

Summer 2017

# FOCUS



## JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LANSING

### President's Message

*By Alexis Chadderdon, President 2017-2018*

It is an honor and a privilege for me to have the opportunity to guide our organization and our hundreds of dedicated members as we move into our 86th year of service and build on the great work done over the past eight decades.

The biggest opportunity for our League in the coming year is to learn how to be effective, powerful, impactful advocates for ourselves and our issues. The Junior League of Lansing's issue areas are: Food, Shelter and Access to Essential Needs, along with the issues of the Michigan State Council of Junior Leagues that advocate for survivors of human trafficking and foster care children. In light of the recent divisive election, nonprofits are uniquely positioned to become more vocal about our issues and obtain the attention of our elected officials.

AJLI has designated the theme for the next League year as "Disrupting Conventions." JLL is ground zero for access to legislative leadership—both majority and minority House leaders are legislators representing Lansing. Junior League of Lansing can play a role in helping bring people together and emphasizing the issues. The Junior League is an organization of nonpartisan, highly trained female leaders who work closely with key community

players to help identify what needs to be done, advocate for the unheard, illuminate the issues and work to address them.

Also, we have excellent resources already in place to help position ourselves to increase our impact such as the energetic State Public Affairs Committee, along with Sustaining Advisor to the Board Joan Bauer, who has a wealth of knowledge through her experience as a former State Representative.

I can't do any of this alone—I need all of your help and your input on how we can do this together. The best project you will work on is yourself. By being engaged members of JLL, we will be on this journey together over this next year. I want us to work hard on ourselves, not be hard on ourselves. I want us to burn brighter instead of burning out.

I am honored to be a part of this dynamic organization and look forward to another year of positive impact!

### An Interview With Alexis

#### How long have you been involved with Junior League?

I joined JLL as a new member in the fall of 2010, and became an active member in May 2011.

#### Are you from Michigan?

No, I was born and raised in Kansas City, Mo. I attend Purdue University for my undergraduate degree. I moved to Lansing in the fall of 2005 to attend Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

#### What do you do professionally?

I have been a licensed attorney since 2008. I am a manager for the state of Michigan in the Corporations Division, which promotes economic development and growth by facilitating the formation of business entities in Michigan. The Division provides services that enable businesses and nonprofit organizations to form and transact business in Michigan.

#### What motivated you to want to become the next JLL President?

After 85 successful and productive years, JLL is a well-established and highly regarded community organization with the opportunity to expand our influence on critical community issues. I was motivated by this challenge and by the support and encouragement of JLL members.

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# Junior League of Lansing Board of Directors 2017 - 2018

## **President**

Alexis Chadderdon

## **President-Elect**

Heather Frick

## **Communications Vice President**

Emily Stevens

## **Community Vice President**

Katrina Daniels

## **Education Vice President**

Elizabeth Battiste

## **Fund Development Vice President**

Anita Lindsay

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Jennifer Edmonds

## **Secretary**

Alyson Kechkaylo

## **Sustaining Advisor to the Board**

Joan Bauer

## **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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### **Who are the women in your life that have impacted you professionally or personally?**

I have been fortunate to have many strong women in my life. Starting with my grandmother and mother who instilled in me a strong work ethic and perseverance. My grandmother was a concentration camp survivor, and my grandmother and mother spent one year as refugees between Poland and Germany after World War II. Also, I have been inspired by many female attorneys and colleagues who are a source of inspiration for their leadership and drive. And, of course, JLL women have undoubtedly shaped my life, as well as the community and society in which we live.

### **Do you have any advice for newer members that want to make the most out of their Junior League experience next year?**

My best advice is to take control of your own membership experience. Depending on your interests, there are plenty of options to develop your skills and make a contribution. If you are interested in leadership, there are many opportunities to lead committees and there are plenty of mentors to help you get started. Be bold, don't wait to be asked. Jump in and get involved!



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THE JUNIOR LEAGUE

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

## JLL CONTRIBUTES ALMOST \$30,000 AND 300 VOLUNTEER HOURS TO COMMUNITY

*By Carrie Waggoner, 2016-2017 Community Vice President*

Community Council recently wrapped up a very rewarding and successful year. In 2016-2017, JLL partnered with 11 organizations, put almost \$30,000 directly into our community and donated nearly 300 volunteer hours, all of which directly impacted the essential needs of food and shelter.

These amazing stats are the direct result of the hard work and dedication of Community Outreach Chair Lindsay Dangel, Vice-Chairs Jennifer Zeiss and Tara Ragaušs, and the entire Community Outreach Committee. Thank you for all that you did in service to JLL this year. And thank you to all of our members who generously donated their time and money this year to our community programs.

Additional community highlights from this year include:

### **Done in a Meeting:**

- Raised nearly \$1,600 and collected more than 280 in-kind donations supporting Habitat for Humanity, City Rescue Mission, Haven House, Volunteers of America, Allen Street Farmer's Market, MSU Safe Place and Homeless Angels.

### **Done in a Day:**

- Collectively donated nearly 300 volunteer hours supporting Haven House, Habitat for Humanity (ReStore and Women Build), Volunteers of America (meal service, shelter needs), Greater Lansing Food Bank (warehouse, open food distribution, garden project), MSU Safe Place, City Rescue Mission and Many Hands.

### **Community Outreach:**

- 85 nights of shelter to Homeless Angels in celebration of JLL's 85<sup>th</sup> year.
- 85 weekend survival kits to Many Hands in celebration of JLL's 85<sup>th</sup> year.
- Took over Kids in the Kitchen event making it a new and active member project. The event was held on May 20, 2017, at Cavanaugh STEAM elementary school in Lansing. Participants learned healthy meal and snack preparation, how to choose healthy food items and how to grow their own food at home. Many went home with recipe books, seedlings, crock pots and other items that will help them put what they learned to use.

