

2016 - 2017 Annual Report





OUR MISSION: The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri (JLKCMO) is a 501(c)(3) organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

OUR VISION: The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri, has a vision to be a visible group of active volunteers focused on improving the quality of life in our community.



2016-2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Jen Bennett
President-Elect	Jen Johnson
Board Assistant	Amy Hill
Bylaws Chair	Erin Markowicz
Director of Community	Jessica Peltzer
Step-Up Director of Community	Jennifer Graves
Director of Finance	Katie Werner
Dir. of Fund Development	Theresa Uchtyl-Etler
Director of Marketing	Susan Moss
Step-Up Director of Marketing	Katie Minnis
Director of Membership	Felisha McDougald
Director of Planning	Kristen Yates
Director of Sustainers	Lisa Nickel
Director of Training	Colleen Goldblatt
Nominating Chair	Ericka Duker
Executive Director	Celeste Greenlee

The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri, is a vibrant organization 1,355 women strong who bring together their diverse talents to enable each other and support our mission. The highlights captured in this year's Annual Report surround advancing our mission of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the Kansas City community. Since 1914, the JLKCMO and has left a mark on the Kansas City community by supporting nonprofit agencies and the people living in this region.

This report highlights the funding and programming we provided to the Kansas City area this year. Our Signature Programming is unique, League-grown programming designed to fill an unmet need in our community in the focus area of Women and Children. We emphasize these areas: Women's Self-Sustainability, Abuse and Neglect, and Childhood Development. It also outlines key areas that are a focus to meet the needs of our members through training. The skills a member develops help her be a strong civic leader in our community.

It is with great respect and honor that I present to you our results from the 2016-2017 year.

Respectfully,



Jennifer Bennett

2016-2017 Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri President

By the Numbers



Number of members: Total 1,355



Sustainer: 760
Active: 461
New Member: 134



2017-2018 New Member Class size: 166



Community Endowment dollars awarded:
\$52,700



Legacy Fund Corpus: \$1,000,772



Number of Training Sessions offered: 38



Overall Volunteer hours to community:
2.397 million



Overall funds raised for the community:
\$17,083,000



The Junior League of Kansas City, MO accomplished many wonderful things this year. The following are among the amazing highlights from the 2016-2017 year:

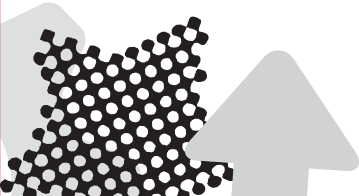
- › Introduction of a new Community Advisory Board educate the community about the JLKCMO
- › Legacy Fund hitting its \$1 million corpus
- › Received the Top 5 Multi-Day Fundraising Event award from *The Independent*
- › Establishing our planned giving Oglebay Society with four confirmed members making planned gift commitments
- › Publicized other nonprofit Boards members search to our membership
- › Creating new and exciting placement options for the 2017-2018 League year
- › Developed a new fundraiser: C3KC, a community leadership development summit
- › Launching our new public and member websites
- › We are excited to have our new member classes increase 58% in 2016 and another 18% in 2017 due to an increased interest in voluntarism and the exceptional training opportunities we offer
- › Supporting a New Member class of 141 amazing women
- › Producing the new *Inside Scoop Community Edition*, a forum to

While these are each something to celebrate, they only scratch the surface of the many projects our League accomplished over the year.

- › Overall fundraising for this year **\$415,472**
- › **\$18,557 and 33** volunteers for our Community Volunteers and Grants Process
- › **\$69,000 and 79** volunteers for our Signature Programs

2016-2017

Community Pool	\$90,557
Community Grants	\$69,358
Total	\$159,915
Hours	31,180
Historical Dollars	\$17,086,701
Hours	2,397,020



Community Volunteers and Grants (CV&G)

Program	Funding	Volunteers
Avenue of Life	\$8,519.04	13
Solace House	\$3,519.04	10
Samuel Rodgers Health Center	\$6,519.04	10

Community Endowment

The JLKCMO awards grants for financial assistance to community agencies in the greater Kansas City area in response to critical needs. These needs may include unbudgeted expenses, sudden loss of funding, or a new program. Some examples of past funded grants are an air-conditioning failure, bed bug problems in a homeless shelter and weather disaster damage.

