

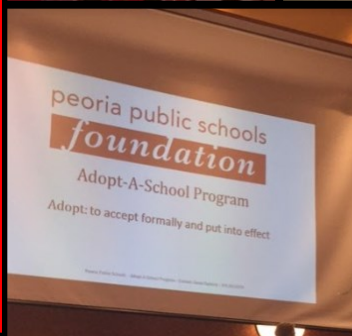
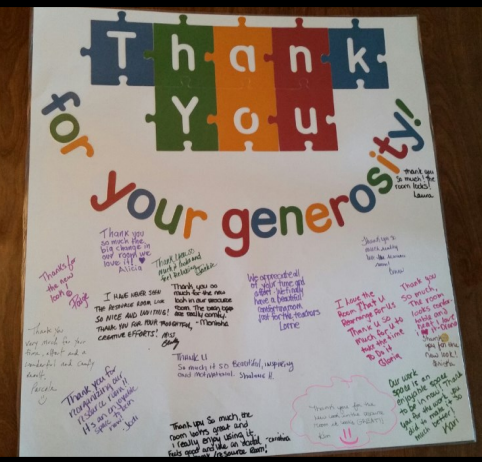


JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
PEORIA

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2016-2017 League Year



The Junior League of Peoria...



Picture by Chris Sopher

...is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

Our purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

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Letter from the President

For more than eight decades the Junior League of Peoria has been known for its collaborative spirit, its philanthropic focus, and its unfailing ability to get things done. This year was no exception.

Many of you know that Carol Scott, the current President of the Association of Junior Leagues International, visited us in 2015 and encouraged our members to easily remember the League's mission as simply "PDI" -- **P**romoting Volunteering, **D**eveloping the Potential of Women, and **I**mproving Communities. We've embraced the concept wholeheartedly.

Throughout the League Year we've been **Promoting Volunteering**, working with past partners such as Peoria Zoological Society on *Howl-Zoo-Ween*, Crittenton Center on *Festival of Trees* and its *Anniversary Gala*, and Race for the Cure, where we featured Imagination Playground. We also worked with new partners, including Illinois CancerCare on *Golfing in the Wild*, the American Red Cross on *12 Hours of Giving*, the Heart of Illinois United Way on *Power of the Purse*, and St. Jude on its *Walk/Run to End Childhood Cancer*.

We've also been busy **Developing the Potential of Women**. The League continues to be organized in a committee structure, where our members receive hands-on training on how to collaborate, how to delegate, and how to leverage resources and ideas to achieve success. Especially active this year were our Community Outreach, Member Services, and Events Committees, which met regularly and worked together to tackle League initiatives. Our New Member classes learned about the League through two scavenger hunts focusing on past projects, and then internally organized themselves to take on, and flawlessly execute, New Member projects at Neighborhood House (transforming space critical to the provision of agency ser-

vices) and Family House (where they cooked and served dinner to area residents in need). And our Sustainers passed on valuable knowledge and insight to our membership through open-forum Sustainer Panel sessions.

All of this, naturally, feeds into our work **Improving Communities**. The League continues to support the Peoria PlayHouse Children's Museum. We were pleased to be both a financial contributor and to provide (wo)man power at the PlayHouse's *World Wide Day of Play*, *Family Workshop Treasure Hunt*, *Be Anything*, and *Hopscotch* events. Here again, however, we continue to expand our efforts and develop new community partnerships. We worked with Central Illinois Best Buddies on its goal of providing mentoring and leadership opportunities for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We dropped into Children's Home Association of Illinois to transform its physical space into an area where children feel safe and can learn. We served hot chocolate for patients at the Children's Hospital of Illinois and food at Loaves & Fish, which serves a hot meal weekly for nearly 300 area residents in need. And we partnered with South Side Office of Concern on a beautification and improvement day for the impoverished Richland Bottoms neighborhood in East Peoria.

The League also focused on its education initiative. Currently in the second year of a three-year grant to the Peoria Public Schools Foundation to revive the Adopt-A-School Program, we are starting to see successes. Currently at 56 active partnerships (39 of which are new partnerships attributable to the League's grant funding), the Adopt-A-School Program has brought businesses, organizations, and community groups together with Peoria Public Schools in a collaborative effort that enriches student learning. Through tutoring, mentoring, in-kind or financial contributions, and a connection with

strong, positive role models, the students of Peoria Public Schools have benefited from a broad spectrum of knowledge and resources available as a result of this initiative.

We also celebrated this year. We honored the work of our Sustainers and the impact they had on the Randolph-Roanoke Historic District as we turned the Ballance-Herschel House back over to a local family following a successful League restoration and neighborhood stabilization project spanning several decades. We also raised a glass to toast to the League's 80th Anniversary, a wonderfully-organized event celebrating the tangible successes and the intangible relationships attributable to the League and its members here in the Peoria area.

The close of the League Year also marks the end of my term as President. It has been an honor to serve the League and I thank you for your confidence in me and for the opportunity to have worked with and learned from all of you. When I look at our membership, our incoming leadership, and our spirit, I am supremely confident that our best years are ahead and that the League is primed for another 80 years of impactful, enriching, and rewarding community service. •



Letter from the Incoming President



I am honored and humbled to be stepping up to the President position for the next two League years. I recently was looking back at the remarkable women who have come before me in this position and it is truly an

honor to follow in their footsteps. They are large footsteps to follow.

This is such an exciting time to be in the Junior League of Peoria. Our largest project to date, the Peoria PlayHouse Children's Museum has been open for over a year and business is booming! This has truly been a great addition to Peoria's community.