### **Community Grants Committee:**

- Community Response Grants - funds intended to address more immediate needs in the community.
  - \$1,000 awarded to Many Hands for Weekend Survival Kids
  - \$1,000 awarded to Habitat for Humanity to build wheelchair ramps for individuals who recently became wheelchair bound
  - \$1,000 awarded to Hannah's House for items needed in their shelter
- Community Impact Grant—funds intended to make a large and more lasting impact on the community. This year we had an impressive \$20,000 in impact grant funds to award.
  - \$12,000 awarded to SIREN/Eaton Shelter to address the unmet need for shelter for single persons and families without children who are experiencing homelessness
  - \$9,600 awarded to Haven House to purchase new furniture for their shelter, specifically new tables, chairs and couches for the common areas, as well as dressers for each family bedroom\*

\*Additional funds totaling \$1,600 were provided by the Community Outreach Committee in order to fully fund Haven House's proposal.



# SUSTAINER'S CORNER

*By Lori Hacker Fuller, 2016-2017 Sustaining Advisor*



Jo Hacker, President 1964-1965 and Lori Hacker Fuller, President 1992-1993

It has been my honor and privilege to serve the Junior League of Lansing Board this past year as the Sustaining Advisor! I pass the baton on to the able hands of Joan Bauer, who will be the advisor for 2017-2018. Joan will be a great asset to the Board and to our sustainers! Look for an email from Joan this summer with ways you can participate and/or help with active and sustainer projects. And don't forget to join the Sustainer Facebook page! Kate Powers has agreed to keep us updated on that page this coming year—thanks Kate!

More than 20 past presidents, including our most recent, Kelly Miller, attended the Past President Luncheon, June 14, 2017, at the Country Club of Lansing. Thanks to Michelle Lange for her organization of this much-treasured event! And to our new JLL President Alexis Chadderdon, who updated us on facts and figures of the Junior League of Lansing. It was special to have my Mom, Jo Hacker, join us and celebrate our mother/daughter claim to fame as Presidents of the Junior League of Lansing!

Remember your “Simply Social” sustainer groups and fun ways we can keep in touch with each other. Sue Mills and Cathy Kerwin have done a great job with their groups, the Chardonnays and Manhattans. We will be working on an updated list this fall with email access; remember, you don't have to stay within your group and you don't have to wait to hear from someone to organize a social event! Keep Joan posted with any events and/or pictures of fun times with Junior League friends!

Best wishes for a safe and happy summer!



# 2016 - 2017 NEW MEMBERS

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## **Justine Bell**

Justine grew up in the Lansing area and attended MSU for her first two years of college. Then she met the love of her life at a party and moved to Indiana to finish up her undergraduate degree in biology at Earlham College. After graduation, she started working at a local animal shelter and spent much of her time dedicated to various facets of animal rescue. She and her husband moved back to Lansing a few years later when considering children, wanting to be closer to family. She worked for a time as a grant coordinator at Capital Area Humane Society before her son was born. After Harrison was born in 2014, she worked managing a neuropsychology practice and then transitioned to Aflac where she works to make the world a better place in a new and different way.



## **Erica Boyan**

Erica grew up in the small town of Sandusky, Michigan, where she spent most of her summers pulling weeds and exploring the woods behind her house with her sisters and cousins. After high school, she headed off to Michigan State University where she majored in Communication and was a coxswain on the Varsity Women's Rowing Team. She fell in love with the Lansing area and, eventually, with a graduate student from the West Coast. He could never convince her to move very far, and Erica is happy to have found a home outside of Mason with him and their three children. She has worked in the local insurance industry since 2007, and spends her spare time eating and preserving local food and attending community events. When her children are older, Erica looks forward to gardening in a floppy hat, volunteering at her local township hall during elections, working at library book sales and hosting pie-making parties.



## **Domonique Brace**

Domonique has been a nonprofit Service Coordinator since November 2011. Working in underserved populations has been her passion for many years. Collectively, she has more than seven years of experience working and collaborating with elderly and disabled populations. A lifelong Spartan fan, she became an alumni in 2008 after completing her Bachelor's in Social Science and Health Studies. Additionally, she is an active volunteer for Haven House of East Lansing and a former Girl Scout Troop Leader. Domonique enjoys crafting, interior design and describes herself as a "runner enthusiast." She completed her first half marathon in October 2014 at the Capital City River Run. She resides in Lansing with her husband, Alex, and loving pug, Tobee.



## **Kily Buta**

Kily is a recent graduate of Alma College with a bachelor's degree in Integrated Physiology and Health Science. She is now pursuing her Masters of Public Health at Michigan State University. She currently works for the Department of Health and Human Services in the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Unit. Kily was a Girl Scout for 13 years earning her Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards, the highest awards in Girl Scouts. She enjoys volunteering in the community and is currently serving as a soccer and swimming referee.



## **Emily Chambers**

Emily's love and passion are her husband, two children and dog, and her family and friends! She is fun, loving and innovative. She has profound knowledge in business development, sales and management after graduating from Central Michigan University, and holds an MBA in International Business from Keller Graduate School of Management. Currently, Emily stays at home raising her family and is passionate about traveling, working out, playing sports and inspired by others who care. She is super excited to be meeting the JLL ladies and contributing her time in the community.

# 2016 - 2017 NEW MEMBERS CONT'D

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## **Jessica Eyde**

Jessica is a former Air Force brat, so if you ask her where she's from she'll say "all over," but she's called Texas home since she was 12. She graduated from Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Ga., with a degree in History/Art History, and moved to New York City shortly after. Jessica worked in the fashion industry for 10 years, but moved to Los Angeles with her then-fiancé shortly before she got married. She worked in interior design while there, and pursued further studies in the field at UCLA. Her husband, Nathaniel, is an East Lansing native whose family business called him home in 2010, and they've lived here since. They have two wonderful children: Asa (3½) and Jane (9 months), and they're looking forward to raising them in a place where (as her husband says) "it's great to grow up."