- › The maximum grant is \$5,000.
- › Grant requests are considered on a first-come, first-served basis, based on availability of funds.
- › We have a rolling review process that typically awards grants every other month.

2016-2017 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Happy Bottoms	Young Women on the Move
SafeHome	Miles of Smiles
Wildwood Outdoor Education Center	KU Endowment Association - Reach Out & Read
Northeast Community Center	The Whole Person
Child Abuse Prevention Association	El Centro, Inc.
Jackson County CASA	Boys & Girls Club
KC Friends of Alvin Ailey	Literacy KC
ReStart Inc	CCVI- Children's Center for the Visually Impaired
Community Assistance Council, Inc.	Rose Brooks Center

Total amount given: \$64,939.92

Action Team, Active Gold, and Sustainer Volunteers



ACTION TEAM:

Organizations supported include:

Jackson County CASA, Goodwill, Episcopal Community Services, Pets for Life, Teach for America, American Diabetes Association, Habitat for Humanity, Healthy U Family Meals, Rainbow Center for Communicative Disorders, Lazarus Ministries, The Single Mom KC, Bridging the Gap, Pipeline Entrepreneurs, Children's TLC, Horizon Academy, KC Healthy

Kids, Variety Children's Charity of Kansas City, Ronald McDonald House, The Whole Person, REbel Peer Education, Heartstrings in Bloom, Shadow Buddies, Brain Injury Association of Kansas City, Derrick Johnson's Defend the Dream Foundation, Bike MS.

+ 33 member volunteers

+ 964 volunteer hours

ACTIVE GOLD:

Active Gold members volunteered for many JLKCMO partner agencies, including:

American Cancer Society; Boys & Girls Clubs; CCVI; Girl Scouts; Happy Bottoms; Harvesters; Kansas City Zoo; Leukemia & Lymphoma Society; Lions Club; Rose Brooks Center; and the Women's Foundation.

Some of the activities included staffing volunteer and information booths at the Light the Night Walk and at a Women's Foundation workshop; making meals at the Boys and Girls Club; organizing a bowl-a-thon to benefit Children's Mercy; and making no-sew fleece blankets for Rose Brooks

Center. In addition, Active Gold members met every other month with New Members for Social Suppers to help answer questions about the League and provide mentoring opportunities. Active Gold members also participated in several social skill-building events including a painting class at Pinot's Palette and a craft making class at Pintervention.

+ 18 Active Gold volunteers

+ 425 volunteer hours

+ 194 combined years of League membership

SUSTAINERS:

- * Nearly 60 Sustainers (long-tenured members who have finished their active member requirements) served the League last year as advisors.
- * The Noteables singing group performed for 23 assisted living/

elderly care groups this year.

- * The Treat Our Troops group mailed more than 400 greeting cards to active duty military personnel.



Signature Programming

HOPE & HEALING KITS – SUSAN MIZE, CHAIR



The League's Hope and Healing Kits Signature Program provides welcome bags to the moms and kids who check into the Rose Brooks Center. Each bag varies, but generally includes basic necessities and comfort items such as pajamas, socks and underwear, pillowcases with cartoon characters for the little ones, as well as personal items. This year our committee assembled 200 bags for moms and 150 bags for kids. We have had over 3,600 items donated to our kits and have provided over 6,000 items to the Rose Brooks Center. We also worked at the holiday store in December where residents could "shop" for holiday gifts. Our last event of the year was a Family Fun Day for the residents. We provided massages, nail services and a make your own salt scrub for moms; for the kids, a balloon artist, caricatures, magic show, games and snacks were available.

"Imagine leaving everything you know, your home, your belongings to go live in a place to be safe because your loved one is hurting you, threatening to hurt you or your children or even your pets..."

That is the life every day for women, children and the pets that come to Rose Brooks Center. That is their reality. When they enter they have no idea what a domestic violence shelter is like. Many questions run through their minds: How will we eat? Where will we sleep? We left everything behind! What will we wear? We don't even have shampoo, deodorant – the basic necessities of life. What will happen to us?

