

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF COLUMBUS

# CLEARINGHOUSE



*Celebrating*  
**100**  
*Years*

# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This League year marks a pivotal time in our organization's history as we celebrate our Centennial anniversary. For one hundred years, we have been united in our mission to empower women and effect positive change in our community.

As we reflect on our past achievements, it is important to acknowledge the tireless efforts and sacrifices of the women who came before us. We owe it to them to continue their work and to honor the legacy on which our organization was built. We have the responsibility to continue making a difference in the lives of present and future generations of women, as well as the communities in which we serve.

Although there has been significant focus and celebration in our League's past, the JLC and its current members have also accomplished a great deal during this League year. I am honored to be in the position to personally express my gratitude for all of the good work our members have done and am so proud of their accomplishments. To all of the JLC's current members - New Members, Actives, and Sustainers - please know that your hard work and dedication is seen and appreciated.

As we will reach the conclusion of our Centennial celebrations in the Fall of this year, let us take a moment to reflect on our achievements, both past and present, and re-dedicate ourselves to the work ahead.



There is still much work to be done, but I am confident that our organization will continue to move our mission forward. Cheers to the next 100 years!

Best regards,

Jennifer Shea,  
2022-2023 President

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Junior League of Columbus is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

## VISION STATEMENT

The Junior League of Columbus is the community's leading resource for trained volunteers. Through our programs and the Kelton House Museum and Garden, we educate the community, preserve the past and build for the future of Columbus.

## 2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## MAKING A DIFFERENCE: NEW MEMBER BLANKET-MAKING EVENT WITH MY VERY OWN BLANKET

In a touching collaboration with My Very Own Blanket, the Junior League of Columbus (JLC) on March 5, 2023 hosted a quick impact project that left a lasting impression. New members, including Mandy Slack-Baker's daughter, Lucy gathered to craft 35 blankets for children in foster care.

Each blanket, adorned with a special message from the Blanket Angel, added a personal touch to the event. The room buzzed with positivity as members worked diligently, creating an atmosphere of camaraderie, laughter, and shared dedication.

The success of the event, marked by the completion of 35 blankets, highlighted the passion and commitment of our new members. Thank you to all participants for turning a simple blanket-making activity into a powerful expression of love and hope for those in need.

Through this collaboration with My Very Own Blanket, we continue to impact lives and build a stronger, more compassionate community—one stitch at a time.



## JLC'S GIRL SCOUT TEA & MANNERS EVENT: A DAY OF ELEGANCE AT KELTON HOUSE

The Junior League of Columbus (JLC) transformed the Kelton House Museum and Garden into an elegant atmosphere on March 4, 2023, for the Girl Scout Tea & Manners event. Two sessions provided young girls with a unique experience in etiquette and camaraderie against the timeless charm of the Kelton House.

The success of this enchanting day can be attributed to the dedication of our fabulous volunteers and the Kelton House staff. Their commitment ensured that each session was filled not just with lessons in manners but also with joy, laughter, and meaningful insights for the participating girls. The JLC expresses sincere gratitude to all involved for making the Girl Scout Tea & Manners event an undoubted success. In our ongoing commitment to shaping future leaders, the Junior League continues to provide meaningful experiences that transcend the ordinary, leaving an enduring impact on the hearts and minds of the young girls who are the leaders of tomorrow.



## UNVEILING WISDOM: MARCH GMM AT COLUMBUS CHILDREN'S THEATRE

The Junior League of Columbus (JLC) gathered for a special General Membership Meeting (GMM) at the Columbus Children's Theatre on March 14, 2023. The evening began with a historical overview of our connection with the theatre, followed by Artistic Director, Zac Delmonte's, updates on volunteering opportunities.

A dynamic sustainer panel featured accomplished women including; Diana (Yahle) Briggs, Beth Daly, Kara Newbury, Courtney Porter, and Mary Oellermann. They shared insights from their League journeys, inspiring members to reflect on their experiences and discover untapped potential. The panel celebrated diverse opportunities within the League, showcasing the transformative power of involvement, from community projects to leadership roles. The March GMM at Columbus Children's Theatre strengthened our community connection and left members inspired to carry forward the legacy of community impact and empowerment.



## JLC SPOTLIGHTED IN WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH NBC4

The Junior League of Columbus (JLC) took center stage on February 23, 2023 as Monica Day from NBC4 conducted an exclusive interview, shining a spotlight on the JLC's impactful contributions and Centennial celebration during Women's History Month. The interview focused on the JLC's remarkable journey over the past century and the ongoing exhibit at the historic Ohio Statehouse.

Representing the JLC in this significant interview were sustainer Mabel Freeman, President Jennifer Runtas Shea, and Executive Vice President Nicole Bergman. These dedicated women eloquently shared the organization's rich history, its mission, and the compelling story behind the Centennial exhibit at the Ohio Statehouse.