## **Autumn Gillard**

Autumn is an active, social and outgoing individual who works in government relations. She is employed through the Small Business Association of Michigan, where she serves as the Policy Advisor and Grassroots Coordinator. Autumn grew up in Muskegon and graduated from Mona Shores High School. She continued her education in East Lansing and is a graduate of Michigan State University. She earned her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice/Social Science and has been in the Lansing area since 2009. She loves working with children and volunteering in her community. She enjoys all things outdoors and trying new wine/beer/coffee/tea. Autumn loves the state of Michigan for all of the wonderful natural beauty it has to offer. Additionally, she loves to travel, golf, cook and stay active. In addition to connecting with more women in the area and creating life-long friendships, she is always up for something new which led her to join the Junior League.



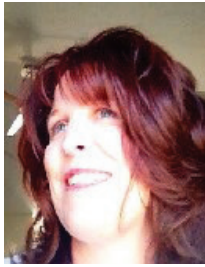
## **Danielle "DJ" Grubaugh**

DJ is a lifelong Lansing-area resident, serving as a Peckham's Assistant Manager to Eaton County programs. Four years in human services and countless courses in social policy has molded her passion for human rights and serving others. DJ enjoys being a newlywed, making new friends, recreational sports and exploring all of the beauty that Michigan has to offer! DJ cannot wait to continue making a difference in her community through the Junior League of Lansing!



## **Rachel Hatt**

Rachel is a recent grad from Michigan State University. She graduated in May 2016 with a Bachelors in Marketing and a minor in Information Technology. Currently, she is working toward her masters' degree in Information Technology Management at Davenport University. She works for the State of Michigan's Department of Insurance and Financial Services as a business analyst where she assists in managing various IT projects. Outside of work and school, Rachel enjoys being outdoors, baking, reading, traveling and practicing yoga. She learned about the Junior League of Lansing through a friend, and can't wait to participate in local volunteer events while meeting other strong-willed women!



### **Karen Holtz**

Karen is a Corporate Claim Consultant at AF Group and has been with the enterprise for 16.5 years. She graduated with her masters' degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Michigan State University and bachelor's degree from Kalamazoo College. She has served on the Charlotte City Park Board for 10 years and was on the executive board for the Lansing Area Youth Development in 2004. She is currently finishing up a three-year commitment to the church council at Peace Lutheran Church. Additionally, she volunteers at national equestrian competitions through the United States Eventing Association as an international dressage, show jumping scribe and cross country fence judge (this ensures that she stays out of her daughter's hair when she is getting her horse ready to compete). She loves to volunteer at the Michigan State concession stands for football and basketball for St. Gerard Church. Her work experience includes counseling at Lansing Volunteers of America and Concentra Managed Care, hospitality and women's counseling dealing with addiction and pregnancy decisions. She is a single mother of one amazing daughter who is an equestrian. She is currently a junior at Lansing Catholic High School and plays tennis (2016-2017). Karen loves to be outside gardening, walking, skiing, going to horse shows and sporting events. She is a huge animal lover owning a horse, cat and dog. She and her daughter regularly visit local humane societies and enjoy 'loving up' the animals on their visits. Karen is a native Californian who transplanted to Michigan and has enjoyed the life she has built here.



### **Alexa Jones**

Alexa is the co-founder and CEO of TheraB Medical, a medical device startup founded at Michigan State University in 2014. She is a graduate of MSU with a degree in Biosystems Engineering. During her senior year at MSU, an engineering design project led to the inception of TheraB, where she and two other students invented "Snuglit," a wearable treatment for infant jaundice. After graduation, Alexa moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, and spent nearly two years as an analyst at Goldman Sachs & Co. In late 2015, she realized her passion for entrepreneurship and growing her company and moved back to Lansing where she now works fulltime as CEO of TheraB. In her free time, she loves to travel and spend time with family and her black lab, Harvey.



### **Megan Jones**

Megan is a CPA working as a Financial Analyst at Orchid Orthopedic Solutions in Holt. She graduated with her Masters in Professional Accounting from the University of Texas. She is a Texas native and recently moved to Michigan. In her spare time she loves to cheer on her Longhorns and visit as many national parks as possible. A life goal is to visit all of the national parks (she has been to 87 of the current 413 units of the National Park System so far).



### **Erika Kowall**

Erika loves to bake, explore and laugh! She feels as though happiness is the best medicine! Family and friends are very important to her and she has a love for life that extends into everything she does. She is a firm believer that being true to yourself is one of the best rules to live by. She is a self-proclaimed nerd at heart; her love for biology seeps out every now and then. She prides herself in being a multifaceted individual. She believes she is here to make a difference in this world and will do everything in her power to do so!



# 2016 - 2017 NEW MEMBERS CONT'D

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**Emily Laidlaw**

Emily currently lives in Okemos with her husband and almost two-year-old son. She is a lobbyist representing public school administrators. She is excited to join JLL and meet other women who are interested in being active in our community!



**Andrea Lee**

Andrea is a health care attorney at Rolf Goffman Martin Lang specializing in post-acute health care law and corporate compliance. Andrea attended law school at Case Western Reserve School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio, where she graduated in the top 10% of her class and was on the Executive Board of the school's Law Review. Before law school, Andrea studied nutrition at The Ohio State University and was on the Executive Board of her sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta. Andrea is a marathon runner, novice skier and loves to travel internationally. "I could not be more excited to share that I recently joined the law firm Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP! I will work in the firm's Detroit office and continue to focus my practice in health law."



**Meagan Mitin**

Meagan grew up in East Lansing/Okemos. She is a graduate of both Michigan State University and Grand Valley State University. Currently, she works as an academic advisor for the College of Social Science at MSU. In her free time she enjoys watching MSU sports and doing Zumba.



