happenings in her clever and inspiring Focus articles.

Two weeks ago, when—lets face it—most of us Board members were counting down the days, this lady was determined to help out and support Oprah’s “Big Give.” Oprah donated \$10,000.00 seed money to the Lansing Food Bank, which was used for milk vouchers, asking that the “community” come together

continued on page 6

Awards *continued from page 5*

and raise more. With about a 4 day turn around this gal worked with the Gorsiline Runciman Funeral Homes—the fundraiser—and pretty much single-handedly found several schools to participate in “Milk Money for Kids.” She and a few friends prepared 2000+ bags which she herself, along with baby Christine and, I am not making this up, a baby cow, delivered to the schools. She ran “assemblies” asking students to take their bags and fill them up with loose change to help buy milk vouchers for the Lansing Food Bank—the cow, of course was used for “motivational purposes” and I am told is doing well after its celebrity stint. I cannot do this story justice and I encourage each of you to get an “in-depth” report from our winner after the meeting!

All that she does is done with an amazing attitude, a spirit to serve and a gracious heart. Her kindness and optimism is nothing if not infectious, and with that I am so very honored to present the 2007–2008 Spirit Award to **Ms. Betsy Svanda**.

Leadership Award

The Leadership Award is given to an active member who demonstrates outstanding leadership abilities and who motivates and inspires others to further the vision of the organization.

This year's Leadership Award recipient joined the Junior League of Lansing as a Provisional Member in 2001 and has served in many placements during her tenure as a Junior League member, including New Member Recruitment, Community Service and, Nominating Placement Advisor.

However, this year in particular she has demonstrated outstanding leadership not only in her League in Lansing, but within the eight sister Leagues in Michigan. She stepped into a leadership role when a need arose and has fulfilled the duties of this position with poise, charisma and her well-known wit. Under her leadership, the Michigan State Council of Junior Leagues State Public Affairs Committee held a very successful Legislative Day at the Capitol. A record number of legislators attended and interacted with Junior League members from across the state to promote awareness of early childhood issues. In addition, one Saturday each month, this leader met here at the Country Club of Lansing to lead and empower the nine Michigan Leagues in identifying areas of importance and need with regard to early childhood issues. Moreover, she served as the primary means of communication between Junior Leagues in Michigan and our lobbyist firm, Capitol Services. Thanks to this leader, SPAC is now not only a well-known acronym in Junior League, but also a much sought-after placement for membership. This is in great part due to the extraordinary leadership skills of this Junior League member. Please join me in congratulating **Nancy Nyquist**—2007–2008 Leadership Award recipient.

Community Service Award

This year's Community Service awardee believes she is who she is today because of her Junior League training. Junior League opened the door and became the mechanism that taught her how to be an effective community person. She believes that this is the gift that Junior League gives to its members, and ultimately to the community.

This awardee has lived and worked in the Lansing area for most of her life. She is known for her deep commitment and serv-

ice to her community through her professional career, her work as an elected local official, and her community service.

Professionally, she has worked as a teacher, Director of Women's Programs at the YWCA, Director of the Lansing Community College Foundation, and Director of Volunteer Services at Ingham Regional Medical Center. She has chaired the Ingham County Women's Commission and been active in the Michigan Women in Municipal Government. She was elected to serve three terms on the Lansing City Council. In 2006 she was elected to serve as the State Representative for the 68th District, receiving 74% of the vote.

This JLL Sustainer has been an active volunteer and community leader for numerous organizations over the past thirty years. She has served as President of the Michigan Capital Girl Scout Council, Friends of the Lansing Public Library, Friends of the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame, Lansing Rotary Club Foundation, and the Junior League of Lansing. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Capital Area United Way, Capital Region Community Foundation and Lansing Rotary Club Foundation, and is a volunteer for the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition, the American Red Cross, Lansing Community College, and the Lansing Safety Council.

Please join me in congratulating our Community Service Award honoree for 2008, **Joan Bauer**.

Super Sustainer Award

One of the best descriptions I have heard of this Super Sustainer is “beloved.” Many sustainers are dedicated, capable, and admired, but it is a truly special person who can ‘be loved’ by all. This woman gives generously to the Junior League of Lansing. She is especially giving of that one commodity no one ever has enough of, and that is her time.