Through the Junior League's support we are able to provide shelter, basic necessities and a welcoming experience as our families arrive at our emergency shelter. The Welcome Bags say that they don't have to worry about those things, that someone that doesn't even know them cares about them, their children and well-being. That is the impact that Junior League has here at Rose Brooks Center. You help us fulfill our mission of ending the cycle of domestic violence. You help us save lives!"

– **Joan Dougherty**,
Director of Volunteers and Community Support



HEALTHY LIVING KC – RACHEL KABUKALA, CHAIR

The Healthy Living KC space program collaborates with our community partner, the Urban Neighborhood Initiative, to host two health and wellness fairs each year, which provide residents in underserved neighborhoods of our community with health screenings and wellness resources they may not have access to otherwise. In addition to the partnership with Urban Neighborhood Initiative, the fairs receive generous support from Samuel U. Rodgers Health Center and the Black Health Care Coalition. Healthy Living KC space has been promoted by Mayor Sly James, and we were fortunate to have Councilman Jermaine Reed come out to support us at our fall Health & Wellness Fair at DeLaSalle Education Center. We held our spring event, a Fun & Fitness Fair, at East Patrol Division Station.

“Our partnership with Junior League has enabled us to offer health fairs in our community that have a much broader scope and impact than what we could have done alone. Through the monetary and volunteer support of the Junior League we have been able to reach and provide services to a significant number of people that we had not previously had contact with.”

– ***Dianne Cleaver,***
President and CEO, Urban Neighborhood Initiative

“When I reflect on the 2016-2017 year with the Junior League what comes to my mind is that this is a great partnership with an organization that is committed to helping the community.

One word to summarize working with the JL volunteer? Collaborative.”

– ***Sonya Nicholson,***
Administrative Assistant, Urban Neighborhood Initiative

HEALTHY U FAMILY MEALS – ROBYN WAGNER, CHAIR



Healthy U Family Meals has had a great first year with the Boys & Girls Club of Kansas City, J&D Wagner unit. We average 15-20 families at each of our monthly Saturday lunches with most families having two or three children. Each family learns a cooking skill with a short activity, enjoys a meal with the League volunteers and is sent home with a large bag of healthy food to cook at home, including recipes. In April we focused on growing your own food and planting an herb garden for the kids to take home and care for this summer. May was our end of the year celebration and all participating families received a Junior League *Kids in the Kitchen* cookbook. May was also our first program at a second Boys & Girls club location, the Thornberry unit. We hosted a Cook with Your Mom event where we made avocado truffles and enjoyed a dinner to celebrate the moms for Mother's Day. This was a great chance for the members at this club to see how much fun we have so they will be excited to join us next year as we expand our partnership to this second location!

"I believe the Junior League has brought our families together building stronger bonds between the youth and their parents along with providing them with the tools to build on their skills that promoted healthy eating and cooking. Junior League has also been helpful with our nutritious snacks. By providing snack packs to our youth during spring break, Junior League gave our youth something different and healthy to look forward to.

What comes to mind for me is a sense of unity which has brought two organizations together for a greater cause while building friendships and inspiring our youth and their families to create healthy eating habits. Our families are always looking for activities to be engaged in and this was one that helped to bridge the gap of non-parent participation here at Wagner.

Inspirational."

– **Kentarsha Sorey,**
J&D Wagner Boys & Girls club

L.E.A.P. FOR KIDS – DIANA BECKMAN, CHAIR

The L.E.A.P. for Kids committee was formed in the 2015-2016 League year and stands for Learn, Educate, Advocate, Protect. In partnership with both the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA) and Sunflower House, the committee organizes valuable training sessions for various groups and organizations to raise awareness of child sexual abuse, provide strategies for prevention, and guide responsible reaction. Our goal is to raise awareness of child sexual abuse in Kansas City communities and beyond.

Trainers from either MOCSA or Sunflower House present the information in a two-hour interactive video presentation followed by a Q&A session for interested parties, ranging from Parent-Teacher Organizations and colleges to local MOPS (Moms of Pre-Schoolers) groups. The L.E.A.P. committee's role is to connect these community organizations to the trainers, provide details on the training and coordinate logistics. The League also funds the training, making it free of cost to the community groups. In its second year, the L.E.A.P. committee has successfully coordinated three community trainings.

