

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS

Report to the Community 2015-2016

Message from the President

Tara DeWolf, 2015–2016 League President

As we bring the 2015-2016 JLCR year to a close, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on a few highlights from the year. Oh what a year it has been!

The launch of Digital Cheetah allowed our members to focus on building one another up and giving back to our communities, as the system is now managing our membership and fund development data – bygone are the days of paper tracking. We welcomed one of our largest provisional classes this year, with 30 ladies activating in January. We're officially past 100 Active members for the year – what a testament to our mission, project impact and recruitment team!

The Bridging the G.A.P. projects continues to make a tremendous impact in the lives of foster youth, with more than 655 AMP meals served, 27 suitcases distributed and \$3,500 in scholarship funds awarded (as of the time of this writing). Our Butterfly Kisses and Fostering Strength fundraisers this year generated the highest profits for each respective fundraiser to date – what an accomplishment for the committees and a great way to reach further into our communities to share about JLCR's mission, reaching a broad scope of individuals. We also received over \$50,000 in project donations, corporate sponsorships, grants and in-kind donations.

All of these wonderful happenings this year would not be possible if it weren't for our outstanding members. Our ladies give of their time, talents and funds to ensure we continue moving forward in fulfilling our mission. Please take a moment to celebrate our members, all that our organization has accomplished within our communities and the impact we have on one another.

Our members are the backbone of JLCR's success and existence—we are here to support one another and improve our communities. For all of our JLCR members, I am thankful. Oh what a year it has been—thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve our organization as President, it has been an honor.

Best,

Tara DeWolf
2015-2016 JLCR President





Bridging the G.A.P.

Project Guide By: Nicole Ridge

We are finishing off another great year of working with AMP youth! Thanks to all of our members who have helped provide nutritious meals, important life lessons and fun movie nights for the kids in AMP this spring! We have greatly enjoyed getting to know the youth this year and they are so thankful to us meeting for the good food and conversation. The final year end celebration will take place on June 2nd and we will celebrate 8 graduating members.

AMP Meals – As mentioned above the year end Celebration will take place June 2nd. We are planning to have the event catered and add a little “fancy food and fun” for these awesome deserving kids. There will also be a second June meeting this year and then AMP will be on hiatus for the month of July. Sign up for June meetings is now available on Digital Cheetah and hours earned will count toward the 2016-17 league year.

Movie Nights – In addition to the general AMP group meetings, we have hosted two successful movie nights this spring. Over 35 youth attended these fun evenings that were purely social. JLCR members served up some pizza, popcorn and other snacks and youth spent time playing board games, cards and watching movies. The kids were thrilled to have time just to hang out together and they look forward to more opportunities like this in the future. Look for information on more of these events coming this fall.

Lessons with League – With the help of several JLCR members and sustainers we were able to provide at least one “Life Lesson” a month this league year. Topics ranged from sewing on a button, to taxes, to the importance of being on time. The kids seemed to enjoy each new talk and we look forward to continuing this opportunity again next year.

Buddy program – We are happy to report that Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) is now officially accepting applications for their teen mentor program. They have begun the interview process and hope to be matching kids in the next month or two.

Thanks goes out as well to members of the Project provide committee who attended several meetings this spring to promote the JLCR scholarship. We appreciate their extra efforts to get in front of the youth with this new opportunity.

Thanks again to all our fantastic members for your time and efforts this year. The AMP youth, and the Guide committee, say THANK YOU for your time, talents and enthusiasm!



Project Advocate

Day on the Hill **By: Christine Young**



On January 26th, members of the Junior League of Cedar Rapids joined members of the Junior League of Des Moines and the Junior League of the Quad Cities to meet with Iowa Lawmakers to advocate for victims of human trafficking.

Though 30 cases of human trafficking in Iowa were reported in 2015, there are, on average, 150 teens trafficked in this state alone. That number can be five times higher during major events, including the Iowa State Fair and the Drake Relays – and often this crime flies under the radar.