This Sustainer has given so much to JLL, over the years. In her Active years, she served in many placements, including President and Michigan State Council President. She also served on the Endowment Fund, and continues to chair the MSU Auction Pre-Party. Her Sustaining years have been busy, and included a year as Sustaining Advisor to the Board. She also follows a long family tradition of volunteerism, and we count her mom and sister among our own Junior League of Lansing Sustainers.

This year alone, our Super Sustainer, co chaired the Chicago Bus Trip (again), she chaired the Pre-Party for the MSU School of Hospitality Auction (again), and she co chaired the Kentucky Derby Party. Not only did she put together a fabulous party, but she also prepared an authentic post race Kentucky Derby dinner, complete with fried green tomatoes, homemade biscuits and butter cake! She spoils us! All of these activities are completely voluntary on her part,—she did them all without being asked! This Sustainer has also been a great source of information and support to this year's Sustaining Advisor and the Board.

While many Sustainers have given their time and energy to JLL this year, our Super Sustainer has gone above and beyond. Please join me in congratulating **Ginny Brooks** our Super Sustainer honoree for 2008.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Our Newest Sustainers

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LANSING WOULD LIKE TO THANK EACH ONE OF YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OVER THE YEARS IN HELPING US TO WORK TOWARD ACCOMPLISHING OUR MISSION.



Michele Ballein has been a member of JLL since 1998. Michele lives in East Lansing with her husband, Greg, and 8 year old daughter, Grace. Michele graduated from Michigan State with a degree in Child Development and Teaching.

Her placements with League were Member Relations Committee, Nominating/Placement Advisor and Librarian/Historian. In addition to this Michele served on the Board twice as Secretary and again as our Education Vice-President. Her favorite positions were serving on the Board and as a Nominating/Placement Advisor.

As a board member Michele was able to get a "bigger picture" of the many ways JLL makes an impact on the community, as well as, how a non-profit organization works, which has helped her in other volunteer positions within the community.

As an advisor, she was able to meet many JLL members that she had never met before which was truly rewarding. As a member her most profound memory was the way league rallied together during the difficult and scary times surrounding the 9-11 attacks. Her proudest moment was being able to support the Otto Middle School Health Clinic during a time of financial crisis. Without JLL's support the clinic would have been shut down, and many children would have been without access to healthcare indefinitely.

Michele's experience in JLL has given her lifetime friendships with wonderful and amazing women. It has also given her the tools that she will use throughout her life, from being an effective volunteer, to keeping my household organized...the lessons learned here, she will never forget.

Currently she stays busy working part-time, volunteering at her daughter's school and other organizations such as the Lansing Symphony. Of all things, Michele will most miss the interaction with a wonderful group of women.



Trisha Foster has been a member of the Junior League of Lansing since 2000. She lives in East Lansing with her husband, Mike, and their two children, Evan (5) and Ava (3). Trish has an accounting degree for MSU and is the Director of Operations and Asset Services for CB Richard Ellis in both Lansing and Grand Rapids.

With her strong accounting skills Trisha spent her time in League serving as Treasurer- Elect, Treasurer, Endowment Treasurer and the last several years as a Senior Active. Trisha found that her work on the Board was close to a third full time job along with her career and family. From that experience she found the ability to "juggle" many things at one time using organization, a strong work ethic, multi-tasking and lots of humor!

Trisha believes that JLL is about "We" not "I" as it takes everyone's commitment and enthusiasm to do what we do everyday and together make it happen. Her favorite memory

from League is helping out with Caring about Kids. She loves that this is something her entire family could do, really reach out to those in our community and believes it to be a beautiful tradition within League.

Most of Trisha's free time is spent with her children, but she is involved with Ele's Place, Starlight Starbright, American Cancer Society, IREM and BOMA. She feels fortunate that through business and personal relationships she is able to connect with her JLL friends regularly.



Linda Hirt was born and raised in the Lansing area. She joined JLL in 2001-2002 in order to help make a difference and give back to the community in which she lives! Most of her placements were in the Membership area. These include: Done in a Day, Member Relations, Nominating/Placement Advisor, Placement Chair, Membership Vice President, and

Publications.