Equally exciting is the revitalization of the Adopt-a-School program within the Peoria Public Schools, driven by coordinator Sarah Oakford. The League's collaboration with Peoria Public Schools and the Peoria Public Schools Foundation is something we should all be very proud of. We are helping our schools get the resources they so desperately have needed for years. As we move forward with our education initiative I am very anxious to see what dynamic and innovative ideas come out of the newly formed Education Committee.

Over the past year, we have had a large number of amazing new ladies join the League. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you and helping make sure you get what you need both personally and professionally from your experience in the League. We also have some exciting new things coming in the way of Membership Training & Development for our members, which I think will be of great benefit and interest to you all.

With so many New Members, I am going to challenge our Sustainers to become more involved and re-engage with the League as your life allows. Your leadership experience and the depth of knowledge you as a group bring to the League is invaluable.

As all of you know, our mission is to promote volunteerism, develop the potential of women, and improve our community. This is a mission statement that is very near and dear to me. Volunteering has been a large part of my life for a number of years and I truly believe that a woman can do anything she puts her mind to, this group in particular.

This is OUR League and this is OUR year to make great things happen here in Peoria. I'm thrilled to get started! •



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A Bittersweet Goodbye: The Ballance-Herschel House

It all started in 1888 when Willis H. Ballance, Sr. built the house to live in with his wife, Augusta, and their seven children. Ballance was the owner of Gipps Brewing Company, which closed its doors in 1956. The house was sold to Paul E. Herschel, Sr. in 1913 when Ballance passed. Herschel and his two brothers founded the Herschel Manufacturing Company, which produced agricultural implements. Junior League of Peoria was proud to be the third owner of this historic home, which it purchased in the 1970's.

Architect Warren H. Milner designed the home as well as many others in the Randolph-Roanoke District. The exterior style is Queen Anne with Romanesque detailing; the interior is of the Eastlake Period. The home is now listed on the Central Illinois Landmark Foundation. Women of the League spent seven years restoring the home with three main objectives: an authentic restoration for the first floor, an adaptive restoration of

the second floor, and a rehabilitation of the third floor ballroom. The exterior also received several renovations over the years. League members spent numerous hours researching design, researching the history of the Ballances, and completely renovating the home.

Over the decades, the needs of the League changed and it was time to return the Ballance-Herschel House (BHH) back to the community. In the spring of 2016, Sustainers led the march to prepare it for sale. They held a "BHH Treasures Sale", returned items donated by Sustainers and friends of the League, and donated many items to charity. After minor cosmetic updates, and a professional cleaning, the house was ready to be listed. The house was purchased in the fall of 2016 by a wonderful couple living in another historic home in the neighborhood. Their passion for historic homes and preservation will ensure the BHH will be loved and maintained for many years to come. •



Our New Home

After a great amount of consideration and searching, we have found our new JLP Headquarters! We would like to thank everyone involved for your amazing determination to help us find the perfect place. We are very grateful and excited! Welcome home JLP!

114 State Street, Suite 2A, Peoria, IL 61602



Frolic with the Fairies...

The Ninth Annual Frolic with the Fairies fundraising event was a magical starry night on March 10-11, 2017. The ladies of the Junior League of Peoria worked their magic to bring together fabu-

lous entertainment, fantastic vendors, professional photographers and more to create the ultimate fairytale experience for our guests.

Our talented lead Decorator, Christi Walker, created an enchanted dreamlike starry night in the Par-A-Dice ballroom. We had the beautiful night sky above the dance floor embedded with sparkling stars. There were trees, as table center-pieces, adorned with gold light strings, twinkling stars and sparkling crystals. When you stepped through the golden arrayed entrance you couldn't help but be in awe of the beauty of the peaceful starry night in the ballroom. Adding to the ambiance were the experts from Prospect Sound and Lighting, providing the finishing touches to complete the magical starry aura.

This year, we had four seatings available for Frolic fun – one on Friday evening and three on Saturday – and we hosted 1,450 guests. We had CJ



(Courtney Pierce), who is a DJ from Mix 106.9, host the Friday night frolic. This was aimed at our older (ages six and above) fairy friends. The Friday night frolic included a Fairy Hip Hop dance routine created by JLP member Emily West and

a dance party led by DJ Ryan Hogan.

We started each seating on both days with a ballet performance from the graceful and talented ballerinas from the Cornerstone Academy of Performing Arts. This was followed by the Fairy Fashion show where our young guests modeled their fairy outfits while our style show hosts read their runway profiles. Our lovely ballerinas, from Cornerstone Academy, even accom-

panied and helped the little models during the style show. The ballerinas performed once more after the style show and did meet and greets with the fairies who were in awe of their beautiful dancing. The talented ladies from Tri-coci University shared their hair styling skills and prepped our models for all the fairy style shows.

Not to be outdone, Saturday brought programming that we all enjoyed. Our DJ and the ballerinas had a short night between seatings – just like our JLP Events committee members – but we



Starry Night



were too excited to sleep anyway! Julie K joined in the entertainment programming for all three seatings on Saturday. Julie K had the fairies dancing along and got them even more excited when her bubble machines started up. We had DJ Ryan Hogan playing fairy favorites at all the Saturday seatings. Our host for the Saturday 12:30PM seating was Janine, who is a DJ with WCIC.

Throughout the fundraising year, we had outstanding support from sponsors like Kids First Dental Group, CEFCU, Mix 106.9, Macaroni Kid and more. We simply could not have an event of this scale without them!

