



# IMPACT 2019

## JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It is mindboggling to think that we are already 85% of the way through this league year. As I reflect on the year so far, I am amazed and proud of what JLCR has accomplished. Being President of JLCR has been a humbling experience and I will take this experience, the friends that I've made, and the skills that I've learned with me for a lifetime. While we still have a couple of months to go, I want to share with you some of my favorite JLCR happenings so far this year. The women of JLCR have put so much time and effort into making not only these but all of our organization's efforts a success and I couldn't be prouder of them.

- **Housing pilot:** Membership voted earlier this year to continue the housing pilot for another 2 years. This project focuses on getting teens aging out of foster care into stable housing so that they can focus efforts on personal growth and development, such as work or school, rather than worrying about how they will pay rent. This project follows similar "housing first" programs that have been successful around the country.
- **Mentor Program:** JLCR is celebrating the first 12 months of its mentor program. This program has matched league members to help them with their league, career, and civic goals. We are looking forward to growing this program to help JLCR leaders continue to be successful in league placements.
- **Black Bag Challenge:** The Black Bag Challenge this year is looking a little bit different! JLCR members are using their "black bag" to donate household items and clothing to Stuff, Etc. Stuff then sells these items and proceeds are used to support our Bridging the G.A.P. project. Anyone is welcome to donate their items to Stuff. When you drop off just mention that the donations are for the Junior League of Cedar Rapids' account!
- **New Fundraiser:** JLCR membership voted in March to adopt a new fundraiser for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 year to replace Butterfly Kisses. This fundraiser will focus on mini events and strengthening relationships with our community supporters. I love the direction of this fundraiser because it also utilizes social media and allows all members to be a part of raising funds for our project.
- **Sustainer socials:** Our sustainer President, Cyndi Birchansky has been busy coordinating events and socials for our sustainers this year. I have personally enjoyed getting to know many our sustaining members and hearing the stories of their JLCR achievements.
- **Fostering Strength:** While Fostering Strength is not happening until April 30th, the FS committee has done an amazing job securing a wonderful speaker as well as securing sponsors and community support. I hope to see you there as we celebrate those who support teens aging out of foster care in our area and to hear the amazing story of Steve Pemberton..



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JUNIOR LEAGUE RELEVANT  
ILLUMINATED PROACTIVE  
ENLIGHTENED HIGH-IMPACT  
INTELLIGENCE  
PUTTING INTUITION AND EXPERIENCE TO WORK  
NETWORKED MEMBERSHIP  
**LEADERSHIP**  
REIMAGINED

# ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

We sent three members to ODI this winter in sunny St Petersburg, FL. Each member attended a different educational track. Emily Teeter, Community Council, attended the Governance and Management track. She was able to learn all about how to best strategically transition our organization over the next couple of years. Leslie Neugebauer, Ways and Means, went through the Fund Development track. As we sunsetted Butterfly Kisses and look to expand our fund development efforts this track provided great insight on fundraising events and building new campaigns. Katie Curtis, Communications Council, participated in the Marketing and Communications track. Opportunities to grow brand awareness and clearly define audiences and conduct successful social media campaigns were all discussed. All three attendees were able to network with other leagues across the nation and grow their understanding of AJLI. Emily, Leslie and Katie all came back excited to share what they had learned with the rest of league!

Organizational  
Development  
Institute



Delegates at ODI's build organizational capacity by learning about:

- Innovative approaches to developing Junior league Members as effective Volunteer leaders in their communities
- Powerful ways to design community programs and partnerships that have a significant impact keys to building strong internal operational controls
- New approaches that govern the league strategically and effectively
- Ways to build relationships, engagement, and understanding through marketing and communications leading the Junior League to be more diverse and inclusive

**ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (ODI) CONFERENCES ARE AJLI LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS THAT PROVIDE JUNIOR LEAGUE MEMBERS WITH MISSION-BASED TRAINING IN KEY AREAS CRITICAL TO THE HEALTHY FUNCTIONING OF A LEAGUE.**



# STUFF THE BAG 2019

## HELP JLCR PROVIDE RESOURCES TO THE MORE THAN 900 YOUTH IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM THROUGHOUT LINN AND JOHNSON COUNTY, BY DONATING YOUR GENTLY USED ITEMS TO STUFF ETC!

You can make a difference in the lives of foster youth! Children placed in foster care are often unexpectedly removed from their home. Regularly they are given a black trash bag to quickly pack their belongings. You can help bring awareness to the children confronting this challenge by participating in JLCR's Stuff the Bag Challenge and by challenging others in your community to participate. JLCR will use the funds received through our account at Stuff Etc. to continue our work with teens transitioning out of foster care.

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

1. Stuff a bag with gently used items.
2. Drop off at Stuff etc. any day but Sunday and use the JLCR account #27557.
3. Take a photo and post on social media.
4. When you post use the tags #stuffthebag and #JLCR.
5. Include in your social media post: "There more than 900 youth in the foster care system throughout Linn and Johnson county. Help JLCR provide foster youth with the resources they need to live independently by donating your gently used items to Stuff etc."
6. Tag and challenge 5 others to participate.

For more information: <https://www.juniorleaguecr.org>



# 7TH ANNUAL FOSTERING STRENGTH

## FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER STEVE PEMBERTON

There are more than 900 youth in the foster care system in Linn County alone. On April 30, more approximately 400 attendees attended the 7th annual Fostering Strength luncheon to learn more about how to work together to make life better for those youth who otherwise might fall between the cracks. Proceeds from the Fostering Strength fundraiser supported the Junior League of Cedar Rapids' Bridging the G.A.P. project, which assists local foster care youth through a variety of programs.