Every placement was a great experience; serving those in need (dinners at Ronald McDonald house, Ballentine's backpacks, Mother's Day gift bags), planning events for members to enjoy (Chicago Bus Trip, Valentine's Day, Easter Egg Hunt), advising and developing members, leading the placement process, overseeing the Membership Council, and editing/submitting FOCUS articles.

Linda's most memorable year was in 2006-2007 when she served on the board as Membership Vice President. Through this position, she was able to see how everything comes together! She learned the details and importance of the by-laws and procedures, while helping to make decisions that would possibly impact the future of our League.

"What a great experience the JLL offers...a wide range of volunteer opportunities, while developing the potential of ourselves and others. The chance to make a difference in the community while meeting other women and forming lasting relationships". Linda is truly grateful for her active years and looks forward to being a sustainer in the years ahead.

Linda lives in Okemos with her husband Doug, Logan and Lindsey (13 year old boy/girl twins at Williamston Middle School), and miniature schnauzer Bentley. She is an oncology sales professional for sanofi-aventis and her hobbies include water and snow skiing, boating, tennis, shopping, cooking and relaxing with family and friends!



Melissa Shanker I've enjoyed being on various committees since I joined Junior League some nine years ago (wow, that makes me feel old) but there was one placement that struck a deep chord in my soul, the St. Vincent's Home for Children. I chose to be a mentor for one of their foster kids, and was

continued on page 8

New Sustainers *continued from page 7*

assigned to thirteen year Jaymi Bradley, a Pattengill Middle School student, that had recently been moved into foster care. To say I was terrified to meet Jaymi, is a major understatement. I had small children at home and knew nothing of teenagers, let alone a teenager as troubled as Jaymi. And, how was I ever going to carve and hour and a half a week out of my already hectic life to meet with her?

Jaymi is now sixteen and being her friend and mentor these past three and half years has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Don't get me wrong, she can be a major pain in the butt, but I wouldn't trade this experience for anything, and have the Junior League of Lansing to thank for that. So thank you!

In the future, I hope to get more involved in our community's foster care program, and have thought about starting a writing workshop for troubled teens. (If anyone has an interest/ experience in writing or teaching, I'd love your help.)

Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn't thank the JLL for introducing me to so many amazing women and life long friends! I feel proud to have played a small part in this terrific organization.



Christy Swords Before kids I was a CPA but now I am the proud mother of four adorable and energetic kids. My husband, Mike and I have been married for 11 years. We frequently receive junk mail addressed to Christy and Rick Swords due to a misprint in the JL directory a few years back.

Gracie (8 years old) is in 2nd grade, Mikey (7 years old) is in 1st grade, Mary Kate (5 years old) is in preschool and Caroline (4 years old) is also in preschool. I enjoy coaching Gracie and Mikey's soccer team, being a brownie troop leader and hanging out at the park. I am really good at underdogs and I can get even the toughest kid really dizzy on the tire swing. I am a decent bowler (with bumpers) and I am afraid of my own shadow.

I have really enjoyed being a part of the Junior League of Lansing and I am very grateful for the fond memories and wonderful friendships.



On behalf of the Reach Out and Read programs in Ingham County, I would like to thank you for the generous gift of \$500 to provide waiting room materials, books, and equipment for the MSU Well-Child Health Clinic.

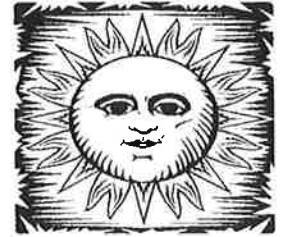
The Clinic will adapt its waiting room to create a literacy rich environment where reading is encouraged among parents, children, and volunteers. We look forward to sharing pictures with the Junior League of the final product.

We invite your members to come visit and consider becoming volunteer readers.

Thank you again for your support. Please let us know if we can provide you with any additional information.

Sincerely,
Michele Strasz
Project Manager

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2008–2009 Scholarship Recipients

Planning

We congratulate the following individuals for their contributions to the benefit of our community, while never abandoning their goals of academic excellence. We hope the scholarship from the Junior League of Lansing will inspire these women to remain in community service throughout their lives.