In the fairy promenade, we had Brooke Michele Photography with two professional photography backdrops. She helped our little fairy friends capture their memories in her professional photography packages. The fairy promenade was filled with engaging and fairy-fun pop-up shops by our vendors Boards and Bows, Designs By Emily West, Jayla's Bowtique, Matilda Jane Clothing, Moon Dancer Boutique, Pretty Doll Collections, Posh Flair and Usborn Books & More. Face painting was popular again this year, thanks to the creative art done by the Zoo Lady and

her Zoo Crew. We had several items donated as door prizes by our vendors. In addition, we also had So Chic Boutique and Running Central donate door prizes for our guests.

We offered three raffle packages and received rave reviews from our guests. We had a Pandora Jewelry Set donated by Bremer Jewelry, a Fairy Birthday Party Package donated by Christi Walker (JLP Member) and a Girl Bedroom Set donated by Sharon Jerome (JLP Member).

Frolic with the Fairies has been a success for the Junior League of Peoria and the community. It also offers skill development for our members. The Events committee developed and executed an integrated project plan and worked closely together on every aspect of the event. Financially, we exceed expectations again this year with more than \$28,000 in profit for the event!

The Events Committee would like to thank the Par-A-Dice Hotel for hosting us again this year. We thank our fellow JLP members, several who supported the event by providing volunteer support and many more who supported financially. Truly, we are a team and can only accomplish a magical event like this together! ·



Done in a Day

This year the League had a great opportunity to partner with the South Side Office of Concern. Done in a Day Lead Shelly Spaugh made a connection with Kristen Berchtold and led the League to the Richland Bottoms neighborhood in East Peoria. This is a small community surrounded by manufacturing plants that is in great need of landscaping help. Many of the residents of this community are disabled or elderly and unable to take care of their homes and yards. Some of these homes even have major issues ranging from tarp roofs to dirt floors. After discussing what the League could do, the committee decided on a yard clean up day.

Community Outreach committee members Andrea Tortora and Cindy Kiel coordinated with the other South Side Office of Concern leaders to set up a day of beautification in this neighborhood. A bright and sunny Saturday in April brought over a dozen Junior League members, a half dozen SSOC leaders and several community members out to kickoff the Richland Bottoms area rejuvenation. We started the day helping a disabled veteran tear down a fence. Even though our members were dilapidated for this type of work, we all jumped right into the task. The homeowner was very happy to see his yard clean and free of that old, run down fence. As the afternoon went on, our ladies were ready to help clear out alley ways and streets of both trash and brush. Everything from trimming trees and bushes to raking elderly homeowners yards was getting

done. Even our 'junior' JLP members helped their moms with some of our tasks. Big thanks to Jennifer Albright, Richole Ogburn and Corinne Wolf for bringing some small but great helping hands!. The residents were so happy we were there, taking time out of our Saturday to help clear their roads and their yards.

One of the other tasks the South Side Office Of Concern was looking for help with was getting planters painted for their community garden. Old car tires were painted bright colors and will be used by the kids in the community as planters for their summer program. These were a fun touch to give to the park area. This park area was also raked and cleaned at the end of the day by our members.

The South Side Office of Concern and the Richland Bottoms neighborhood were so pleased with all our help to make their community look beautiful. Every little bit of effort counts to them and they were thankful for the time we spent there. The Community Outreach committee hopes there will be other opportunities in the future to brighten this area of East Peoria. Christina Robinson and Kristen Berchtold both hope to continue the partnership into the next League year and see

what opportunities we can provide, especially for the children of that community. •



Be Anything!

In 2016, the Peoria PlayHouse Children's Museum held the first annual *Be Anything!* online auction and event, with the goal of introducing children to new careers and helping them to understand that they can be anything when they grow up. The online auction featured nearly 70 career-based experiences, from visiting with a paleontologist at Chicago's Field Museum to spending time with firemen to working with a local animator. The event, held at the PlayHouse, showcased ten professionals, each engaging children in activities while sharing information about what they do and why they love it.

The 2017 *Be Anything!* event will be held on Sunday, September 24th from 12-5pm at the Peoria PlayHouse Children's Museum. The online auction opens two weeks earlier, on September 9th.



"Charlotte loved her experience! She keeps telling everyone how she got to use all the equipment in the lab. When she got home, she took one of the notebooks they gave her and recorded the amounts she used for a drink she made. She was very scientific about it."

"We purchased four 'experiences' for our children. Each was great. I have to say that the carpenter experience put on by the Park District was way beyond expectation. Simply fantastic job by Luke and his team!"



Education as an Ecosystem

This year, we took a slightly non-traditional route for our GMM membership training and development goals as a committee. Focusing on JLP's new initiative—education—and honing in on all the exciting avenues such a broad topic could mean for us as volunteers, our committee set forth a “training” framework based on hosting a line-up of dynamic, expert speakers knowledgeable on education.

Exploring the idea of education as an ecosystem with each constituent part affecting all the others, we discussed using a systems approach to first understand the topic, in order to then make it better. For instance, just as “land maintained according to sound ecological principles results in abundant microbial soil life, interdependency of diverse species, and a sustainable yield... A school maintained according to ecological principles will result in lower teacher turnover, greater community engagement, and positive long-term student outcomes” (*chalkbeat.org*). Healthy ecosystems provide niches for *all* organisms to thrive; each component affecting the next organism or habitat in myriad ways.

Our goals as a committee were to get members to start asking questions like, how can we carve out space to make students feel intellectually, emotionally and physically safe in order to thrive? Or how can we nourish our habitats and make our biomes healthy places for learning? And what is JLP's role in improving our educational ecosystem?