**Angela Palmer**

Angela is a graduate of Michigan State University, earning her bachelor's degree in Accounting from the Eli Broad College of Business and is currently pursuing a CPA designation. After graduation, she worked in the accounting department of St. Vincent Catholic Charities. While there, she really enjoyed making a difference in people's lives. Currently, she is employed as an Accountant at Dart Container Corporation, where she has really been able to develop professionally. Although she grew up in Petoskey, she has lived in the Lansing area for several years now, and truly enjoys the area. She is looking forward to becoming further involved in the community with the Junior League of Lansing and gaining a larger networking community.



**Kelsey Patterson**

Kelsey is a Registered Dietitian and Personal Trainer at the Michigan Athletic Club. She is currently pursuing her Masters of Public Administration with an emphasis in Nonprofit Leadership and Administration from Western Michigan University. As a Kalamazoo resident for most of her life, she is excited to become an active member of the Lansing community through the Junior League of Lansing. In her free time you can find Kelsey spending time with her husband and/or fur baby, running, boxing or engrossed in a good book.



### **L. Patterson**

As a daughter of a United States Naval forces member from California, L. attended a small liberal arts college in rural Virginia and fell in love with a United States Army service member. Following her undergraduate studies, she attended graduate studies at Michigan State University's School of Criminal Justice where she focused on organizational adaptation. Her favorite recent task was planning her wedding to her husband this past spring. She enjoys crocheting scarves and blankets for family members. Also, during her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and their pet.



### **Linzy Pedersen**

Linzy is excited to be a new member of the Junior League of Lansing! She currently resides in Holt and works for Consumers Energy in Jackson where she is an entry-level engineer/project manager. She graduated from Michigan State University in May 2015 with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. While at MSU, she was on the executive board for various student groups including her beloved sorority, Phi Sigma Rho, and the Society of Women Engineers. She is excited to once again be surrounded by so many strong-willed women that have a passion for giving back to the local community. In her spare time she enjoys cooking, exercising/running and watching sports.



### **Renee Price**

Renee is a single mother of two teenagers living in St. Johns. She earned a bachelor's degree in Management and currently holds the position of Grant Accountant for Peckham Industries, out of Lansing. Renee likes to dabble with many interests, including crafts, outdoor recreation, various musical instruments and local volunteering. She is an eternal optimist and enjoys helping others.



### **Audra Putt**

Audra is a Palliative Care Consultant with the State of Michigan's Cancer Prevention and Control Section. She is a recent graduate of the University of Kentucky where she obtained her Master's degree in Public Health with a concentration in Health Management and Policy, and a Certificate in Gerontology. Audra is a member of Delta Omega, the honorary society in Public Health. Originally from Auburn, Mich., she attended Saginaw Valley State University for her undergraduate studies in Health Science, Gerontology and Sociology. As a new resident of Lansing, Audra is looking forward to continuing to learn about the community and becoming involved with many of the area's different projects and activities. Her past volunteer work has included working with the aging population, hospice and health promotion initiatives.



### **Natasha Roberson**

Natasha is a mom of two beautiful, busy boys and a wife to a very supportive and loving husband. She and her family have lived in Holt since 2007 and have come to love the area. She and her husband are excited to raise their boys in this area. In 2005, Natasha graduated from the University of Toledo with a bachelor's degree in Exercise Science where she discovered her passion for athletic training and nutrition. This led her to obtain her certification in soft tissue management (massage) to combine all studies and truly help each athlete and individual who she has the opportunity to work with to reach their goals. She is an entrepreneur with two businesses, focusing her passion on helping others live the life they deserve with their health and wellness from their personal nutrition to their physical function to do their everyday tasks with ease and enjoyment. She loves giving back to people and her community and is excited to be a part of this amazing organization!

# 2016 - 2017 NEW MEMBERS CONT'D

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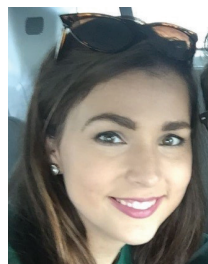
## **Rachel Ruddock**

Rachel is a Lansing-area native and MSU alum who is looking forward to being a member of the JLL, making new friendships and volunteering in the community. Currently, Rachel is the Recruitment and Retention Services Manager at the Michigan Center for Rural Health. Prior to joining MCRH, Rachel worked for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. She has also worked in Fundraising and Patient Services at the American Cancer Society and as an AmeriCorps member at the American Red Cross. In her spare time, Rachel enjoys spending time with her husband and two dogs, cheering on the Spartans and training for her first triathlon.



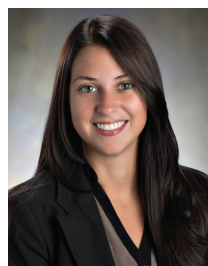
## **Rachael Ruis**

Rachael is the assistant director of alumni relations at the College of Communication Arts and Sciences at Michigan State University. A Grand Rapids native, she's a two-time graduate of MSU, holding a bachelor's degree in journalism with a specialization in public relations and master's degree in public relations. Prior to her current role at MSU, Rachael managed social media for the university. She also has served on the board for Grand River Connection, a mid-Michigan young professionals networking group. Outside of work, Rachael enjoys cheering on the Spartans, traveling near and far, and spending time with friends and family. She resides in East Lansing with her husband, Tom, and their dog, Charley.



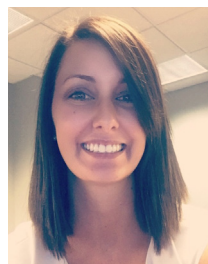
## **Calla Seling**

Calla hails from Lansing. In 2011, she graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in Communicative Sciences and Disorders. During her time at MSU, she was involved in Capital Green A Cappella, and continues to enjoy singing and performing to this day! After graduating, Calla attended Lansing Community College and became an American Sign Language interpreter in 2015. Currently, she works as an interpreter in an educational setting. Her greatest passion in life is to help others, especially those who cannot speak for themselves.



