



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS**  
*Women building better communities®*

# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

**2013-2014**



## ***Message from the President***

**2013-2014 League President, Maria Sanchez-Masi**

What an amazing year! I was lucky enough to be President of Junior League of Cedar Rapids as we kicked off our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary – what an honor!

I'm not a native Iowan, and I tell everyone who will listen how Junior League has helped me connect to my community in a deep and meaningful way. When I was a new member, I remember the Provisional Chair telling us that thanks to Junior League, she loves living in Iowa. I thought, "I want to feel that way too!" and, more than five years later, I do. I can't imagine my life without the women and work of Junior League of Cedar Rapids, and I also can't imagine our community without the impact of this organization.

We only have to look around to see the sustained impact of JLCR – from the Madge Phillips Center to the Science Center (formerly the Science Station) to Leadership for Five Seasons to the countless Sustainers who are serving on local fundraisers, as board members, business leaders, city council members, and as community leaders. Without JLCR, our community might not have those wonderful projects and programs, and those women might not have had the experience and training necessary to fill those roles.

Our community work continues with our Bridging the G.A.P. project, which supports teens in foster care, especially those who "age out" of the foster care system. JLCR members cooked more than 700 healthy meals for teens in foster care through a partnership with Foundation 2's AMP (Achieving Maximum Potential) program, and 2014-15 kicked off JLCR's "Buddy Program" which connects individual teens and JLCR members on a regular basis. We continued to provide community trainings on foster care issues, hosting speakers from DHS, Families Helping Families, Foundation 2, Four Oaks/Iowa Kids Net, and Partnership for Safe Families. Knowing the importance of basic supplies in school readiness and academic success, we added school supplies to our project this year, providing more than \$2,000 worth of school supplies to foster youth. I am proud to say that for

the third year in a row, every teen who aged out of foster care in our community was able to receive an "Apartment in a Suitcase" because of our project.

JLCR's projects and programs are supported by our fundraisers, including the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Butterfly Kisses father-daughter dance and our newest fundraiser, Fostering Strength. We were honored to host author, designer, and mother warrior Leigh Anne Tuohy as our keynote speaker for Fostering Strength 2014. Leigh Anne is best known as the real-life mom from "The Blind Side" movie and was a true inspiration. I'm proud to say that she was so impressed by our "Apartment in a Suitcase" that she took the idea (and our supply list) back to Memphis and has been creating suitcases for youth she serves with her foundation.

Our 80<sup>th</sup> year is definitely something to celebrate, but I can't wait to see what we do next!



*Maria Sanchez-Masi*

# BRIDGING THE G.A.P.

## Bridging the G.A.P. making a difference in the Foster Community

by Beth McDougall

Junior League of Cedar Rapids' Bridging the G.A.P. officially turns three this year, and we are making a noticeable impact on the lives of foster teenagers. Here are a few highlights from last year:



### GUIDE

It's our third year of cooking a healthy dinner twice a month for the foster teens at their support group AMP (Achieving Maximum Potential). We have taught our foster teens about preparing many different vegetables, fruits, and quick and easy meals on a budget. They continue to visit us in the kitchen before the meeting starts to check out who's new in Junior League, who they recognize from earlier meetings and what's cooking. Attending AMP meetings and listening to the foster teens stories connects JLCR members to local foster teens in meaningful ways.

### ADVOCATE

Our advocacy efforts continue by hosting public education sessions like Foster Care 101 to educate the public on how foster youth can best be served in our community. These sessions also educate our new members about the foster teen issues. Issues include aging out of the system and needing resources to obtain a college education, transportation, housing, jobs and more. In addition, this year we added another component to our advocacy mission which is to recruit and retain foster families. We started a dialog with community partners like IFAPA (Iowa Foster and adoptive Parent Association) as to how we can support thus retain current foster families, since there exists a high turn-over rate. Future meet and greets with current foster families and potential new foster parents are in the works for next year to recruit new foster parents.

### PROVIDE

In addition to providing "apartments in a suitcase" for teens aging out of the system, this year we added an additional component to Bridging the G.A.P. In August, JLCR and Families Helping Families teamed up for back-to-school efforts to support local foster and adoptive families.