Like a diverse ecosystem, our speakers came from all facets of education. Marcus Belin, assistant principal at Dunlap High School, spoke to us about coming from the south side of Chicago to Quest Charter Academy, and how teaching students from all walks of life has informed his new role at Dunlap and made him cognizant of the many gaps within our school system locally. Matt George, executive director at Children's Home, spoke to us on the importance of healing broken families and how working together amongst our organizations can expand our net's overall reach to improve the education system as a whole. Andrea Parker, executive director of the Hult Center for Healthy Living, offered shocking statistics on public health in Peoria, suggesting that until a child's basic needs are met, they will not have the luxury of worrying about their school education. South Side Office of Concern discussed their new project in the Richland Bottoms neighborhood of East Peoria and how external influences like poverty can lead to rampant truancy rates and lack of motivation for education.



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It's been a fun year reaching out to speakers and relying on experts to share their knowledge with us so as to absorb this colossal space we call “education.” Moving forward, we hope the information we garnered will serve as a catalyst for the new Education Committee, and as a source of motivation for League members to realize our new mission moving forward. Let's consider all the moving parts of education as we set our committee agendas and own personal volunteer goals for the years ahead. •

Community Outreach and Kids in the Kitchen

Members were able to participate in a variety of events to help improve the Peoria area community this year. We kicked the League year off on September 10th with Worldwide Day of Play. This annual free day of fun gets kids out of the house and active right at the start of the school year. Families can enter the Peoria PlayHouse for free and the Peoria Zoo for a discount. The Junior League ladies helped kids discover innovative ways to make their own fun using the Imagination Playground blocks.



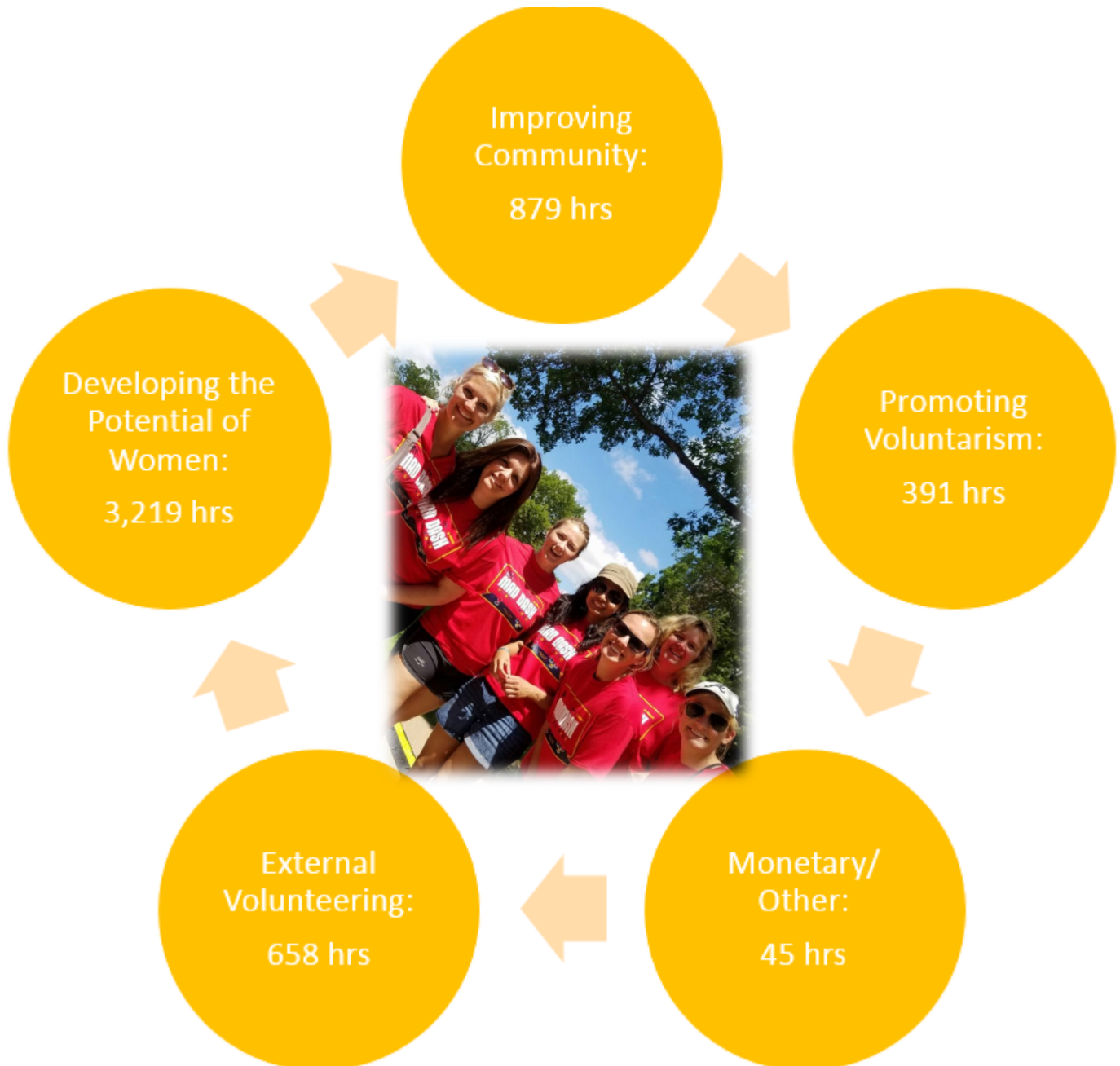
Continuing with the theme of keeping kids active and healthy, the Kids in the Kitchen program provided kids (and parents!) with a healthy trail mix to snack on while they were playing at Glen Oak Park. Parents were also given recipe cards with other easy after school healthy snack ideas.