RaeAnn Barks is a senior at St. Johns High School and maintains a GPA of 3.73. She will be attending Central Michigan University in the fall where she will study Social Work and Interior Design.

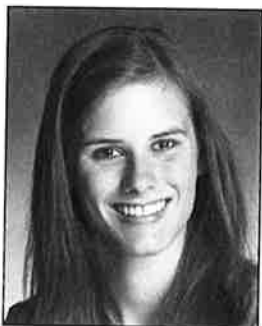
RaeAnn is an active member of the National Honor Society, Goodwins, Outdoor Leadership Training Program, Family Resource Center and the O Ambassadors. She

has participated as an Eagle Village Counselor (for 5th grade camp), volunteered for the Lansing Soup Kitchen, Jeans for Teens, Annual Pumpkin Festival/Kids' Fair and Health Fair and was on the Road Rally Committee (to raise funds for Project Pack Your Bags. She also is active in her church helping with Christmas baskets and gifts for the needy.

Her most significant contribution has been through her own "Project Pack Your Bags." For 9 years she has been filling back packs for children in Foster Care and the Domestic Shelter with clothes/underwear/socks, personal hygiene items a stuffed toy and always includes a card pack telling them she cares. Money is raised for her project through school groups helping her fundraiser.

Her long term goal is to open a youth activity center where children and adolescents can become involved in activities which will teach them life skills, leadership and the importance of volunteerism so they will be less likely to become involved with drugs, alcohol or violence.

RaeAnn has been described as not only thoughtful and generous young woman who thinks of others, but is also goal oriented.



Sarah DiPietro is a senior at Grand Ledge High School and will be attending MSU in the fall. She has a 4.0 GPA and is first in her class of 439.

Sarah's community services include Peer Assistance Leader (PAL), Grand Ledge Island Art Fair volunteer, Grand Ledge Color Cruise volunteer, Student orientation volunteer at Grand Ledge High School,

meal server with the Lansing City Rescue Mission, Grand Ledge Emergency Assistance Program (collecting and assembling food baskets), and Hurricane Katrina health kits where she coordinated school-wide collection of items and packaging and delivering them.

As a (PAL) at Grand Ledge High Sarah "has provided support and encouragement to students with diverse backgrounds, attitudes and aptitudes who are often left on the outer fringes of

High School social groups." She has been a friend to new students, including foreign exchange students, and has made these students feel welcome and included. She has also been a peer mediator helping resolve issues between students who prefer not to involve school staff.

It was noted that "she volunteers her time and talents to improve her community without seeking any recognition or reward. She has worked behind the scenes doing tasks nobody else would accept and befriending people who would otherwise be excluded. Her quiet leadership, kindness and compassion has made her a role model among her peers as well as for the younger students she works with at community events and sports camps. She motivates others to do well and willingly helps students in her classes and through tutoring. As a senior varsity basketball player and team captain Sarah has been an example of sportsmanship and unselfishness on the court. Sarah has great potential to continue to make a positive difference in her community and in the futures of those whose lives she touches."



Lo-Hua Yuan currently is senior at East Lansing High School and has a GPA of 4.078. She will be attending U of M in the fall, and also plans to go on to Medical School.

In the past 2 years Lo-Hua has volunteered over 360 hours of her time. She is the President of the National Honor Society where she contacts organizations to set up events such as blood drives for the

Red Cross, has organized the Turkey Drive, MSU stadium cleanup, as well as other events. She helped write the constitution for the East Lansing High School Student Congress. She is Class President for the Lansing Chinese School. She provides free child care for parents during parent teacher meetings. She has ushered for school activities, helped with the International Dinner at ELHS & East Lansing Children's Film Festival. She has worked as a volunteer lab assistant at MSU Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Dept. She has also volunteered at the East Lansing Public Library. She volunteered for the Salvation Army. She has also organized food drives at Thanksgiving through Christian Services. She is an accomplished dancer & volunteers to teach New-Age Line Dancing & Chinese folk dancing. Currently she is working as a dancing instructor. She is also an accomplished musician and is the first violin in the ELHS String Quartet. She performs violin recitals to elderly residents at Burcham Hills Retirement Center & volunteers as a translator & companion for an elderly Spanish woman at Burcham Hills.