## **Lisa Stewart**

Lisa is currently the Development and Events Specialist at Sparrow Health System. Her previous work experience includes five years of fundraising and event planning as the Associate Director of Children's Miracle Network at Beaumont Health. She is relatively new to the greater Lansing area and looking to get involved in volunteer opportunities and grow her personal and professional networks. She is a Spartan with an undergraduate degree in Communication with specializations in Public Relations and Sales Communication. In her free time, Lisa enjoys spending time with nieces and nephews, running half marathons, walking her two dogs, Nola and Indy, traveling, reading and yoga.



## **Laura Stoken**

Laura is the Manager of the Constituent Relations office for Gov. Rick Snyder. She has served the Governor's office for five years. Prior to working for the Governor, Laura worked for the Listening Ear Crisis Center in Mount Pleasant where she assisted callers and members of the community in crisis. Laura is the proud wife of Jason and honored to be mother to Brennan and Savannah.





### **Lindsey Uppal**

Lindsey is a wife and mother currently living in Haslett. She grew up in the Greater Lansing area and attended Lansing Community College. After she completed her associate's degree, she went on to develop her career in property management. She worked for the next 10 years for various companies, both large and small, in the Lansing and Silver Springs, Md. areas. After starting a family with her husband, Raji Uppal, she took time away from her career to focus on her family. The family business, DTN Management Company, is very involved in the Lansing area, and the Junior League is another great opportunity to give back. Lindsey looks forward to expanding her relationships with the many dynamic women of this community, while making a difference in people's lives.



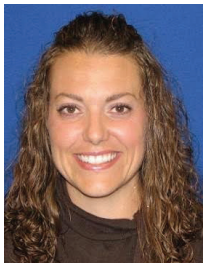
### **Taylor Vance**

Disney addict. Year-round iced coffee drinker. Dog lover. By day, Taylor is a Talent Acquisition Specialist working out of Brighton. She is in her first six months at her current position—her first full-time, "adult" job. This position has allowed her to step out of her comfort zone and learn and grow in the field of recruitment and talent acquisition. Born and raised in the East Lansing area, she was destined to be a Spartan. Taylor is a recent graduate of Michigan State University where she majored in Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science to prepare herself for a career in Human Resources. In the off moments that Taylor is not working, you can find her immersed in a good book, baking a batch of cupcakes from scratch or crafting her latest Pinterest-inspired project. Family is everything to Taylor. To her, there is no greater sense in life than to be surrounded by those you love. She spends a great deal of her time with family reveling in times spent together. She hopes that Junior League of Lansing will open up doors to life-long friendships and fuel her desire to dedicate her time to reach out to those in need and help make the world a better place through volunteerism and philanthropy.



### **Jessica Vanderklok**

Jessica is originally from the Kalamazoo area (Vicksburg). She went to college at Trine University (formerly Tri-State University) in Angola, Ind., and graduate school at MSU (Go Green!). She currently lives in Lansing and works as a Corporate Trainer at Dart Container in Mason.



### **Bethany Wicksall Gielczyk**

Bethany is the Deputy Director of the Michigan House Fiscal Agency. There, her primary responsibilities include providing nonpartisan fiscal analysis and budget preparation regarding the School Aid budget and Retirement issues for the Michigan House of Representatives. She has worked in the Legislature for 15 years, having first worked at the Senate Fiscal Agency prior to moving to the House in 2005. Bethany graduated from MSU's James Madison College with a degree in Political Theory. She also holds a Masters of Public Policy from the University of Michigan Ford School of Public Policy. Bethany and her husband, Ben, recently bought a 93-year-old home, for which they spend many hours working on projects. She loves to travel, attend music concerts, read, cook and, hopefully this year, will learn more about canning and food preservation. After years of long distance running-related injuries, she's looking for new outdoor sports and has recently fallen in love with, but also found much frustration in, the game of golf. When home, she loves to spoil their pitty mixes, Cali and Olive.

# HIGH HEELS & HIGH TEA BECOMES AN ELEGANT FUNDRAISER

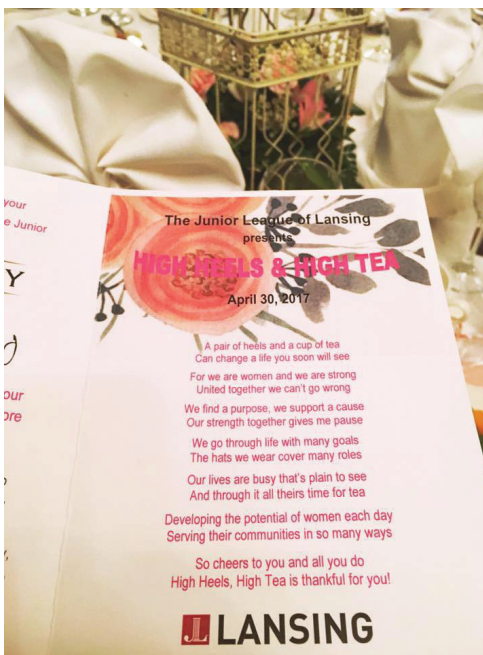
*By Laura Stoken, 2016-2017 New Member*

The Junior League of Lansing hosted its third annual High Heels & High Tea fundraiser at the Country Club of Lansing on April 25, 2017. The event was a huge success as it sold out in two weeks, had 175+ individuals in attendance and raised more than \$9,000!

Guests relaxed and mingled with friends while they enjoyed a beautiful high tea provided by East Lansing-based Newby Teas. This elegant event not only raised money for the Junior League of Lansing through ticket sales and sponsorship, but also served as an opportunity for local businesses to showcase their products or services. Guests browsed 11 booths where they were able to pick up samples and make purchases. More than 20 local businesses and individuals provided sponsorships to make the event a success.