Chief Justice Mark Cady has called for the Legislature to continue efforts to stop human trafficking in Iowa this year: “There is no justice when children are abused and exploited. A prompt, comprehensive and coordinated effort is need to identify victims of human trafficking and

provide the services and protection they need.”

Human trafficking takes the form of modern-day slavery where people are profiting from the control and exploitation of others through labor or sexual trafficking. Foster teens who lack the stability of a stable home, can be more vulnerable to trafficking.

The Junior League chapters in Iowa believe legislative action must move from reactive to proactive with awareness programs in our communities, and training programs directed toward service providers and programs to assist “trafficking victims”

Foster Care 101 **By: Elise Loan**

JLCR hosted Foster Care 101, a panel discussion, at the Cedar Rapids Public Library on April 13th. Representatives from local organizations presented on topics varying from why people foster, how to become a foster parent, respite care, and human trafficking, happening globally and here in Cedar Rapids. More than 545 children were referred into foster care in the Cedar Rapids surrounding area. There are only 441 licensed foster families in this region, so the need for more foster families is critical. Teresa Davidson from Cedar Rapids Gives, also presented some very sobering facts about human trafficking:

- 68% of runaways who are victims of human trafficking had been in DHS or foster care.
- The average age of a person first trafficked is between 12 and 14 years old and the average lifespan after they first become trafficked is 7 years.

Foster children who lack the stability of stable home can be more vulnerable to human trafficking. Our goal is to work towards prevention and spread the word!

Thank you to our panelists:

- Ashley Hart, Four Oaks/Iowa KidsNet, Recruiter
- Kris Millsap, Four Oaks/Iowa KidsNet, Renewal Licensing Specialist & Family Support
- Teresa Davidson, Nurse Practitioner, Mercy Medical Center and President, Cedar Rapids Gives



AMP Art Project

Project Advocate hosted an AMP art project at the Dreaming Bear in November to tell stories that our community can see in an effort to keep helping those in foster care and recruiting foster parents.



Project Provide

Suitcases By: Jennifer Ziegler

This year, we distributed 29 "apartments in a suitcase" through Foundation 2 and DHS to youth aging out of the foster care system. We also provided 10 refresher packs to youth in Aftercare. The refresher packs consist of frequently used household items that are distributed to youth on a case-by-case basis to alleviate some of the financial stress of making ends meet on their own.



This year was the first year that JLCR offered a scholarship fund to youth in the foster care system as well as to those who've aged out. We received a variety of requests and were able to spend \$4900 out of the \$5000 allotted in the budget. We distributed funds to youth for the purchase of laptops, rental assistance, emergency assistance, car repairs, school activities and summer camps.

Fundraising

Fostering Strength: By the Numbers By: Ellen Bardsley

On May 19, 2016, the Junior League of Cedar Rapids hosted JLCR: Fostering Strength, Iowa's largest foster care advocacy event, at the Double Tree by Hilton. Here are some of the numbers gathered after the event:

- 1 amazing keynote from Travis Lloyd
- 3 informative videos about Bridging the G.A.P.



- 1 inspiring first hand account from a former foster youth and current student at the University of Northern Iowa
- 312 tickets sold
- \$18,750 in revenue from ticket sales
- 1 first ever pre-event cash-and-carry market
- \$4,000 in market revenue
- 9 donations at the suitcase level
- \$10,000 in total cash donations
- \$30,000 in total revenue
- Countless positive & supportive comments from event attendees!

FOSTERING STRENGTH

FOSTER CARE
ADVOCACY EVENT

Speaker Travis Lloyd
Thursday, May 19th
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Doubletree by Hilton

Purchase tickets at:
jlc.org/fostering-strength-2016





Butterfly Kisses By: Elise Loan

On January 31, 2016 the Junior League of Cedar Rapids hosted our 14th Annual Butterfly Kisses, a father-daughter dance, at the Hotel Kirkwood Ballroom. This year's theme was based on the Disney all-time classic, Cinderella.