The Women's History Month special provided a platform to highlight the JLC's commitment to empowering women and its extensive community impact throughout the past 100 years. It served as a testament to the dedication and resilience of the JLC members in making a lasting difference in the Columbus community.

The JLC extends heartfelt gratitude to Monica Day and NBC4 for recognizing and showcasing the organization's profound influence, and special thanks to Mabel Freeman, Jennifer Runtas Shea, and Nicole Bergman for representing the JLC with grace and passion in this insightful interview. This recognition underscores the JLC's ongoing commitment to women's empowerment and its vital role in shaping the history of Columbus.



## JLC'S QUICK IMPACT: VOLUNTEERING FOR A CAUSE

The Junior League of Columbus (JLC) continues to make a quick and meaningful impact in the community, with recent volunteering initiatives showcasing their dedication to service.

On March 13, 2023, JLC members teamed up with Fairy Goodmothers to assist in their mission of providing dresses to high schoolers. The JLC's support helped ensure a successful first boutique day, with 450 dresses finding their way into the hands of excited teenagers. This collaboration reflects the JLC's commitment to empowering and uplifting youth in the Columbus area.

Another noteworthy event took place on April 15, 2023, where JLC members dedicated their time to Franklin County Children's Services (FCCS). The volunteers joined students on a field trip to COSI, turning it into an enriching experience. Thanks to the Bridging the G.A.P.'s Project Provide, a delightful Panera lunch was provided for everyone, creating a positive and enjoyable atmosphere. The JLC's involvement not only supported FCCS but also created memorable moments for the students.

A special thanks to all the JLC volunteers who contributed their time and energy to these impactful events. These initiatives exemplify the JLC's ongoing commitment to fostering positive change in the Columbus community.



## BRIDGING IMPACT: WRAPPING UP THE LEAGUE YEAR WITH PURPOSEFUL INSIGHTS

The Junior League of Columbus (JLC) concluded its impactful league year with a dynamic General Membership Meeting (GMM) on April 4, 2023.

The meeting began with a nostalgic journey through the league's historical ties with the Greater Columbus Arts Council, highlighting the enduring commitment to the arts within our community.

The focal point of the GMM was a trauma-informed care training session led by Chuck Cochrane from Franklin County Children's Services (FCCS), a valued JLC community partner. Chuck's expertise equipped members with the knowledge to qualify as volunteers for in-person FCCS events, focusing on building and sustaining relationships with young individuals who have experienced trauma.

This final GMM encapsulated the league's dedication to education, community impact, and growth. As members carry the insights gained into the next league year, the Junior League of Columbus remains committed to making a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.



## NICOLE BERGMAN APPOINTED VICE PRESIDENT OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS AT AJLI

In an announcement that has filled the Junior League community with pride, we are thrilled to share the incredible news that Nicole Bergman, a distinguished member of our League, has ascended to the role of Vice President of Marketing & Communications for the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI)!

As of March 26, 2023, Nicole Bergman's remarkable dedication and over 15+ years of marketing expertise have earned her this prestigious position within AJLI. Her journey from the Junior League of Columbus to a key leadership role at the international level is not only a testament to her exceptional skills but also a source of inspiration for our entire League.

This appointment is an extraordinary accomplishment and is undeniably well-deserved. Nicole's passion for our mission, coupled with her unwavering commitment to empowering women and communities, has set a shining example. As she assumes this vital role at AJLI, we have no doubt that Nicole will continue to make a significant impact, furthering the mission of the Junior League on a global scale.

The Junior League of Columbus extends warmest congratulations to Nicole Bergman on this outstanding achievement. Witnessing one of our own assume a pivotal role within AJLI fills us with immense pride, and we eagerly anticipate the continued success and influence she will bring to the broader world of Junior Leagues. Here's to Nicole and the remarkable journey ahead – a testament to the enduring legacy of the Junior League.



## PAST PRESIDENTS LUNCHEON: A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

The Junior League of Columbus (JLC) recently hosted the Past Presidents Luncheon on May 3, 2023, a heartfelt gathering that brought together 19 past presidents alongside current president Jennifer Shea. The event, impeccably organized by Christin Parsons Smith, celebrated the enduring legacy and significant contributions of these inspirational women.

In a nostalgic reunion, past presidents and current leaders shared stories, fostering a sense of camaraderie and highlighting the impactful journey each leader has had in shaping the JLC. The luncheon served as a powerful reminder of the organization's rich history and the continued commitment of its leaders to the mission and values of the Junior League of Columbus.



## BRIDGING DREAMS: JLC ADVOCATED FOR FOSTER-TO-COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP ACT

In honor of National Foster Care Month, the Junior League of Columbus (JLC) wrapped up its 'Fostering Change by Bridging the G.A.P.' campaign in May. The focus was on sharing actionable ways to support Ohio's youth and make a positive impact in the local community.