As this particular program is sunsetting, the League is making room for other opportunities to raise awareness about childhood abuse.

Oglebay Planned Giving Society

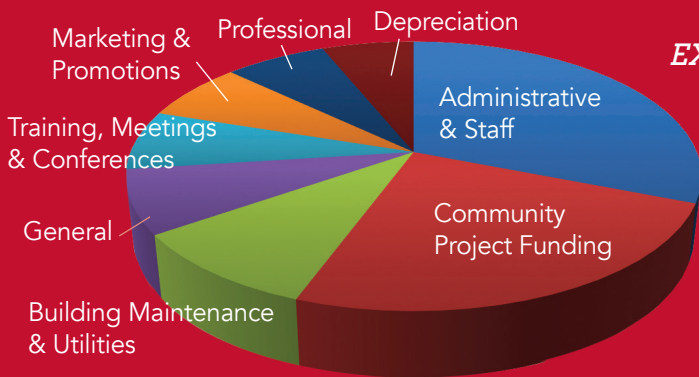
In 1914 the JLKCMO became the 14th League established in the United States. Mary Oglebay (later Mary Oglebay Neal) was a founding member of our organizations and also became its first president, serving two leadership terms.

Named in her honor, the Oglebay Society continues the founder's legacy of foresight and planning, both necessary as ever to assure ongoing community impact.

Current members are:

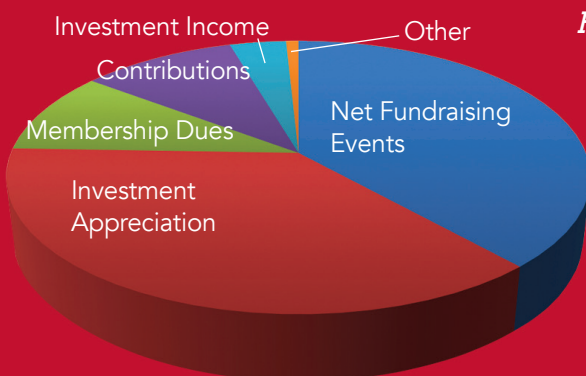
Sandy Johnson, Lisa Leonard, Julie Randolph, Leslie Whitaker, and one anonymous donor. In Memoriam Donors: Jean Blackman, and Barbara Jane Cailler.

Revenue and Expenses



TOTAL EXPENSES

\$878,077



TOTAL REVENUE

\$1,187,129



Community Advisors:



The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri's Community Advisory Board is a group selected for each member's unique talent and expertise. Their role is to provide the League with advice and direction. We recently asked our Advisors why they support the League as a Community Advisor and how they prefer to spend their volunteer time. The League is appreciative of the time and expertise the Community Advisors devote to the League.

Christa Dubill, News Anchor at NBC News Channel 41 KSHB

I support the League because women finding time in their increasingly busy lives – doing powerful, important work – deserve the support. Especially from other busy working moms. I prefer to spend my volunteer time by learning. At every turn. Contributing in any way I might be of value. And helping magnify the League's message when I can. Communities don't thrive without organizations like the Junior League.

Gerry Brenneman, Shareholder at Polsinelli PC

I support the League because I have always admired the Junior League for the many great things it does for our community. The League is well-known for the high number of quality volunteer hours it devotes each year to worthy causes and I became a Community Advisor to be part of this great tradition.

Dr. Ann Davis, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Kansas Medical Center

I support the League because I have seen firsthand the difference that the women of the Junior League can make in the lives of families in Kansas City, and I am very excited to support that work in any way that I can. I prefer to spend my volunteer time by working with our team at the Center for Children's Healthy Lifestyles & Nutrition, which engages in two team volunteer activities per year. We have cooked meals for families who are staying at a local Ronald McDonald House, and packed snack backpacks at Harvesters.

Even though we all give a lot to the community through our jobs, we definitely volunteer as well to support the families of Kansas City.