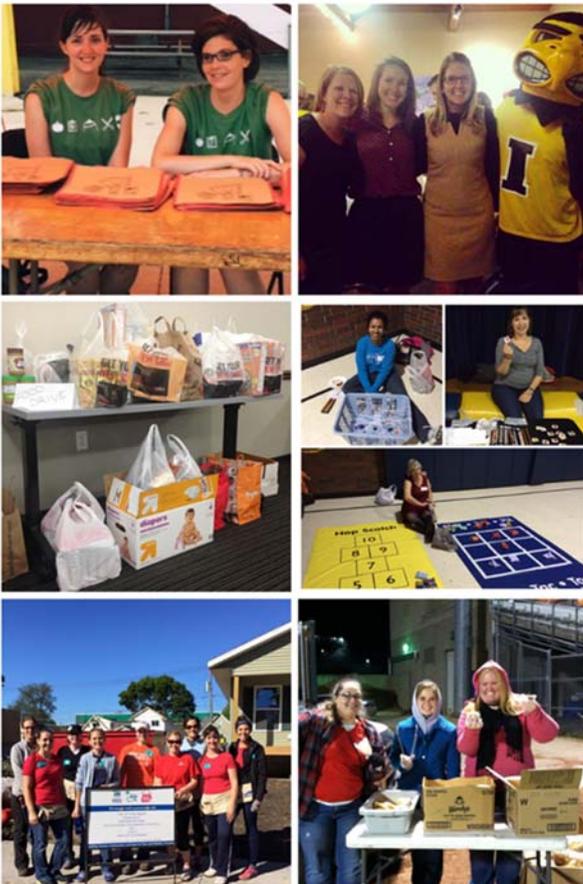
The day started at 1:00 in the afternoon and Cinderella made her Butterfly Kisses debut. She sang and danced with the girls and it was a big hit! Along with daddy/daughter dancing and professional photos, we had frozen ice, cupcakes from 'That One Cupcake Place', face painting, makeup, Jamberry, and lunch. We also had games where dads could dress up as one of the stepsisters and try on the magic shoe to see if they were Cinderella. Fun was had by all!

The event concluded at 4:00 and at the end of the day, we sold about 410 tickets and made approximately \$14,000. Our initial goal was \$9,000, so this was the most we have ever made!

Thank you to Felisha Junge, Brooke Zrudsky, the Butterfly Kisses Committee and all those who helped make this year's event a success!



Community Impact



July DIAD: Downtown Farmers Market

JLCR members Tori Owens and Christine Young volunteered to man the information table at the Downtown Farmers Market Summer DIAD.

August DIAD: Food Pantry

A small group of women in the Vinton-Shellsburg community coordinate a mobile food pantry in Benton County each month. Families can only receive assistance from the Benton County food pantry in Vinton up to 3 times per year and it is by appointment only. JLCR members donated items at the August GMM and made a difference in the lives of these recipients. One mom with 3 kids came through and had no food to get her & her kids through the week.

September DIAD: Women Build

On Saturday September 19, 2015, nine JLCR members utilized prior and newly acquired construction skills for Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity Women Build. Member Ashley Vanorny was motivated to volunteer to improve not only her community but her neighborhood, as she lives near to the construction area, and is also doing odds-and-ends repair projects around her own home (she looked like a pro!).

Cont. on next page...

September DIAD: No Foot Too Small Benefit

Kate O'Brien, Caitlin Mattes, and Brie Steffes volunteered at the 2nd annual No Foot Too Small Benefit on September 24th, with proceeds going to the March of Dimes. The event celebrated babies fought for and lost, communicated the reality of infant mortality, and helped fund critical research to cure the abnormalities that threaten healthy pregnancies every day.

October DIAD: YPN Fall Family Fun Fest

Fun was had by all at the Young Parents Network Fall Family Fun Fest. Seven Junior League members volunteered for the event. YPN had a great turn out of families. JLCR members assisted with various activities at the event, including a spider web game, trick or treat bag decorating, face tattoos and other fun activities to keep the children entertained. The children came dressed in costume and volunteers were able to give them treats at various stations. JLCR members had a blast interacting with the children and their parents as they made their way to each activity.