Currently she is leading her National Honor Society executive group in organizing a community-wide 3-on-3 basketball tournament fundraiser, to help an East Lansing student that was hit by a car in January and is still in the hospital in Ann Arbor.

End of Year Report

Alexandra Wiesner, Treasurer



2007–2008 has been a really strong financial year for the Junior League of Lansing. We had two very successful fundraisers and our investments are holding strong in this difficult economy.

This year we had a review of our 2006–07 financials conducted by the accounting firm of Fairchild, Lebel, and Rice. The Junior League of Lansing received a favorable review. This means that we have sound accounting practices in place in accordance with standard accounting procedures.

Thank You!

Dear Junior League Members,

Thank you very much for the scholarship. Your support helps me tremendously as I pursue my business degree. I greatly appreciate your generosity. I also enjoyed the dinner at the country club.

Thanks again,
Sarah DiPietro



Thank you for your donation of \$1000 to Habitat for Humanity Lansing. Your donation will be used to help us build houses and build hope for local partner families. Without your support, we could not carry out this necessary mission.

In 2008, we plan to build or rehabilitate seven homes in Lansing, housing an estimated 30 people who are currently living in substandard houses or apartments. For our new homeowners, this is an opportunity to drastically change the lives of their families—they will have a more stable home; they will build equity; and they will create new memories. Your donation is part of this achievement. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Denise M. Paquette
Executive Director

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Fund Development Celebrity Luncheon 2008

Tracy Jelneck, 2007-08 Fund Development Vice President



The 3rd annual Celebrity Luncheon was a huge success. Thank you to the Texas Roadhouse for providing us with a great fundraising opportunity.

Much thanks to our 21 celebrities for their great job as servers. Our celebrities were asked to sell 20 tickets and donate a whole day to be a celebrity server for this event.

Thank you so much!

Thank you to **Kathy Colby** and **Lani Coulter** as well as the Junior League volunteers (**Kimberly Garrison, Tracy Jelneck, Gabrielle Johnson, Becky Paalman, Amy Suhrheinrich, and Betsy Svanda**) for taking the time to assist as hostesses, servers, busers and cashiers, you were all wonderful. The luncheon also received sponsorships from eight companies and exceptional media coverage.

The luncheon was packed with diners filling up the seats from the beginning of lunch at 11am to close at 2pm. Many Junior League members came to enjoy the wonderful food and fellowship with friends and family. Everyone had a terrific time and our celebrities served over 350 diners. We are still crunching the numbers but can safely say we raised over \$8,700 even after expenses this year!!

David Baker collected the most tips at \$465 and **Phil Joseph** sold the most tickets at 61. Both servers and a guest will enjoy a special dinner with Tom Izzo and his wife and Suzy Merchant and her husband. Congratulations David and Phil!

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Sponsors

Financial Independents, Inc
Heat n' Sweep
Ingham County Women's Commission
PTD Technology
Small Business Association of Michigan
Stewart Title
Texas Roadhouse
WILX

Servers

Michael Ashton, State of Michigan, Department of Information Technology
David Baker, Farm Bureau
Tony Baltimore, Office of Congressman Mike Rogers
Terri Beard, Community Mental Health
Bryan Beverly, Volunteer
Joseph Campbell, CapCom Credit Union
Mark Criss, City Rescue Mission of Lansing
John Fauver, Community Mental Health
Camron Gnass, Vision Creative
Bob Hoffman, Wharton Center
Calvin Jones, Lansing Board of Water and Light
Phil Joseph, General Motors
Becky Myers, Junior League of Lansing
Chad Myers, Jackson National Life Insurance Co.
Rico Neal, Ingham County Prosecuting Attorneys Office
Chad Paalman, NuWave Technology Partners
Nick Panetta, The Trainers Studio
Doug Rademacher, Local 602, UAW, President
Joe Ruth, Sparrow Health System
William Schaub, The Trainers Studio
Melanie Zaremba, Techniques of Alcohol Management (TAM)