Jeffrey Byrne, President and CEO of Jeffrey Byrne + Associates

I support the League because I believe the Members of the Junior League provide a collective and individual service to the nonprofit sector in greater Kansas City, and I have known of their good work my entire life. It is exciting and an honor to be included with the members so that I can share my experience and talents to the members and those they serve. I prefer to spend my volunteer time by working at Jeffrey Byrne + Associates for the nonprofit sector and its causes. I enjoy serving and working with over twenty nonprofits through my business.

Stacie Prosser, Publisher at Kansas City Business Journal

I support the League because I was completely unaware of all that the League does. In my initial meeting with Celeste Greenlee and Rachel Sexton I realized that the League and the women's initiatives we have at the Kansas City Business Journal are aligned. I prefer to spend my volunteer time by serving on the hand and hearts auxiliary board benefitting Children's Mercy. I'm also on the executive committee of JDRC, and became active in that organization after my son was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. My heart lies with children's and women's organizations.

Kimiko Black Gilmore Assistant City Manager at City of Kansas City, Missouri

I support the League because I am impressed by the mission of JLKCMO. It gives women an opportunity to focus their volunteer efforts on organizations and programs that truly make an impact. I prefer to spend my volunteer time volunteering on projects that are hands on. The closer that I am to the front line the more I feel that I have been able to help.



Leadership



Members of the JLKCMO have been able to put the leadership training they received during their time in the League to use to help others in the community. Our members have served on other nonprofit boards, Parent Teacher Associations and elected and non-elected government positions. Our members are able to use their skills in the corporate world as well.

Two shining examples of the way that members of the JLKCMO have been able to be a major force in the community both within and outside of the League are:

Jeanne Sosland

Jeanne Ryan Sosland has been an involved member of the JLKCMO for more than 30 years, including being president in 1999-2000. Growing up in the Kansas City area and graduating from Sunset Hill in 1973, she learned early on the value of volunteering to give back to the community.



Jeanne has held leadership and board positions almost a dozen organizations in Kansas City. She was the co-chair of the first two "Heart to Heart Luncheons" for the Women's Employment Network, and was the Chair of the Science City launch. She also created the C100 Auxiliary with the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art and initiated and chaired the first Awareness Breakfast for CASA Friends Group. In 2017, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Coterie Board.

Jeanne continues to be an active volunteer as a Sustaining member of the League, serving as chair of Holiday Mart in 1990, receiving the Community Service Award in 1996, and serving as an advisor for our 100th Anniversary celebration in 2014.

Shawsie Branton

Mary Shaw "Shawsie" Branton spent nearly 70 years as a community volunteer, donating her time to more than 60 nonprofit organizations. She passed away in June, 2011

In the 1940s, when children with disabilities were often shunned from society, Branton co-founded one of the first nursery schools for children with disabilities, now known as Children's TLC. A decade later, she fought to integrate the school prior to the landmark Supreme Court case of Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education.

She also worked with Governor Kit Bond to bring the Parents as Teachers program to Kansas. The organization helps first-time parents with their child's development.

Branton gave a lifetime of service to the League and at age 73, became the first female Chairman of the Board of the Greater Kansas City YMCA. Even in her 90s, she recognized the importance of volunteering.



Training



Training is an important part of every active member's requirements for the year. As an organization we work hard to make important and beneficial training available to our members. Among the trainings we provided this year were:

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTES (ODI):



A series of meetings held throughout the Association of Junior League's International. Each ODI is designed to provide League leaders with fundamental mission-based training in the areas of Community Impact, Leadership Development, Organizational Capacity Building through fund development as well as a Leadership Course designed for the Presidents-Elect-Elect. Members Erin Lambert, Katie Warner, Stephanie Davis and Rachel Kabukala attended the ODI trainings.

ADVANCE LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATION SERIES (ALCS):

The JLKCMO partners with the Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership (MCNL) at the University of Missouri - Kansas City for our Advanced Leadership Certification Series.

The ALCS program is a series of 12 advanced leadership courses, each three hours long and offered once during a given League year. There is a \$30 registration fee per member per course, and the JLKCMO and MCNL underwrite the rest of the cost.

All ALCS classes are available to any League member and each course accommodates up to 18 participants. They are built as stand-alone courses, so anyone can take any module along the way. To receive ALCS Certification, members must complete the entire series of twelve courses. The entire series spans two League years.





**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI**

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