November DIAD: Sleep Out For the Homeless

JLCR members Angel Burns, Christina Clements, and Adriane Moline volunteered to hand out food at Linn County's Sleep Out for the Homeless event.

January DIAD: Ronald McDonald House & Family Room Decorating and Cookie Baking

On January 16th, JLCR members decorated rooms and baked cookies for Valentine's Day at the Ronald McDonald House in Iowa City and the St. Luke's Family Room in Cedar Rapids.

February DIAD: Bridgehaven Painting

Bridgehaven is a pregnancy support center, providing support before, during and after pregnancy. They provide a variety of services of support including, but not limited to, pregnancy testing, options discussions and support for families. They are currently undergoing a renovation to better serve their clients. As part of the renovation, they are remodeling a large area to accommodate the supplies for the Earn While You Learn program, which provides clothing and food assistance to parents attending classes. On February 6th, JLCR members worked with Bridgehaven to paint the newly renovated space!

March DIAD: Gems of Hope

Gems of Hope provides gifts of jewelry mounted on inspirational cards to cancer patients. On March 8th and 9th, JLCR members helped Gems of Hope organize and hand out flowers as part of their Hope Blooms fundraiser.

April DIAD: Red Boa Ball

Fun was had by all at the American Red Cross's annual Red Boa Ball on April 30th. JLCR members helped the night run smoothly by assisting with check-in and check-out. Proceeds from the event went toward supporting efforts in local disaster relief.

May DIAD: Girls on the Run 5K

This 5k is the culmination of their spring program which teaches elementary girls life and social skills and finding the fun in being active. JLCR volunteers helped set up and man the food table during the 5k.

Provisional Members

JLCR hosted 41 new members on this year's Welcome Night, held on August 18th. Since then, that number has grown even more! Along with Welcome Night, we hosted prospective members at various socials throughout the summer, and chatted with quite a few ladies at Meet Me at the Market in July. The New Member retreat was held on September 22nd. These events have allowed us to stay connected with potentials, and help keep them engaged ahead of the New Year. The feedback we have received from potential new members has been very positive, and all seem very excited about the upcoming year!



Leadership

President: Tara DeWolf
 President-Elect/Vice President of Planning: Abbie Covenah
 Vice President of Operations: Amanda Lane
 Vice President of Fund Development: Samantha McGrane
 Vice President of Membership: Erica Bergfeld
 Vice President of Community: Christina Clements
 Vice President of Communications: LaShonda Kennedy
 At-Large: Rohini Singh



**IT
STARTS
WITH
A
WOMAN**

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.

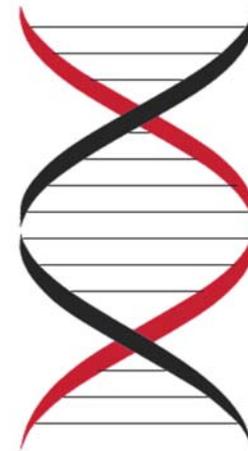
Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS

Cash	\$156,522
Endowment	\$180,484
Accounts Receivable	\$7,129
Certificate of Deposit	\$27,060
Fixed Assets	\$21,132
Other Assets	\$75
TOTAL ASSETS	\$392,402

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$17,108
Deferred Revenue-Dues	\$22,122
Total Liabilities	\$39,230
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$353,172
Total Net Assets	\$353,172
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$392,402



SPECIAL THANKS

to Junior League of Cedar Rapids’ 2015–2016 Sponsors

Transamerica
 Horton Family Dental
 Gehring Orthodontics
 Theisen's
 Mercy Cedar Rapids
 Bouslog Insurance

Collins Community Credit Union
 Hills Bank and Trust Company
 Farmers State Bank
 University of Iowa Community Credit
 Union
 Bankers Trust
 Skogman Realty

The Gazette Company
 deNovo
 Pierson's
 Diamond V
 Hy-Vee
 Bloomhall Family



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
CEDAR RAPIDS

Report to the Community

317 7th Ave SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
P: 319.364.7892
F: 319.364.4248
info@juniorleague.org

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA
Permit #104

Junior League of Cedar Rapids (JLCR) is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of woman 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.