Throughout the rest of the league year, members served our community in partnership with several other organizations. In October we helped with a Halloween party for kids and adults with disabilities in partnership with Best Buddies. We were able to help them decorate the Richwoods High School cafeteria, set up games and serve a tasty nacho bar to over 50 guests. The kids had a blast singing karaoke and dancing in their costumes.

A group of Junior League members spent their sunny Saturday afternoon in February at Loaves & Fish at First United Methodist Church in downtown Peoria. This soup kitchen feeds over 250 people every Saturday. It was an eye opening experience to see just how much need there is in our community. The attendees are so grateful for this organization and we were glad we could provide more helping hands. •

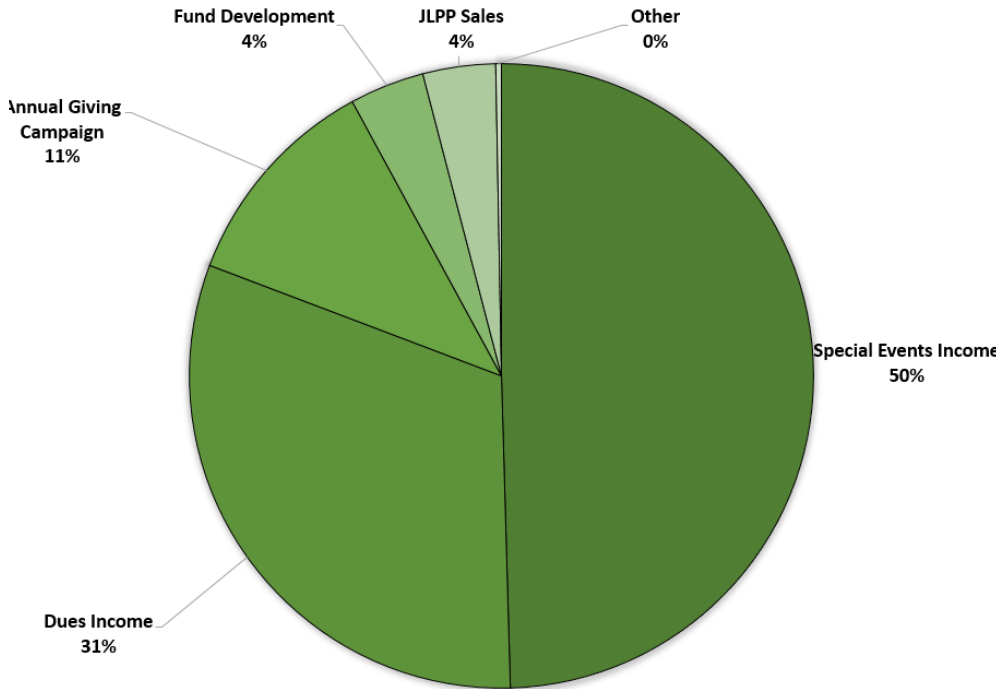


Our Impact by the Numbers



2016-2017 Financials

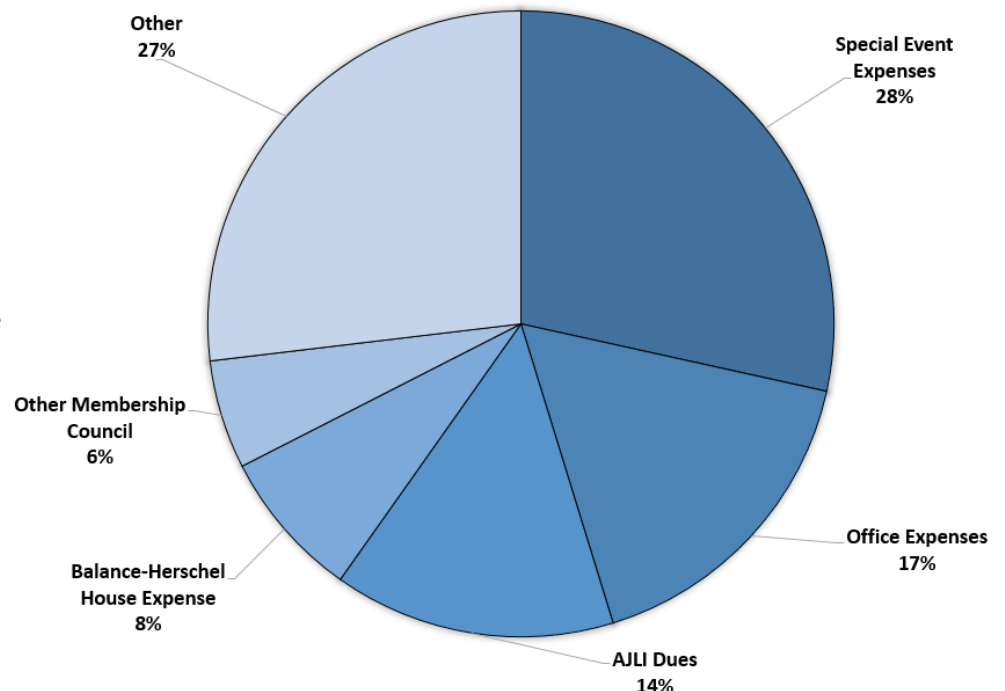
Revenue by Category



⇒ Special Event Income	\$57,605
⇒ Dues Income	\$36,292
⇒ Annual Giving Campaign	\$13,147
⇒ Fund Development	\$4,500
⇒ JLPP Sales	\$4,376
⇒ Other	\$343

Expenditure by Category

⇒ Special Event Expenses	\$29,802
⇒ Office Expenses	\$17,577
⇒ AJLI Dues	\$15,233
⇒ Ballance-Herschel House Expense	\$8,062
⇒ Other Membership Council	\$5,887
⇒ Other*	\$28,162



* Includes: Peoria PlayHouse Marketing, KITK, New Member Training & Recruitment, GMM expenses, PR & Marketing, Conferences, Julep Magazine, Insurance, Accountant, Adopt-a-School

Special Recognitions



Emilie Egan, on her selection for the Smith College Executive Director Program and The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Capitol Hill Day.