This event was graciously sponsored by DTN Management, Douglas J Salon and Spa, Power House Gym and Newby Teas.

Other sponsors included: Arty Party, Buhl Little Lynwood & Harris PLC, CHAMPPS Kitchen + Bar, Curvaceous Lingerie, Dana Zecchino and Hillary Henderson with Coldwell Banker Hubbell- Briarwood, Ellison Brewery + Spirits, Go Greener LLC, HEAT Blow Dry and Beauty Boutique, Hilltop Yoga, iHealth, INSTY-PRINTS Downtown, Kellie's Consignment, La Fille Gallery, Lansing Family Practice, Le-Vel representative Natasha Roberson, Lightrx, Luke Landscaping, Matilda Jane, Mikaila Hirchert Photography, NCG Cinemas, Northwestern Mutual, Petal & Forest, Red Haven, Rodan and Fields Consultant Tracey Epley, Sparrow, Thirty One Consultant Maria Juras, Van Atta's Greenhouse and Flower Shop, Vision Care, Wellness Coach Mindy Patnoudé and Whipped Bakery.





# KIDS IN THE KITCHEN MAKES AN IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY

*By Lindsay Dangl, 2016-2017 Community Outreach Chair*

This year's Kids in the Kitchen was a wonderful event. It was held at Cavanaugh Elementary on May 20, 2017. We again received a generous sponsorship from Jackson National Life.

This year was different because instead of only new members working on the event, new members worked with some more experienced members to put on the event together. We had a distinctly Junior League event that focused on our issue area—getting food into the hands of those who need it. We were able to do very targeted marketing putting our fliers into the Many Hands weekend survival kits. The families that came were very appreciative of the experience.

The families and children who attended were able to plant their own lettuce (and some left with pumpkin seeds for home), learn about nutritious foods to eat, obtain information about the summer food programs offered in the area, learn how to make snacks of quesadillas and yogurt parfaits (each with only three ingredients), and have a lunch of freshly made vegetable chili. The chili was made in crock pots and the children learned how they could use an easy recipe like this to cook for their whole family in a kid-safe way. We also raffled off many prizes including crock pots! We had a small crowd but nearly every family who attended went home with a crock pot for future meals.





# ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE

*By Sandy Grettenberger, 2016-2017 JLL Endowment Fund Chair*

Our JLL Endowment Fund, managed by Tri-Star Trust Bank, has had a remarkable year! The balance as of May 22, 2017 was an impressive \$618,487.85. Our investments enjoyed positive market returns, but the driving force of the fund's growth comes from donations made by members like you. On behalf of the JLL Endowment Board, I offer sincere thanks to the passionate and generous donors who have given to the Endowment Fund over the past 30+ years. Your contributions will continue to enable the Junior League of Lansing to support its mission and positively impact our community well into the future.

I am exceptionally pleased to announce the formation of a donor Legacy Society to recognize individuals who give or pledge sizeable monetary contributions to the JLL Endowment Fund. Our past Chairperson, Bridget Balesky, was the initiator of this effort, but it is our current Vice Chair and upcoming Chairperson, Ginny Brooks, who has lead the charge over the past year to make this a reality. Look for more details about the Legacy Society this fall!

A list of our donors for the 2016 calendar year is provided – thank you! We are grateful for your contributions. If you haven't made a contribution in 2017 or would like to add to your support, we invite you to do so! Donations are accepted year-round in amounts large or small, via check or online at [jllansing.org](http://jllansing.org). Every dollar you give is appreciated and invested with care. One of my favorite ways to donate is "In Honor Of" a special someone – a donation can be given to celebrate a birthday, a special occasion, or simply in recognition of a friend or family member.

Thank you to the 2016/17 Board for their dedicated stewardship of the Endowment Fund. It was truly a pleasure to serve with Ginny Brooks - Vice Chair, Andrea Barnes - Treasurer, David Wakeland and Nathan Triplett - Community Member Trustees, and ex officio Board member Alexis Chadderdon - JLL's new President. A special thank you to David Wakeland for accepting a second 2-year term as a Community Trustee.

## 2016 – 2017 JLL Endowment Fund Highlights

- Received \$13,395.75 in donations for the 2016 calendar year. A 67% increase over the prior year!
- Gave JLL a check in the amount of \$29,082.68 in support of its mission.
- Participated for the first time in the National Day of Giving with a social media campaign to encourage donations to the Endowment Fund.
- Received a generous donation of \$2000 from the MSU School of Hospitality Business from the proceeds of their 2017
- Destination Auction. This was a 25% increase over last year. Received \$5,398.00 (as of 4/30/17) in contributions from the Dues Round-Up campaign.
- Developed and implemented a JLL Endowment Fund Board of Trustees Obligations summary.
- Explored the development and implementation of a donor Legacy Society.

Beginning in July, the new Board will include Ginny Brooks, Chairperson; Kate Powers, Vice Chair; Kayla Byrd-Daniels, Treasurer; Heather Frick, JLL President-elect and ex officio Board member, David Wakeland and Nathan Triplett will continue to serve as Community Trustees. I wish the new Board a productive and fruitful year.