"School supplies these days are so much more than crayons and pencils - kids need dry erase markers, specific folders, and USB drives, not to mention graphing calculators. Families Helping Families is an incredible resource for those things," said Maria Sanchez-Masi, 2013-14 JLCR president. Youth chose from a wide variety of backpack styles, picked up locker swag, and received a free-reading book in addition to filling their school requirement lists. Some students also received shoes for the school year that day, while others received a gift card to Kohl's to get them ready for the year.

"As families came in, we helped the parents and kids check off their school lists, and filled backpacks along the way. Meeting the foster parents and experiencing the children's excitement when they got to pick out their own backpack is my most memorable Junior League experience to date," said JLCR member Caitlin Wiedenheft.

"We look forward to partnering with JLCR on future projects," said Julie Facion, manager of programs and services for Families Helping Families of Iowa. "What a wonderful group of caring, professional women."



# FUNDRAISING

## An Afternoon to Remember, Butterfly Kisses

by Megan Moran

The 12th annual gathering for JLCR's father-daughter dance and fundraiser was held March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Cedar Rapids Marriott. Little girls and their fathers, uncles or grandfathers enjoyed many different activities and danced the afternoon away as Modern DJ played hits like Frozen's "Let it Go" to "What Does the Fox Say?" The girls decorated their very own tiara plus had a chance to have their hair and make-up done at the Glitz and Glam booth by Mary Kay. Joe Photo took professional portraits for guests plus the Red Curtains photo booth had many silly props to choose from.

A silent auction featured an array of gifts for girls and their fathers. JLCR members made many of the handcrafted items for sale at the Butterfly Boutique. Even Papa Balloon made each girl a special creation by turning balloons into sculptures.

We are proud that our annual Butterfly Kisses fundraiser reaches far beyond our Junior League of Cedar Rapids families. Of the approximately 236 people in attendance each year, at least 70 percent are individuals who do not have a direct connection to an Active or Sustaining member. Reaching beyond our JLCR family means that we are able to spread the word about JLCR and how our work adds to our community.

The 2014 event brought in more than \$12,000, which will support JLCR's Bridging the G.A.P. project, opportunities for training and growing our membership's leadership skills and knowledge, and JLCR's work in the greater Cedar Rapids area. The Butterfly Kisses committee thanks each of the sponsors and volunteers who made the afternoon a memorable one.



# PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

## New Member Project

By Erica Bergfeld

Every August, Junior League of Cedar Rapids begins their provisional training class. The 2013-14 class was full of energetic and future JLCR leaders! In order to align with our current project and initiatives, we asked the ladies to create a fundraising event that all proceeds would go to helping foster youth. The group of 23 women came together and successfully hosted our first Junior League of Cedar Rapids' Holiday Bazaar. This event was about being part of a solution and supporting families in the Cedar Rapids area. All proceeds from this holiday shopping event benefited Partnership for Safe Families. Partnership for Safe Families, based in Cedar Rapids, is a community-wide effort to support families and prevent child abuse, neglect and domestic violence.

The 1<sup>st</sup> annual Bazaar raised over \$2,100 and the proceeds were put to good use. The new member organized a **Guide Night** where they showed foster care families how they can cook together using a crockpot. Each family was able to take home a brand new crockpot and recipe book the members had made. They also hosted an **Advocate Night**. The new member class invited active members in to hear more about Partnership for Safe Families and their mission. This night was very inspirational and touched many hearts as we learned the real struggles that one of their own staff faced. The last event they were a part of was **Provide Night** where the new members used the remaining funds and purchased items for Partnership for Safe Families to refill their incentive closet for families. These items help families with everyday things like laundry detergent, soap, toilet paper, etc. and can be earned by families when need some extra help.

Guide Night



Provide Night



Advocate Night

# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## Junior League Impacts 10 Separate Nonprofit Agencies in the Corridor

Every month throughout the League year, members have the opportunity to spend a day working in conjunction with various non-profit organizations in the Cedar Rapids area as part of our Done-in-a-Day activities including:

- Freedom Festival
- Families Helping Families
- Bever Park
- Habitat for Humanity
- Ronald McDonald House
- Foundation 2
- We Care Shop (Young Parents Network)
- Kingston Hill
- Waypoint-Madge Phillips
- Playtime Poppy

## FOUR JUNIOR LEAGUE MEMBERS NAMED TO 'FORTY UNDER 40'

*Thirteen members honored by Corridor Business Journal in the last three years.*

[Corridor Business Journal's](#) annual list of 40 community leaders under the age of 40 again includes multiple Junior League of Cedar Rapids (JLCR) members. This year's honorees with JLCR connections include Natalie Ditmars, Katie Goldberg, Chelsey McDill, and Sally Sandberg.