During the campaign, a significant finding emerged: students with a clear path to pay for college are more likely to aspire to attend. Studies from Texas revealed that students benefiting from the state's policy of waiving tuition and fees for those with foster care experience were 3.5 times more likely to graduate with a postsecondary education degree.

Aligned with the commitment to empower Ohio's youth, the JLC encouraged community participation in endorsing the Foster-to-College Scholarship Act, a proposed amendment to House Bill 33. This legislation recognizes the crucial role in aiding students with foster care experience to reach their full potential. Tekisha Boone, a member, testified on behalf of House Bill 33, advocating for the rights and future of these deserving youth.

Enacting this legislation became a collective goal, promising a brighter future for students with foster care experience by ensuring the full cost of attendance to any college in the state. Scholarships not only increase aspirations for higher education but also contribute to achieving financial stability earlier in life. As we reflect on National Foster Care Month, the JLC celebrates the success of united efforts in fostering change and bridging the gap for Ohio's youth, making a lasting impact on their lives.



## CELEBRATING CENTENNIAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND GRATITUDE IN THE CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

As the Junior League of Columbus (JLC) continues to commemorate its Centennial Anniversary, a special acknowledgment goes out to Beth De Lucia Daly for her instrumental role in securing a generous \$10,000 gift from Battelle for our Centennial campaign. This substantial contribution adds to the momentum of our fundraising efforts, bringing us closer to achieving the campaign's ambitious goals.

The significance of the Battelle connection holds a deep historical resonance within the Junior League of Columbus. Mrs. Annie Maude Norton Battelle, one of the women instrumental in forming the first set of JLC members in 1923, played a pivotal role. A suffragette and philanthropist, Mrs. Battelle passionately advocated for women's suffrage, leaving an indelible mark on the League's early years.

While the exact extent of Mrs. Battelle's contributions to the Junior League of Columbus remains somewhat elusive due to sparse historical documentation, her honorary founding membership status and inclusion as a "founder" on the first invitations to potential members indicate her significant role. It is reasonable to assume that she was intricately involved in shaping the League's initial programs and projects.

As the Centennial Campaign progresses, the JLC reflects on its rich history, celebrating the legacy of women like Mrs. Annie Maude Norton Battelle and the continued dedication of members like Beth De Lucia Daly, whose efforts contribute to the league's ongoing mission of community impact and empowerment.

# BATTELLE



Annie Maude Norton Battelle (1865 - 1925)

# JLC TRIUMPHS AT AJLI ANNUAL CONFERENCE WITH DOUBLE AWARD HONORS

The Junior League of Columbus (JLC) emerged as a standout at this year's Association of Junior League International (AJLI) Annual Conference in Indianapolis from May 11-13, 2023, garnering well-deserved recognition for our Centennial year and clinching two prestigious AJLI Awards. Among the distinguished attendees were JLC members Jennifer Shea, Nicole Bergman, Rochelle Toth, Chauna Mason, Kristina Ellis, and Mandy Slack-Baker.

In a dual celebration of our Centennial, the JLC proudly accepted the Public Policy and Advocacy Award, spotlighting our impactful work with the Underground Railroad Learning Station and dedicated advocacy towards House Bill 340. This acknowledgment underlines the League's commitment to engaging in public policy and championing causes that make a meaningful difference.

Adding to the jubilation, the JLC was honored with the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Award, recognizing the League's sustained efforts over the past three years. A pivotal moment in this journey was the League's collaboration with Black Girls Rising, Inc., notably organizing the Love Letters to Black Girls events. These achievements not only serve as a testament to the league's dedication but also come with a well-deserved monetary award, enhancing resources for future impactful initiatives.

As we reflect on these accolades, the JLC remains steadfast in its commitment to making a positive and lasting impact on the communities it serves. The recognition at the AJLI Annual Conference stands as a testament to the League's ongoing dedication to excellence in public service and advocacy as well as DEIB efforts. Cheers JLC Members!



## VICTORIAN GARDEN PARTY

On June 2, 2023, the Kelton House Museum and Garden hosted its annual Victorian Garden Party, a flagship fundraising event that surpassed expectations by raising over \$9,000. Themed "A Victorian Garden Party," the evening transported attendees to an era of elegance, celebrating the Gardens' timeless beauty and rich history. This remarkable outcome not only marked a significant contribution to the Kelton House Mission but also echoed the community's dedication to supporting historical education and preserving decorative arts in Central Ohio.

The success of the Victorian Garden Party underscores the vital role the Kelton House plays in historical preservation and education. Attendees reveled in the enchanting atmosphere, and their generous contributions serve as a resounding endorsement of the Kelton House's cultural significance. The Kelton House Museum and Garden extends heartfelt gratitude to all participants, sponsors, volunteers, and event leads Kayla Shawver & Amber Wozniack, ensuring that the legacy of the Kelton House continues to thrive for generations to come.