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
LANSING**  
**ENDOWMENT FUND**

The JLL Endowment Board appreciates the following donors for their donations made to the Endowment Fund during calendar year 2016:

#### **Benefactor**

**(Gifts of \$1,000 or more)**

MSU School of Hospitality Auction

#### **Leadership**

**(Gifts of \$500 to \$999)**

Fran Carr

Nancy Sheldon

#### **Pacesetter**

**(Gifts of \$250 to \$499)**

Patricia Brogan

Barbara and Jim Cleland

Sandy Grettenberger

Jan and Bill Kahl

Dr. and Mrs. J. Clyde Spencer

#### **Supporter**

**(Gifts of \$100 to \$249)**

Susan Allis

Deborah Atkinson

Cheryl Bartholic

Joan Bauer

Kathleen Bens

Mary Bratschi-VanWieren

Kerry Brick

Margaret and Daniel Brodbeck

Christine Brogan

Ginny Brooks

Carol Broviac

Eleanor Charchut

Barbara Clark

Georgia Condon

Marilyn Cornelius

Carolyn Dudley

Caryn Edwards

Gretchen Forsyth

Trish Foster

Tula Frangos

Lori Fuller

Barbara Galloway

Jo Hacker

Phyllis Harden

Deborah Harrison

Kim Hartman

Annie Hayes

Tracy Holtzer

Karen Hubbard

Ruth Kositchek

Sandy Little

Susan Lupo

Sue Mills

Lori Noyer

Shirley Paxton

Mary Beth Pirich

Dorothy Spousta

Charlene Sproles

Amy Suhrheinrich

Ruth Ridgway

Traci Riehl

Elizabeth Rosekrans

Mary West

Carolyn Willoughby

#### **Patron (Gifts of \$50 to \$99)**

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Candace Barnes

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Tunde Rigel

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Cat Schwartz

Patty Black

Nancy Shepard

Kristin Clark

Katie Strong

Mary Clark

Betsy Svanda

Patricia Croom

Mary Debra Van Wieren

Lynn Dwight

Pamela Anne Wakeland

Linda Grua

Angela Washburn

Barbara Hamilton

Judy Wilkinson

Kristin Kildea

Suzanne Kregel

Suzanne Lasch

Larry Lee

Pat Linnell

Felicia McMullen

#### **Friend (Gifts of \$1 to \$49)**

Kathryn Ault

Gengen Chan

Heather Frick

Mary Ann Austin

Lois Ann Clark

Preeti Gadola

Bridget Balesky

Beth Cook

Donna Gardner

Michelle Ballein

Rebecca Coudron

Pamela Gillespie

Andrea Barnes

De De Coy

Bel Gonzalez-Morales

Zoe Bassos

Amy Crites

Sue Ann Guilford

Susan Benivegna

Patty Crouse

Joanne Hacker

Nancy Berger

Linda Dansby

Jody Haddad

Stacy Bogard

Bethe Day

Dawn Hall

Carolyn Boger

Marilyn DesJardins

Ed and Pam Harden

Kersten Bond

Darrell Duffield

Donna Hay

Frances Bradley

Susan Duncan

Lisa Holcomb

Catherine Brennan

Wendy Faulhaver

Alicia Hopping

Juliette Buckberry

Grace Fauquher

Catherine Hornbach

Kimberly Buta-Blair

Lynn Fiedler

Kate Hude

Lisa Callaghan-Keefer

Barbara Fishell

Phyllis Irwin

Alexis Chadderdon

Janet Lea Freund

Tracy Jelneck

# ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE, CONT'D

## Friend (Gifts of \$1 to \$49) cont'd

Elizabeth King  
Sarah Leitz-Compagnoni  
Christie Lemon  
Mary Liechty  
Margaret Liedholm  
Barbara Ruth Lindquist  
Anita Lindsay  
Katie Lynwood  
Dorothy Martin  
Karen McCloskey  
Sarah McCoy  
Elllen Mckay  
Nanci Mooney

Betty Moore  
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Jenny Norman  
Beverly Oetzel  
Rebecca Paalman  
Jennifer Pace  
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Candy Parker  
Susan Patterson  
Deborah Porter  
Kristen Pricco  
Tara Ragauss

Wesley Reece  
Janice Reed  
Caryn Rhodes  
Kay Ellen Riegel  
Jennifer Ronan  
Pamela Ruth  
Jennifer Schick  
Courtney Schnelker  
Patricia Scott  
Denise Shaheen  
Christina Shaw  
Barbara Sjolander  
Erin Skene-Pratt  
Linda Smith

Kirsten Soltis  
Julie Stevenson  
Diane Tarpoff  
Sarah Triplett  
Angela Vlahakis  
Betty Vlahakis  
Ann Vogelsang  
Carrie Waggoner  
Kimberly Watters  
Alex Wiesner  
Mary Wilson  
Patricia Wilson  
Barbara Wirtz  
Dana Zecchino





**In Honor of Chrissie Brogan's Birthday**

Kim Hartman

**In Honor of Ginny Brooks**

Deborah Atkinson

Patricia Croom

**In Memory of Jean Chambers**

Junior League of Lansing

**In Honor of Barb Cleland**

Deborah Harrison

**In Memory of Barb Cleland's Father**

Sue Mills

**In Memory of Marilyn Cornelius**

Junior League of Lansing

Sue Mills

**In Memory of Marilyn Cornelius  
and Marge Joslin**

Mary Liechty

Mary West

**In Memory of Marilyn Culpepper**

Junior League of Lansing

Mary Wilson

**In Honor of Linda Grua  
and our Friendship**

Julie Buckberry

**In Memory of Marge Joslin**

Angela Vlahakis

**In Memory of Joan Legg**

Patty Crouse

Jo Hacker

Sue Mills

**In Memory of Joan Legg  
and Barb Sukenik**

Lori Fuller

**In Memory of Miriam Loomis**

Junior League of Lansing

**In Memory of Cheryl Martyn**

Tunde Rigel

**In Honor of Katie (Hamilton)  
McCone**

Barbara Hamilton

**Special Thanks to Sue Mills**

Deborah Harrison

**In Honor of Past Presidents**

Deborah Harrison

**In Memory of C. David Ridgway**

Ruth Ridgway

**In Honor of Joan Stapleton**

Shirley Paxton

**In Memory of Barb Sukenik**

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Mary Beth Pirich

Betsy Rosekrans

Barbara Sjolander

Katie Strong

Mary West

Carolyn Willoughby

**In Memory of Barb Sukenik and Marge Joslin**

Dorothy Spousta

**In Honor of Lisa Ramont and Kristine Kuhnert**

Tricia Foster

**In Memory of Tom Sukenik**

Barbara Cleland

**In Memory of Janet VanGorder**

Ginny Brooks

# STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND TRAINING COMMITTEE UPDATES

*By Elizabeth Battiste, 2016-2017 Training Chair and SPAC Member*

The Lansing Delegates to the State Public Affairs Committee are proud to end the year strong, advocating for victims of human trafficking and children in the foster care system.