Amanda Campbell, for being selected to be in the 25 Women in Leadership.



Christina Robinson, on her selection for the Smith College Executive Director Program.



Abby Clark, for her Women of Influence Award.



Heather Oyler, for her Big Brother, Big Sister's Big Sister of the Year Award.



Nicole Meyer, for being selected as a 40 Leaders Under Forty.



Holly Teig, for receiving an (SWE) Society for Women Engineers award.

Congratulations to these amazing Junior League of Peoria members for your outstanding volunteerism in our community!

Thank You to Our Donors

The Junior League of Peoria would like to give a big THANK YOU to all of our donors. You help make our events as successful as they are. We truly appreciate all of the support you have shown us.

◇ CEFCU	◇ So Chic Boutique	◇ Mary Heller	◇ Kay Ryan
◇ Boards and Bows	◇ Running Central	◇ Sharon Holling	◇ Pamela Shuck-Hoehne
◇ Brooke Michele Photography	◇ Carol Ackerman	◇ Megan Homan	◇ Kathryn Simpson
◇ Designs by Emily West	◇ Tilley Allen	◇ Patricia Howard	◇ Priscilla Slaughter
◇ Mix 106.9	◇ Polly Barton	◇ Maggie Jackson	◇ Sally Snyder
◇ Julie K	◇ Patty Bash	◇ Sara Jacobsen	◇ Holly Tieg
◇ Bremer Jewelry	◇ Carlotta Bielfeldt	◇ Kelly Juergens	◇ Andrea Tognetti
◇ Triccoci University	◇ Jane Bonick	◇ Lois Kellogg	◇ Andrea Tortora
◇ Prospect Lighting & Sound	◇ Amanda Campbell	◇ Joan Krupa	◇ Jeannine Triebel
◇ Cornerstone Academy of Dance	◇ Abby Clark	◇ Carey Mayer	◇ Sandra Ullman
◇ Kids First Dental	◇ Wendy Clary	◇ Wendy McVay	◇ Christina Walker
◇ Macaroni Kid	◇ Kathryn Cobb	◇ Nicole Meyer	◇ Pauline Wallden
◇ Matilda Jane Clothing	◇ Nancy Crawford	◇ Morgan Stanley	◇ Linda Beth Washkuhn-Sutkowski
◇ Moon Dancer Boutique	◇ Marguerite Cullinan	◇ Theresa Murphy	◇ Mandy Watson
◇ Pretty Doll Collections	◇ Patricia Cullinan	◇ Bonnie Noble	◇ Jacqueline White
◇ Posh Flair	◇ Mary Dickison	◇ Sue Palmer	◇ Emily Wilburn
◇ Usborn Books & More	◇ Joan French	◇ Stephanie Petri	
◇ Zoo Lady & The Zoo Crew	◇ Fritch Heating	◇ Tracy Pogue	
	◇ Drew Gay	◇ Donna Pritchard	
	◇ Kristy Gorenz	◇ Penny Radley	
	◇ Heart of Illinois United Way	◇ Monica Regnier	
	◇ Michelle Heiden	◇ Dolores Robertson	
	◇ Lisa Heinz	◇ Julie Russell	
		◇ Heather Russo	



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
PEORIA**

Welcome to Our New Members

The 2016-2017 League year was exciting in that we welcomed some great new members...LOTS of them!!! Thanks to the recruitment sub-committee led by Holli Heinz and Nicole Roberts, the Junior League of Peoria



Brenda Wilson, Tenley Damrow, Elaine Wild, Lois Kellog, and Mary Horst for sharing your unique perspectives.

One of the most fun events of the year was the New Member Scavenger Hunt for Past Projects led by Laura Bazhenow. The scavenger hunt

added 38 amazing women into our organization this year. With a revamped New Member curriculum, the New Members spent half a year learning about the League, volunteering in the community, and building lasting relationships with their fellow New Members.

The new member experience started with New Member Orientation. Here new members had the opportunity to get a crash course on the League and have a chance to socialize with other new members. One highlight of the orientation was getting to hear from either Abby Clark, our President, or Amanda Campbell, our President Elect, on the importance of the League and its impact on the Peoria area.

To experience *Done in a Day*, Amy Carlson coordinated four events at Family House. This location was chosen to ensure that new members learned more about the connection of JLP with this community organization. The new member class prepared a full taco or pasta dinner with all the fixings, as well as got a tour of the facility.

New members also had the chance to learn from sustainers during our interactive sustainer panel. During this time, JLP sustainers shared their stories of how the League impacted their lives and what new members can do to get the most out of their experience. Marta Herget lined up some amazing ladies. Thank you to Penny Radley, Darcy Gibson, Lisa Plantamura,

members the opportunity to travel all over Peoria to see first hand the impact JLP has had on the community. The new members followed clues that led them to places like the Peoria PlayHouse Children's Museum, Sonar Tide, Tri-Centennial Playground, and Crittenton Center. The afternoon ended with some time to socialize with both active and new members.

This year also bought back the new member project! Partnering with the Neighborhood House, both the fall and spring new member classes took the initiative to plan, gather donations, and execute their projects. The fall new member class gave a new look to the teacher resource room, providing some much needed organization. The spring new member class helped establish a boutique that will provide career clothing for men and women in need of a professional look for an interview or a job. The Neighborhood House has been extremely appreciative of all the new members efforts!