"Junior League of Cedar Rapids trains women to be agents of lasting community change," said 2013-14 JLCR President Maria Sanchez-Masi. "With four members honored in this year's Forty Under 40, I am confident that we are achieving that goal. These women are outstanding members of our community, and I am honored to serve with them."



**Natalie Ditmars** is an attorney at Bradley & Riley PC. Ditmars is currently the Ways and Means Chair for JLCR, and serves on the Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation board, where she helped with fundraising for the new public library. Ditmars is a Leadership for Five Seasons graduate and board member, and past board member of the Cedar Valley Humane Society, former volunteer for Big Brother/Big Sister and was on the Waypoint Public Policy committee. Additionally, she is involved in Junior Achievement, the Creative Corridor Events Committee.

**Katie Goldberg** grew up in the Cedar Rapids area and lives in Marion. Goldberg is a structural engineer with KJWW Engineering Consultants where she works with architects, owners, and other engineers to design buildings. When Goldberg is not working, she is on the JLCR Board of Directors, where she volunteers and advocates for foster teens. Goldberg is also a member of Sunrise Rotary and serves on the Cedar Valley Humane Society board.



**Sally (Sandberg) Wiley** is in her seventh year as an elementary school counselor in North Liberty. Wiley is a native of Cedar Rapids, and currently serves as JLCR's Membership Recruitment Assistant Chair. She also is involved with Theatre Cedar Rapids, the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, NewBo Market, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

**Chelsey McDill** is Senior Manager of Customer Care at ImOn Communications. A six-year JLCR member, McDill currently serves as Vice President of Membership. McDill is Communications Chair for CR netWORK and represents ImOn on the Better Business Bureau Advisory Council. She also served on the Cedar Rapids Concert Chorale Board of Directors for three years and is a Leadership for Five Seasons graduate.



# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

## ASSETS

Cash	\$	146,275
Prepaid Expenses		0
Investments		192,376
Certificate of Deposit		26,266
Accounts Receivable		2,800
Fixed Assets		244
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>367,961</b>

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

### Liabilities

Deferred Revenue-Dues	\$	23,609
Accounts Payable		9,379
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>32,988</b>

### Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$	334,973
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>334,973</b>

## TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

**\$ 367,961**

# LEADERSHIP

## 2013-2014 Board of Directors

President	Maria Sanchez-Masi
President-Elect, VP Planning	Molly Baynes
Vice President of Administration	Heather Hofmann Sayasit
Vice President of Community	Beth McDougall
Vice President of Finance	Tara DeWolf
Vice President of Membership	Chelsea Spore-McDill
Vice President of Communications	Lis Erickson
At Large Board Member	Katie Goldberg



Our JLCR Board of Directors are chosen each year through an application and interview process. Their charge is to govern JLCR in the way that they best see fit, keeping in mind the organization's mission, bylaws, history, and future.

Members of the JLCR Board of Directors are to uphold three responsibilities: Duty of Care, which requires attentive, informative, diligent participation and stewardship, including fiduciary duty; duty of loyalty, which requires each board member to act in good faith, in the best interests of the organization, heed confidentiality, and excuse herself from a situation in which she has a conflict of interest; and a Duty of Obedience, which requires each Board member to act in accordance with JLCR's mission and bylaws, as well as all laws that govern its location.

## THANK YOU

to Junior League of Cedar Rapids' 2013-2014 Sponsors

### JLCR Organization:

Collins Community Credit Union  
Guaranty Bank

### Butterfly Kisses:

Cumulus Media—KDAT  
Farmers State Bank  
Gehring Orthodontics  
Hills Bank

### General Member Meeting:

Cedar Rapids Area Convention & Visitor's Bureau  
Converge Consulting  
Mutual of Omaha

### Bridging the G.A.P.:

Mercy Medical Center  
Transamerica  
Van Meter, Inc.

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Junior League of Cedar Rapids (JLCR) is an 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. JLCR reaches out to women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and a commitment to voluntarism.



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