

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2014-2015



Message from the President ***2014-2015, League President, Molly Baynes***

It is so hard to believe that our League year has come to an end. I thought I would focus on what being a board member and President of JLCR meant to me. I didn't get into League thinking that I ever wanted to be in a leadership position. I had a friend that told me to join so I thought I would try it out.

There was no part of me that ever wanted to be President. In fact, my original plan was to go Sustaining after five years. That plan changed when we developed Bridging the GAP. The project really spoke to me. I loved seeing the direct impact we were having on the lives of kids. I am proud to say that the project inspired my husband and I to become licensed foster parents.

In addition to my personal connection to the project, League has opened up so many doors for me. I was selected as the JLCR candidate for Leadership for Five Seasons, which expanded my network and made me even more aware of the needs and issues in our community. I attended the Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. conference which connected me to women all over the country and gave me world-class training.

Being in League has challenged me to get out of my comfort zone countless times. I was terrified of public speaking when I first joined. The thought of standing up in front of more than a couple dozen people literally nauseated me. I'll never forget the first time I had to talk at a GMM. I worked myself up into a frenzy and talked a mile a minute, breathless and red-faced. Thanks to League, the nausea has faded to a slight queasiness and I'm better at hiding it. I learned to advocate for our cause, speaking to the media on multiple occasions and even our elected officials. At the Annual Conference in Washington DC, I had the opportunity to participate in Hill Day, where we met with our senators and representatives to talk about local issues that our Leagues were tackling.

My leadership experience in League has also helped with my career. When I interviewed for my current position as a manager at Rockwell Collins, I had no formal leadership experience. The hiring manager asked me how I would overcome that and I started talking about my experiences as a leader in League. Motivating people who don't report to me and holding them accountable is more difficult than motivating people that are getting a paycheck for their work. After I was hired I was able to see how well my nonprofit leadership experience translated into formal management skills.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to be one of seventy women who have led this incredible organization. I hope that all of you feel inspired by our project and our mission. Use your years in League to try something new. Get everything out of League that you can. Do something completely out of your comfort zone. Take risks knowing that we won't let you fail. Volunteer because you feel passionate about our cause, not because you need to fulfill hours. Attend trainings and socials and meet new friends. Find a mentor. BE a mentor.

Thank you all for your continued commitment to JLCR. I look forward to seeing what this amazing group of women continues to accomplish!



Molly Baynes

BRIDGING THE G.A.P.

Bridging the G.A.P. Connects Foster Youth, Politicians, & JLCR Members

By Maria Sanchez– Masi



GUIDE

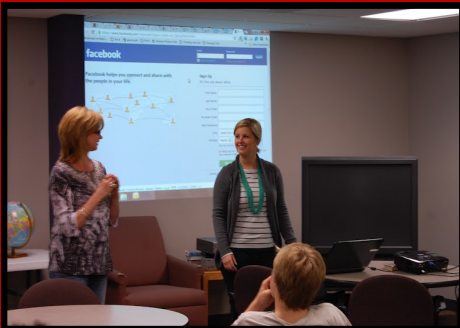
What's more intimidating than a room full of Junior Leaguers? Walking into a room full of teenagers.

The first few times we cooked dinner at AMP meetings felt awkward – we weren't sure what to say, how much food to cook, or where the can opener was in the kitchen. After a few meetings (and after purchasing a can opener – we never did find it), JLCR members started to feel much more comfortable in the kitchen and with the teens. And they started coming early to help us cook, provided lots of feedback about what they liked (and didn't like) and trusted us

enough to try some new foods – from honey-glazed carrots to parsnip fries. JLCR's involvement with AMP started with a simple belief that teens in foster care shouldn't have to choose between going to their support group and having dinner, but it has blossomed into so much more. The numbers are impressive – cooking a healthy meal for 30 people on a \$50 budget is no simple feat – but our commitment to being at those meetings week after week and building relationships with these teens is the impact that will last long after the last plate is washed.

PROVIDE

The committee worked hard this 2014-2015 Junior League year to expand the way they are helping our community youth. This year we purchased supplies for 22 suitcases!! The number of suitcases purchased is lower due to not going through the full 25 suitcases in one year. They wanted to honor our donors intent and came up with the idea Refresher Packs. These are small storage tote packed with some basic household cleaning items and toiletries that need replaced most often. Also the committee reached out to Families Helping Families and Tanager Place to share information about our program and focus on teens. The committee now partners with three great agencies in the area.