Thank you to everyone that helped make the new member program such a success this year! Also, thank you to our amazing new members - you were active, engaged, and a ton of fun! There is no doubt that these ladies will continue making a difference for years to come! •



New Member Socials

Are you considering joining the Junior League of Peoria or do you have a friend who would make an excellent addition? Join us for an informative meeting at one of our upcoming socials!

June 13, 2017


Drake Photography
3316 NE Adams Street
5:00 PM—7:00 PM

July 12, 2017


Holiday Inn
7601 N Orange Prairie Rd
5:00 PM—7:00 PM

August 12, 2017

Junior League Headquarters
114 State Street, Suite 2A, Peoria
IL 61602
12:00 PM—1:30 PM



RSVP: JLPMembership@gmail.com
Visit: www.juniorleagueofpeoria.org



Our Role Models

A Sustainer Engagement Committee was formalized and active members were placed in order to further the objectives of the group. With the help of active members, the committee established Sustainer Sundays, a weekly email correspondence that addresses one or two JLP topics, as well as a Sustainer Facebook page. Happy hours were celebrated, Sustainer trainings were held and community social events were organized.

In addition to the active members, numerous Sustaining members stepped up to lead efforts, including the monthly Dining Divas socials, the Sustainer Mentoring Program, Sustainer Philanthropy opportunities and working on the Sustainer Luncheon. Thank you to all who contributed throughout the year!

As for next year, we will be working with AJLI (Association of Junior Leagues International) in order to learn best practices and analyze what may work with our League. We will continue to work on communications, social and philanthropy opportunities and mentoring and training. June will mark seven years of Dining Divas; additionally, we will add in quarterly Coffee and Conversation opportunities to get together.

If you or any Sustainer you know would like to host a philanthropy event, mentor an active member, provide training or work on a social event, please let us know! •



JLP Mentor Program

The mentorship programs of the Junior League of Peoria continue to evolve and cater to the needs of our members. This year actives and sustainers enjoyed a fruitful and impactful mentor relationship and completed the program.

The program began in September with a call to actives and sustainers interested in participating in the program. The League offers two types of mentorship programs: an active-to-active mentorship or a sustainer-to-active mentorship. Any interested League member can participate by expressing interest during placement or in September when the new League year really gets going. The Membership Services Committee works in coordination with the Sustainer Engagement Committee to pair members up based on their interests and schedules. This year the mentorship program kicked things off at Cyd's. Each mentor was introduced to their mentee and together the group went through a short mentoring chat discussion. In November a social was held at Thirty-Thirty Coffee which focused on sharing the mentoring experience.

Sustainer Beth Bussan paired with active Gwen Trusz. Their experience proves once again how tailored the experience can be when personalities and schedules align, and how formal and informal growth can be achieved for both the mentor and the mentee. When reflecting back on the time spent together, Gwen commented that this experience and her time with Beth made her feel empowered and confident in herself. Gwen and Beth spent some of their time helping Gwen do some informal career mapping and put some thought into what Gwen is looking to get out of the League in conjunction with what skills she has to offer the League. Gwen also enjoyed the fact that they were able to take some time to re-

flect, which is an essential ingredient to self development. Both Gwen and Beth note this was a fabulous experience.

Active Member Stephanie Petri partnered with Sustainer mentor Betsy Bladel. The pair hit it off immediately and were able to connect about their experiences in the Junior League as well as Women in Leadership of Central Illinois, which they are both a part of. They met once a month at Cyd's for lunch, and discussions often revolve around the League in general and their involvement over the years. Stephanie notes "Betsy is a wealth of knowledge," and was able to impart information about the history of the league and her involvement with the sustainer group. Stephanie has enjoyed the experience and plans to continue it past the end of this League year.

Mentor/Mentee pairs on average meet around six times over the course of the League year (September to May). Many also work around hectic schedules by connecting and communicating by email or phone. While the Junior League of Peoria's current mentorship programs are only a few years old and are continuing to develop around the needs and interests of our members, already there have been at least a dozen success stories, including the two above. Many pairs continue communicating beyond the end of the League year, and formal end of the program. •



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Volunteer of the Year goes to....

Kendra Sipes!

Kendra was recognized for over a decade worth of service to the League. She has shown constant commitment to fulfilling the needs of the League and its members in service on multiple committees and acting as a crucial bridge between two committees in particular.

It began a decade ago, in 2007 when Kendra joined the league as a new member. Jump forward only a few short years and she had already stepped up into an assistant committee chair role. Her talents and unfailing ability to say "I will do this for you," have enabled the League to maintain stability and ensure financial success over the past years of restructuring and modernization.

During her role with Frolic with the Fairies she built upon the creation of and vision by the first three successful Frolics and their chairs. She expanded the event to where it was in a position to support the League when it became time to retire its long running fundraiser, Julep's Closet. She has continued each year to play a critical role in this event, providing stability as it has passed through five chairs since. She also serves as a vital bridge between the Events committee and the Public Relations Committee, to this



day maintaining our Frolic with the Fairies webpage and Facebook page, both of which she created, helping with the various components of marketing Frolic to the public, and supporting Frolic, its chairs, and the Public Relations Committee from the sideline.

Professionally she maintains a very full schedule that includes being on the Board of Directors for the Peoria Area Association of Realtors as well as a full personal schedule as a wife, mother of two girls and volunteering her time and skills to help with the Art Cart at her daughter's primary school as well as with her daughters' Girl Scout Troops. Despite her already demanding schedule, she once again replied "yes" to the League's request for help,

She stepped into the role as chair of the Public Relations Committee Chair and has spent the past several months giving back to the League, ensuring that all of the tasks and work of this Committee that needed to happen did. For all that she does, the League is truly grateful.