July & August BIRTHDAYS

ACTIVES	
Bartholic, Cheryl	07/06
Jelneck, Tracy	07/06
Gnass, Lisa	07/09
Boyer, Mary	07/13
Myers, Becky	07/18
McHenry, Ann	07/19
Reid, Amy	07/19
Campbell, Jane	07/23
Siler, Justy	07/26
Slone, Diane	07/26
Emler-Dardas, Angela	07/28
Schmitt, Hillary	08/01
Schuppner, Nicole	08/01
Godby, Nicole	08/02
Carl, Stacy	08/03
Renfer, Erissa	08/03
Bugg, Shelly	08/07
Ferris, Dina	08/09
Brick, Gina	08/11
Schaub, Jessica	08/11
Johnson, Suzanne	08/18
Paalman, Becky	08/19
Svanda, Betsy	08/19
Meny, Lisa	08/24
Pricko, Kristen	08/27
SUSTAINERS	
Linnell, Pat	07/01
Oade, Donna	07/01
Rosekrans, Elizabeth	07/01
Stone, Melody	07/01
Kapenga, Jeanne	07/02
Petersmark, Debbie	07/02
Lasch, Suzanne	07/04
Stapleton, Joan	07/04
Croom, Patty	07/05
Liechty, Mary	07/05
Crouse, Patty	07/07
VanDeventer, Jackie	07/07
Merando, Marcia	07/09
Hamilton, Barbara	07/10
Hauser, Shirlean	07/11
Chambers, Jeannie	07/12
Moore, Denise	07/13
Peterson, Barbara	07/13
VanGorder, Jan	07/13
Freiberg, Barbara	07/14
Chan, Gengen	07/15
Abbott, Amy	07/16
Allman, Ellen	07/16
Legg, Joan	07/16
Perry, Mary	07/20
Haddad, Jody	07/21
Whiting Dobson, Lisa	07/22
Engle, Carri	07/24
Hotchkiss Cathie	07/24
Sheldon, Nancy	07/24
Hines, Jan	07/25
Rahimi, Carol	07/27
Born, Marty	07/28
Crites, Amy	07/28
Draggou, Lauri	07/30
Jones, Prudy	07/30
Schaberg, Barbara	07/30
McKay, Ellen	08/01
Condon, Georgia	08/03
Jakubiak, Karen	08/04
Brodbeck, Margaret	08/05
Dubenion-Smith, Shela	08/07
Crooks, Patti	08/12
Brown, Sue	08/15
Reed, Jan	08/19
Culpepper, Marilyn	08/20
Maguire, Mary Jo	08/20
DesJardins, Marilyn	08/21
Maas, Mary Ellen	08/21
Hagan, Barbara	08/22
Gillespie, Pamela	08/23
Parker, Candy	08/23
Quinn, Karen	08/23
Cooley-Sutherland, Louise	08/24
Weichman, Jamie	08/24
Brogan, Joanie	08/25
Hagan, Pat	08/26
Burns, Judy	08/27
Grettenberger, Sandy	08/27
Martin, Nan	08/27
Schaefer, Virginia	08/28
Stebbins, Jackie	08/29
Hayes, Annie	08/31
Wirtz, Barb	08/31

Final Goodbye to the 2007-2008 Board!!!

At the May GMM the 2007-2008 Board bid farewell and extended a huge heart-felt "Thank YOU!" to the committees for a job well done. To view their complete speeches, please visit the jllansing.org website.



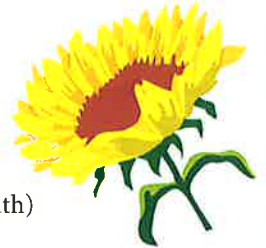
NEXT FOCUS DEADLINE

Wednesday, July 30, 2008 • 5 pm

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

Membership Changes

- (S) **Ellis, Chin**
2296 Taos Trail
Okemos, Michigan 48864
Keep cell and work information, delete all else
- (S) **Legg, Joan**
Email: Jmlegg07@comcast.net
Delete Fax number
- (NM) **Puskala, Cassy**
Resigning
- (A) **Ruth, Pamela**
DOB 12/29
Email: pj3ruth (not pjruth)
- (S) **Schaefer, Virginia**
3650 Powderhorn Drive
Okemos, Michigan 48864-5924
- (NM) **Schuppner, Nicole**
Cell: 630-826-9798 (not 816-9798)
- (NRA) **Boyer, Mary**
2206 Yorkshire Rd
Upper Arlington, OH 43221
614-564-9386



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