# JLC MEMBERS CELEBRATE FOSTER CARE GRADUATES WITH PROJECT PROVIDE INITIATIVE

In a heartwarming display of support and commitment, members of the Junior League of Columbus (JLC) dedicated Wednesday, June 12, 2023 to celebrating high school graduates transitioning out of the foster care system. The FCCS Graduation party served as a poignant milestone for both the graduates and JLC members who had spent the year dedicated to the impactful "Bridging the G.A.P." initiative.

As part of the JLC's broader Project Provide initiative, 60 suitcases brimming with essential supplies were procured to offer practical assistance to these deserving youth. The culmination of the year-long dedication was witnessed as the graduates personally selected their suitcases, a moment that radiated joy and gratitude.

The JLC expresses heartfelt appreciation to its community partner, Franklin County Children's Services (FCCS), for providing the platform to make a meaningful impact in the lives of these young individuals. Special thanks go to Ann Toews, Community Impact Council Vice President, and her Community Impact team for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to ensuring the success of this initiative.

The collaborative effort between JLC members and FCCS exemplifies the power of community partnerships and the positive change that can be achieved when organizations come together for a shared mission.

Through initiatives like Project Provide, the Junior League of Columbus continues to exemplify its commitment to advocacy, guidance, and support for those in need within the community. The FCCS Graduation party serves as a testament to the impact that dedicated individuals can make in the lives of foster care graduates as they embark on their new journeys.



# A GRAND FINALE: JUNIOR LEAGUE OF COLUMBUS WRAPS UP CENTENNIAL YEAR WITH ANNUAL DINNER CELEBRATION

The evening of June 13, 2023, marked a triumphant conclusion to the Junior League of Columbus' Centennial year, as members gathered for the Annual Dinner Celebration to recognize exceptional achievements, welcome new members, and honor the commitment of sustaining members.

The spotlight shone brightly on remarkable individuals whose dedication and contributions defined the League's success over the past year. Heartfelt congratulations are extended to our esteemed award winners:

- Community Award Winner: Kim Eckhart
- Outstanding New Member: Virginia Reutzel
- Team Player: Marci Leveillee
- Rising Stars: Ann Toews and Katie Persico
- Presidents' Award Recipients: Kristina Ellis and Devin Henry

We extend our sincere appreciation to our sustaining members who have demonstrated unwavering commitment to the League's mission: Sarah Kern, Jessica Loborec, Christin Smith, and Allie Starbuck.

A warm welcome is extended to our new active member class, whose enthusiasm and dedication promise to enrich the League's future endeavors: Aliyah Starnes, Brianne Jones, Deyanira Medina, Ellie Thien, Erin Valentine, Kathleen Morris, Kimberly Koehler, Kristina Laughman, Lakshmi Dasari, Lynette Campbell, Makayla Plants, Maria Bell, Maria Sison, Megan Tarkey, Myna Rai, Olivia Cotton, Rebecca Kemper, Stephanie Jackson, Virginia Reutzel, and Yashauna Wallace.

As we conclude this historic Centennial year, the Junior League of Columbus expresses profound gratitude to every member who contributed to the League's success. The Annual Dinner Celebration served not only as a recognition of individual achievements but also as a collective celebration of the enduring impact the League has made on the community over the past century. Here's to another century of excellence and community service!



# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF COLUMBUS HONORED BY COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL FOR CENTENNIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

In a momentous recognition of the Junior League of Columbus' century-long commitment to community service, Columbus City Council bestowed a Resolution of Expression upon the JLC during their meeting on Monday, June 5, 2023. Sponsored by Council Member Emmanuel Remy, the resolution acknowledges the JLC's profound impact and contributions to the residents of Columbus, Ohio.

With over 400 dedicated members, the JLC has been a beacon of service, training volunteers to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. The organization's focus extends beyond traditional community service, with a dedicated emphasis on guiding, advocating, and providing support for Ohio youth transitioning out of foster care.

During the council meeting, President Jennifer Shea and JLC members had the distinct honor of receiving the Resolution in person, offering them the opportunity to make a few short remarks about the organization's rich history and ongoing commitment to community betterment. Council Member Emmanuel Remy expressed his gratitude, stating, "Thank you to President Shea and your members for your outstanding contributions and service to the residents of Columbus, Ohio."

This acknowledgment from Columbus City Council stands as a testament to the Junior League of Columbus' enduring dedication to creating positive change in the community and underscores the organization's vital role in shaping the city's future. The JLC remains steadfast in its commitment to service and looks forward to continuing its mission for generations to come.



# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

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KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR THE WINTER CLEARINGHOUSE THAT WILL COVER AUGUST 2023 AND BEYOND



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Junior League of Columbus

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