This year's event featured keynote speaker Steve Pemberton. Considered one of America's most inspiring business and HR leaders, Steve Pemberton's triumphant life story is about defying seemingly insurmountable beginnings as a child orphaned into foster care. As told in the major motion picture and acclaimed, best-selling memoir, *A Chance in the World*, adversity only fueled his desire to become a man of resilience, determination and vision. Steve went on to find success as a corporate executive, innovative diversity and inclusion thought leader, visionary youth advocate and acclaimed speaker devoted to inspiring and helping others. Steve's keynotes, like his life story, amplify his highly motivational messages: Believe in your dreams, rise above obstacles, create opportunities for others, and most of all, persevere. Armed with a warrior spirit and a servant's heart, Steve has made equality, access and opportunity pillars of both his professional and personal life. He currently serves as Chief Human Resources Officer for Globoforce, a leading provider of social recognition and continuous performance development solutions.



## ENDOWMENT MORE THAN DOUBLES IN 14 YEARS

Junior League of Cedar Rapids continues to see its endowment grow each year. Thanks to the support of members, wise spending and growth of the fund over time, as of the end of February 2019, the endowment sat at \$220,510.

During the 2005-2006 fiscal year, the JLCR endowment hit the \$100,000 mark. It was during that time the JLCR Board decided to start taking a percent of the interest to use for operating purposes. Over the years, however, JLCR has had positive cash flow years and has not always needed to use the percent of interest to help balance the budget. During those years, the interest is reinvested. Because of this and because of additional contributions, JLCR's endowment continues to grow at a steady rate, more than doubling in the past 14 years.

So far during this fiscal year, JLCR active and sustaining members have contributed \$2,600 to the endowment, and more contributions are expected to come during the last few months of the fiscal year.

The endowment is held at the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation (GCRCF). Donations can be directed to either JLCR or the GCRCF and are tax deductible. For more information on making a donation to the endowment, contact JLCR Office Manager Angie Jungling at [info@juniorleaguecr.org](mailto:info@juniorleaguecr.org) or 364-7892.

# NEW MEMBER CLASS

In January we were thrilled to officially welcome the 2018-19 new member class! Twenty-two new faces have joined our ranks and we are so excited to have them!

In January the new member class also held a fantastic Women's Personal Safety / Self-defense class fundraiser. The class was attended by new members, current members, Sustainers, and even non-league mothers and daughters! It was a great mix of women and we all learned so much from Chris Smaby of the CRPD.

In addition the new members completed their new member projects in the past few months:

- The Happy Mail group acquired items and got together to create bi-monthly packages for teens in AMP/ Foster care – Holidays, Valentine's Day, End of school year etc.
- The crock pot night group hosted an awesome educational evening in January for Community Partnership for Protecting Children. New members provided dinner for the attendees including 3 main dish meals made in a crock pot as well as a crock pot dessert. Attendees received a crock pot, recipe book and ingredients for at least 2 meals to take home and make with their families. Crock pot tips and tricks were also discussed and the night was a great success!

In February new members transitioned to active JLCR committees helping out with the Bridging the G.A.P. project, planning Fostering Strength and even planning for next years' New Member events. These ladies are continuing to absorb what JLCR has to offer, get to know current members and jump in to help JLCR out in the community.

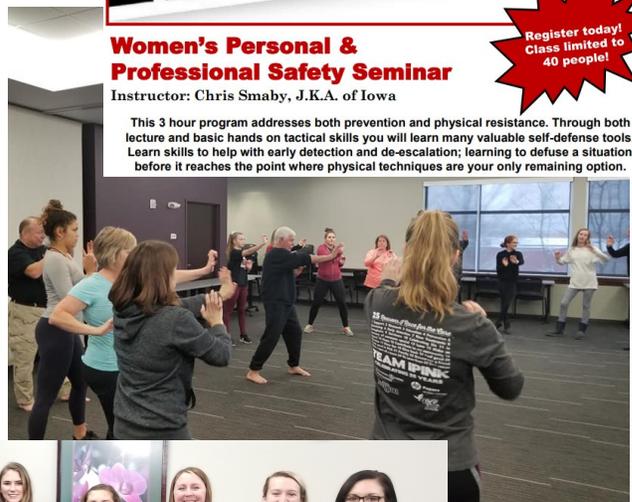
A huge welcome goes out to this fantastic group of women! Junior League of Cedar Rapids is so glad to have you!



## Women's Personal & Professional Safety Seminar

Instructor: Chris Smaby, J.K.A. of Iowa

This 3 hour program addresses both prevention and physical resistance. Through both lecture and basic hands on tactical skills you will learn many valuable self-defense tools. Learn skills to help with early detection and de-escalation; learning to defuse a situation before it reaches the point where physical techniques are your only remaining option.



# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS EVENTS

Right: In February, JLCR Sustainer and culinary artist, Cyndie Birchansky hosted a Valentine-themed social at her home. Those who attended learned how to make chocolate cookie Valentine boxes. Thank you to everyone who made it out!

Below: JLCR members volunteer at a Done-in-a-Day activity at the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois.



**JUNIOR LEAGUE MEMBERS ARE....**

**encouraging**  
 visionary bad-ass leader  
 confident strength wit motivational  
**kind** inspirational  
 sassy decisive caitlin  
 strategic uplifting progressive  
 inspiring dedicated compassionate renee inclusive  
 badass charitable doer innovative  
 talented energetic driven powerful  
 mentor  
 wonder woman!! humorous brave bold!!!  
 supportive giving passionate  
 instrumental