Congratulations Kendra and thank you for all you do for the Junior League of Peoria!

Sustainer of the Year goes to....

Janet Roth!

Janet is the founder and president of Look. It's My Book! Janet did extensive research and found there is a statistically significant result of improvement in reading readiness, reading and a carry over to math skills in giving books to children to have and take home.

Not only has Janet done the research but she also found the 350 volunteers and led the development efforts to raise the money needed in order to provide these books to all primary students in Peoria Public Schools. Since Look. It's My Book! was founded in 2008, more than 200,000 books have been distributed to the students.

This past year Janet has been actively reaching out to Sustainers in the League to encourage them to re-establish their sustainer status. Janet attends Dining Divas, has hosted a Sustainer happy hour in her home, and recently had the group in her home to help label books for Look! It's My Book! Her nominator had this to say about



Janet: "it is difficult to describe Janet's amazing combination of intelligence, drive, creativity, problem solving and good humored leadership that makes her so unusual. The passion, energy and enthusiasm that Janet and her volunteers display is exceptional. No one can say no to Janet". She has volunteered with a number of organizations in the community and has received many community awards!

Janet has had many experiences with Look. It's My Book! But there are two that really stand out to her. "My favorite is the little boy who said 'I had no books. You don't know what this means

to me'." Another child who was asked what was the best thing that happened to him this week and he said "I got a book from Look. It's My Book!" That's what Look. It's My Book! is all about".

Congratulations Janet and thank you for all you do for the Junior League of Peoria!

Connect with JLP

The Junior League of Peoria has always strived to use the latest technology to stay connected to both its members as well as the public. This year the Public Relations Committee has taken additional strides to keep us connected. The newest communication tool that the committee is most excited about is the completely revamped website. The new site offers easier navigation as well as richer content and enhanced graphics.

New additions to social media this year include the use of hashtags as well as the creation of both an Instagram and SnapChat account. Both of the new accounts saw the most engagement during *Frolic with the Fairies*. All of the social media accounts were used for sneak peeks of the event set-up as well as posts and pictures shared throughout the three day event. The League hopes to expand on the success and engagement with the public by using the accounts more frequently to share content from meetings, fundraising events and Done In a Day events. We invite you to connect with JLP!



WHO WE ARE
Since its founding in 1901 by social activist Mary Haninman, The Junior League has evolved into one of the oldest, largest and most effective women's volunteer organizations in the world, encompassing 150,000 women in 291 Leagues in four countries.

In Action
The Junior League of Peoria is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

Support
Over half of the Junior League of Peoria's operating budget, which supports our programs and training events, is funded by proceeds from our major fundraisers. We invite you to support the JLP by becoming a sponsor or attending any of our fundraisers.

Join
The Junior League of Peoria is a charitable nonprofit organization of women who sustainably improve their communities as a result of the civic leadership training they receive. Members obtain valuable skills and experiences that enable them to reach their potential as leaders in their communities.

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF PEORIA

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Junior League of Peoria
Frolic with the Fairies

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Call to Volunteer

*E*veryone needs volunteers, right?

Throughout the Peoria area, there are many outstanding organizations that need volunteers to contribute their time and talents. The Junior League of Peoria is no different when it comes to welcoming women who are committed to making a difference in our community.

So what are we doing to attract new volunteers?

There are very few organizations in Peoria that have the longevity and community impact like the Junior League of Peoria. Long recognized as one of the premier training organizations in the area, Junior League members donate thousands of hours each year to researching community needs and initiating projects or expanding current services.

In order to attract new members, a recruiting campaign is underway — to reach out to individuals, organizations, companies, and surrounding communities -- to position the Junior League of Peoria as an organization of choice and allow our League to continue building better communities.

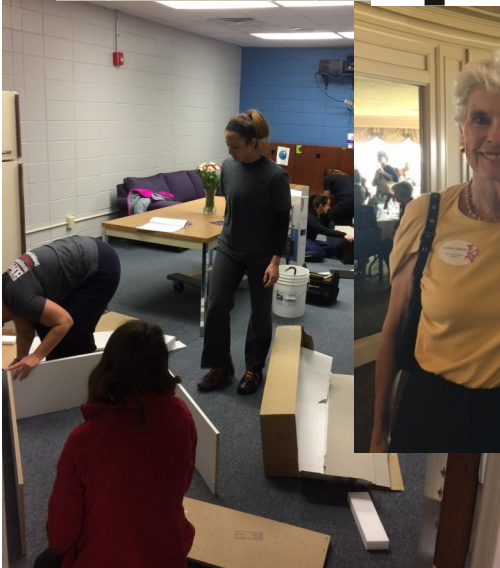
There are several ways Sustainer and Active members can help with recruitment:

- Invite a friend, neighbor, or colleague to an upcoming summer social.
- If your company has a communications/HR department that would be willing to share information about the Junior League of Peoria, please let the New Member Recruiting Co-Chairs, Holli Heinz or Nicole Roberts, know. We would be happy to provide information for distribution or be available for an on-site information session.
- If you know someone who is interested in becoming a member, please contact the New Member Recruiting Co-Chairs at JLP-Membership@gmail.com so they can be invited to participate in summer socials and the fall New Member class.

Recruiting is every member's responsibility. Your assistance is needed and appreciated so we can continue to attract and retain impactful women to join our League's efforts to build better communities.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF PEORIA





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