We had 24 people at Day at the Capitol in March with a great number of our elected representatives in attendance to talk about our main foster care priorities and initiatives, some of which are already starting to happen, including modernizing physical and mental health records to provide a higher quality of care.

Next year we look forward to providing even more opportunities for our members to be directly involved in our advocacy efforts to make an even bigger impact. Thank you for your service this year!

Also, thank you to everyone who took advantage of our OPS Trainings this year. Our goal was to be attentive to the learning opportunities our members requested. We hope you found the trainings on "Owning Your Expertise" by acknowledging your skills and talents and how to leverage them and "Be Heard" to expand your public speaking skills to be useful for your work in and out of the League.

This year, we also worked with the New Member Committee to provide robust trainings to welcome them to League. While we still have a few kinks to work out, we look forward to expanding cross-league training opportunities.

We look forward to continuing to provide training opportunities that will help you reach your leadership and voluntarism goals here in League. If you have any questions or suggestions for training opportunities for next year, please contact me at [elizabethbattiste@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethbattiste@gmail.com).



# TREASURER'S REPORT

*By Kayla Byrd-Daniels, 2016-2017 Treasurer*

This League year of 2016-2017 has been an excellent financial year. The Endowment Fund has surpassed \$600,000 thanks to the numerous contributions from rounding up dues and from the MSU School of Hospitality Business Alumni Association's Designation Auction. We would also like to thank our Active and Sustainer members who have generously donated to the Junior League of Lansing this year.

This year has been a truly great year for Junior League of Lansing. We were able to provide \$12,000 to Siren Eaton Shelter to start a new program to provide shelter to adults without children. In addition, we were able to provide Haven House Lansing with \$9,600 so that they are able to update their dated furniture. The Fund Development Council did an outstanding job this year fundraising. Finally, each council and committee did a great job at working within their budgets and we thank you for your commitment and dedication to League.

## CALLING ALL ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS—PAST AND PRESENT!

The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. has extended a call for members who have been elected or appointed to represent our community.

Do you currently serve in a position or did you hold one in the past? We would love to celebrate you and have you listed on the AJLI website. Please contact Elizabeth Battiste at [elizabethbattiste@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethbattiste@gmail.com) or 248.404.7846 if you were elected or appointed or if you know of another League member (Active or Sustainer) who served.

If you can include information about the position and a head shot, that would be fantastic.

The Junior League of Lansing is fortunate to have a strong history of leadership in our community and we look forward to highlighting the women who go above and beyond in their service. Thank you for helping us celebrate them!



# WOMEN BUILD COMMUNITY SERVICE ROUNDS OUT THE YEAR

*By Jennifer Zeiss, 2016-2017 Done-in-a-Day Chair*

This last season of Junior League was a great one for our Done-in-a-Day assignments! Our hours at the Greater Lansing Food Bank, City Rescue Mission and Habitat for Humanity were just a few ways that we impacted our community in the areas of food and shelter. I personally finished out the year after May Celebration with Habitat for Humanity's Women's Build.

The first step in our process was to learn how to use the equipment we would be handling the day of the build. An extra hour of time was required for this commitment with four of us going to Home Depot and learning how to use a variety of tools. I also learned about Habitat and how these builds are approved. I learned that each person who receives a home from Habitat has to have their own investment in their future in order to receive a home. They have to help with the process or be present to help someone else receive their home. They also must be able to pay an affordable mortgage. I learned a lot that day and it got me really excited to participate in the Women Build.

On the day of the event I was so proud of our JLL team! We worked together with other women in the community, most from the Board of Water and Light, and built the deck portion of the ramp. We yanked out the old deck, pulled out nails and organized things to recycle. And then eight women, together with the awesome build leaders from Habitat, constructed a really great looking deck! Some of us had never done a lot of that kind of work so it was pretty inspiring to get done with the day and see all that we had accomplished.

It was an awesome way to end the year. I had such a great experience and I am really looking forward to what impact Junior League and Habitat can make together in Lansing in the years to come.



# MEMBERS RECOGNIZED DURING MAY CELEBRATION

*By Leah Ann Sherer, 2016-2017 Marketing and Publications Chair*

The last JLL meeting of the year is always bittersweet for me. It is a recognition of the year's accomplishments as we rejoice and celebrate each other, laugh and have fun with friends, eat good food and drink plenty of wine.

The May Celebration indicates the end of our League year. It is the time that we pass the torch as the current leadership team ends their positions and duties and the new leadership team takes their place. We are happy and sad at the same time. We also recognize a few of our individual members by presenting them with awards, as nominated by their peers, in the following categories:

## **Community Service Award—Lindsay Dangl**

The Community Service Award recognizes a JLL member who has contributed significant, outstanding volunteer time and effort to improve the quality of life in the Lansing community, either through her own community involvement or League Placement.

## **Leadership Award—Kelly Miller**

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

## **Placement Award—Anita Lindsay**

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.

**Spirit Award—Melanie Beil** (As the 2016 recipient, it was my honor to present this award to her)

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.

## **Super New Member—Lindsey Uppal**

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.

## **Super Sustainer Award—Lori Fuller**

The Super Sustainer Award is given to a JLL Sustaining member who has given of her time and talents to support the efforts of the organization.

I have enjoyed being a member of Junior League. Joining League was one of the best decisions that I have ever made. It was my privilege to serve as the Marketing and Publications Chair this year. I look forward to seeing you all in the fall.





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See you Tuesday,  
September 12, 2017!





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