



# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS

*Women building better communities®*

*Junior League of Cedar Rapids (JLCR) is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.*

## HISTORY

In 1901, a group of concerned young women offered assistance to slum residents in New York; their work inspired the Junior League. Today, the Association of Junior Leagues International includes more than 295 autonomous Junior Leagues with more than 193,000 members.

Junior League of Cedar Rapids (JLCR) was founded as a service league in 1929 and became the Junior League of Cedar Rapids in 1934. We are a diverse group of more than 300 active and sustaining members.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

JLCR finances its training, research, advocacy, and community projects through a variety of sources, including patron and corporate contributions, membership dues, and fundraisers. Our current fundraisers include Butterfly Kisses, a dance for girls and important men in their lives, and an author presentation focused on foster care. JLCR is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, so all contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The continued donations, commitments, and financial support of area residents, businesses, and corporations allow JLCR members to do what we do best:

- Research and identify significant issue areas in the community;
- Gather information on ways to address them;
- Organize a plan;
- Educate and inform our membership and the public about the issue;
- Implement the program;
- Turn the project over to an agency; and
- Move on to a new, different issue area.

## STRUCTURE

All active members of JLCR serve on one or more committees that carry out JLCR's work. The committees are a part of six Councils. Councils include: Administrative Council, Communications Council, Community Council, Finance Council, Membership Council, and Planning Council.

## OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Science Station
- Leadership for Five Seasons
- E.I.E.I.O.: Expand & Improve Educational & Interactive Opportunities, Old MacDonald's Farm
- Taylor Elementary mentoring project
- Child's Celebration of the Arts
- CR Schools' Rock & Read program
- Leap into Literacy
- Madge Phillips Center for Homeless Women & Children
- Four Oaks/Cornerstone Project
- YWCA Madge Phillips Resource Center
- Children's Hands On Gallery
- YWCA Domestic Violence Advocacy Program
- Habitat for Humanity/ReStore
- Kids First Care Package Project
- JLCR Puppet Show
- Child's Protection Center
- Skills for Adolescence
- Substance Abuse Prevention for Youth
- Neighborhood Watch
- Library Outreach
- Cents for Science
- Currents of Care
- ASAC Renovation Project
- The Arc of East Central Iowa
- AMP (Achieving Maximum Potential) program
- Four Oaks (Independence) Painting Project

## OUR CURRENT PROJECTS & FUNDRAISERS

### BRIDGING THE G.A.P. (GUIDE. ADVOCATE. PROVIDE.)

Approximately 40% of the roughly 900 children in foster care in the Cedar Rapids area are teens. Every year, at least 25 of these teens turn 18 and graduate from high school, maturing out of the foster care system. They often lack the support and resources that young adults need to live independently. To fill this important need in our community, JLCR launched Bridging the G.A.P. (Guide. Advocate. Provide.) in June 2011.

Since, JLCR's efforts have resulted in bi-monthly meetings with foster youth, education about the foster care system, development of a policy statement, advocacy efforts for those in the foster care system, and the donation of an "apartment in a suitcase," items young adults need to enter independent living.

### JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS: FOSTERING STRENGTH

In 2013, JLCR will host *Language of Flowers* author and Camellia Network founder Vanessa Diffenbaugh for a discussion of foster care. Her novel focuses on a young woman aging out of the foster care system. Diffenbaugh and her husband are foster parents, as well as adoptive parents of former foster children. Join us on May 30 at Coe College's Sinclair Auditorium.

### DONE-IN-A-DAY PROJECTS

Every month, JLCR's Done-In-A-Day committee selects at least one smaller community service project for members to complete in one day. All Junior League members are encouraged to participate. Previous DIAD projects include decorating the Ronald McDonald House of Eastern Iowa, the Families Helping Families' Holiday Giving Tree event, support of campers at Linn County Sleep Out for the Homeless, re-stocking the Families Helping Families' closet of clothing, school supplies, the Indian Creek Nature Center Plant Sale, and the ARC Easter Egg Hunt.

### BUTTERFLY KISSES

This annual event gives girls and the special men in their lives – dads, uncles, grandpas or anyone else – a chance to enjoy an event focused just on them. A dance with a professional disc jockey, corsages, face painting, crafts, giveaways, and a market offer many chances to make memories.



AMP (Achieving Maximum Potential) participants met with aspiring golf professionals.

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT

Junior League of Cedar Rapids reaches out to all women 21 years of age or older. We welcome women of all races, religions and national origins who have an interest in and willingness to commit to volunteerism and the organization's mission and purpose. All members in good standing meet the following membership requirements for both time and finances:

### TIME COMMITMENT

- Attend 6 of the 8 General Membership Meetings or designated alternatives
- Actively serve on at least one JLCR committee
- Contribute 10 volunteer hours to JLCR's community projects
- Contribute 10 fundraising hours to JLCR's fundraising activities

### FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

- Annual dues: \$109.26
- Annual fundraising commitment (*tickets to events, annual fund contribution, product donations for events*): \$90
- One-time new member fee: \$72.13
- One-time new member half-year active dues: \$54.63

Members may arrange a confidential payment plan with the VP of Finance in order to meet their commitments.



Junior League of Cedar Rapids offers women a chance to gain education and training opportunities regarding social issues, community work and concepts that we can apply to our professional lives. We also have a lot of fun, and find lifelong friendships among like-minded women. Come see what we're about.