FUNDRAISING

Fostering Strength

by Meganne Lamprecht

On April 11, 2015, the Junior League of Cedar Rapids hosted JLCR: Fostering Strength, Iowa's largest foster care advocacy event, a dinner and silent auction. JLCR was honored to host Dr. Jennifer Arnold, MD, MSc, FAAP as keynote speaker for this year's event. Standing at just 3 foot, 2 inches, Dr. Arnold is best known for being featured in TLC's docu-drama *The Little Couple*, featuring her husband Bill and children Will and Zoey. She has a rare type of dwarfism called Spondylo epiphyseal Dysplasia Type Strudwick (which involved more than 30 surgeries), and recently completed treatment for cancer.

Now in its 7th season, the show has proven to be an invaluable method to break down barriers and educate people around the country about people with disabilities. Dr. Arnold and her husband Bill recently embarked on their greatest adventure yet—parenthood. Will and Zoey are both adopted, and both children have forms of dwarfism. Proceeds from the Fostering Strength fundraiser support Junior League of Cedar Rapids' Bridging the G.A.P. project, which assists local foster care youth through a variety of activities. The evening commenced with a cocktail hour and silent auction featuring over 60 items, including an overnight stay and dinner for two at Hotel Kirkwood, Iowa football tickets, and family portrait sessions.

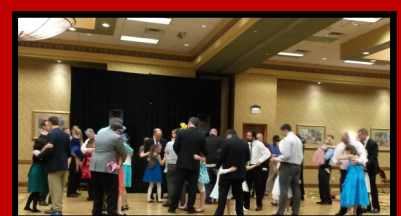
During the silent auction, attendees also had the opportunity to sponsor local foster care youth that are involved in the Partnership of Iowa Foster Care Youth Council's *Achieving Maximum Potential* (AMP), a program that JLCR connects with on a bi-weekly basis. Among these sponsorships were senior portrait sessions for the five AMP teens nearing high school graduation, a tradition that is often overlooked with seniors in the foster care system. JLCR is also hoping to make the dreams of several AMP teens come true with the sponsorship of "camp experiences". Basketball camp, piano lessons, art classes, and voice lessons are all activities that most teens take for granted, many of which AMP teens do not have the privilege of experienc-

Butterfly Kisses

by Molly Mulholland

The 13th annual Frozen Butterfly Kisses was held on January 25th, 2015. The theme of this year's event was Disney's hit movie *Frozen*. The father-daughter dance, held at Kirkwood Hotel, had 405 guests in attendance. Junior League also sponsored a father and daughter from the Young Parents Network to attend the event. There were many new additions to the dance this year. Elsa and Anna performed numerous songs and choreographed dances to a captive audience! Guests also spent time "Building a Snowman" and participating in the ring toss. Fruitzen served flavored snowballs (shaved ice), That One Cupcake Place donated 350 delicious cupcakes and many enjoyed dancing the afternoon away. The young girls couldn't wait to have their faces painted by FunnyFace and to receive some extra glamour from Mary Kay Cosmetics and Salon Voche.

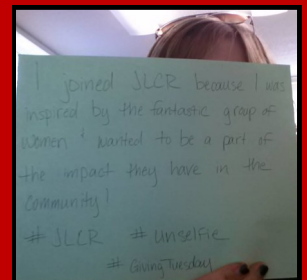
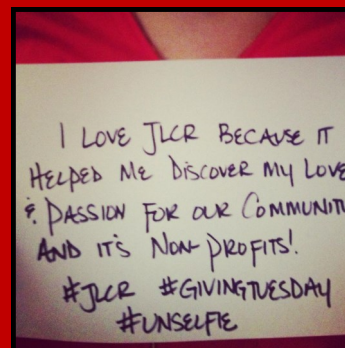
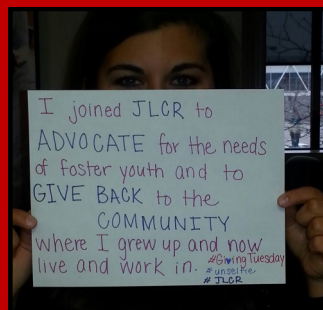
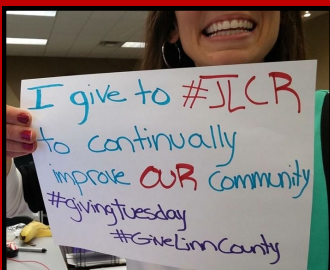
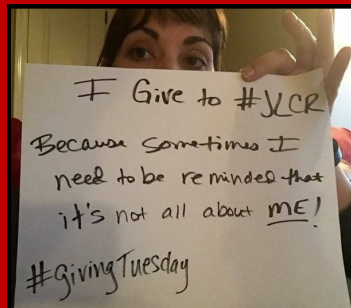
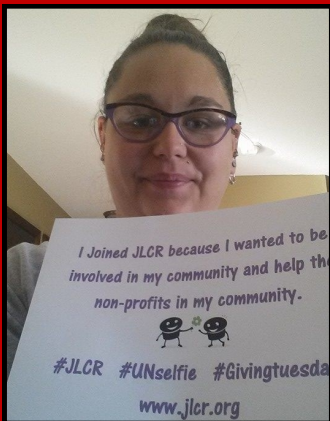
A special thank you to all of the committee members and volunteers who made this event happen and be so successful! This year's event made over \$12,000 in profit!



PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

Junior League of Cedar Rapids 2014-15 Provisional Members Make a Difference By Sally Sandberg and Mandy Ferrante

The new member class held their annual Holiday Bazaar at the World Theater Building downtown in December. The venue was great as it was part of the Fire and Ice Festival and conveniently accessed by people coming downtown for all of the holiday events that day. The new member class successfully secured 22 vendors and brought in \$2,300 to help fund the components of the new member project. The new members were able to host a very successful crock pot learning night for many families associated with Partnership for Safe Families and they also spent a portion of the money they earned shopping for supplies to refill their incentive closet so that families could come and get needed items. The success of the new member fundraiser and efforts provided many families in our community with both learning opportunities and items to help them make ends meet.



**30 members participated in Giving Tuesday for the first year!
Read above some of the reasons why members gave to League.**

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Done in a Day: Gems of Hope

by Melanie Oeltjenbruns

We live in Iowa, so we know the winter routine. The way the first snow is exciting and the brisk air refreshing, and then the way. February drags on far too long. When March appears on our calendars, one begins to see signs of spring and a little hope is stirred up. As a March Done-In-A-Day, Junior League members were able to stir up some "spring hope" for patients with cancer in the Cedar Valley area. JLCR partnered with Gems of Hope for their annual Hope Blooms fundraiser. Five members spent time organizing bouquets and bunches of daffodils, greeting people and handing out orders during distribution out at Peck's Flower & Garden Shop.

This year through Hope Blooms, Gems delivered over 400 bouquets of daffodils to cancer patients in treatment in the area and over 300 Lion Hugs gifts to sick children being treated at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Additionally nearly 2500 bunches of daffodils were spread throughout the community to various businesses and individuals. Brianna Steffes was one of the greeters for distribution day. She said it was great to get to meet some of the people picking up their flowers and hear their stories about why they purchase. One gal told Brianna that both she and her husband are cancer survivors so they participate to help the cause and have [the daffodils] as a reminder of what they overcame.

Jessica Witt spent time at Pecks handing out daffodils that people had pre-ordered. She said for her it was nice to get to know the women involved with Gems of Hope. "They are all very passionate, and most have been with the organization for many years. I was also able to make a connection with another volunteer: she taught at Linn-Mar, where I went to High School. It truly was nice to learn more about Hope Blooms, and how it positively touches our community."

Katie Schroeder echoes the other JLCR volunteers in saying how it was great to learn more about Gems from the director and how they truly knew the stories of patients who were receiving these gifts of daffodils and Lions Hugs. Gems of Hope, Inc. supports cancer patients and their families. At the core of the programs is the "gifts of hope" distribution. Volunteers handcraft cards with inspirational sayings and mount handmade earrings or bookmarks, or a serenity circle to the card. The gifts are distributed in oncology clinics and hospitals throughout the corridor. Junior League has partnered with Gems in the past to participate in their jewelry making workshops. Proceeds from the Hope Blooms campaign go to support Gems and the great programs they offer.



Junior League Members Lending a Helping Hand in the Community

Every month throughout the Junior 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 projects. The following list includes some of the many organizations JLCR worked with in 2014-2015.

- Families Helping Families
- Matthew 25
- Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity
- Ronald McDonald House of Eastern Iowa
- Gems of Hope
- American Red Cross
- The ARC of East Central Iowa
- Young Parents Network
- Waypoint
- Tanager Place

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 128,509.74
Prepaid Expenses	0
Investments	\$ 186,715.96
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 26,266.23
Equipment	\$ 26,490.81
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 370,572.74

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$219.49
Deferred Revenue-Dues	\$ 22,586.95
Payroll Liabilities	\$ 2,611.24
Sales Tax Payable	\$240.51
Total Liabilities	\$ 23,032.48

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$ 347,540.26
Total net assets	\$ 334,973.52

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 370,572.74
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SPECIAL THANKS

to Junior League of Cedar Rapids' 2014-2015 Sponsors

Clifton Larson Allen, LLP
Families Helping Families
Four Oaks & Iowa KidsNet
The Gazette Company
Gehring Orthodontics
Hills Bank
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LEADERSHIP



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Vice President of Fund Development
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Erica Bergfeld
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Cara Joens

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, by-laws, history, and future.

Members of the JLCR Board of Directors are to uphold three responsibilities: Duty of Care, which requires attentive, informed, 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 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' 2014-2015**

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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.



2014-2015

Report to the Community

 **A member of The Association
of Junior Leagues International Inc.**