

Annual Report Women Building Better Communities





Our Mission

The Junior League of Chicago, Inc. is a metropolitan organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. The Junior League of Chicago, Inc. reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and a commitment to voluntarism.

Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc (AJLI) AJLI Mission

The Association of Junior Leagues International Inc., is an organization of women, committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

AJLI Vision

Through the power of our association, Junior Leagues strengthen communities by embracing diverse perspectives, building partnerships, and inspiring shared solutions.

AJLI Reach Out

The Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. reaches out to women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism. .*

Dear Members and Friends



he Junior League of Chicago (JLC) completed its 97th year of service to metropolitan Chicago during this past year. 2008-2009 was a time of tremendous economic upheaval, and the positive impact of the JLC was never more important and needed. Our 1,500 members continued to serve this city as accomplished collaborators who build coalitions, identify community needs and develop effective and responsive programs to serve at-risk families.

As in every year of our 97 year history, we continued to serve our mission – to promote voluntarism, develop the potential of women and

improve the community through the effective action of our trained volunteers. In 2008-2009 we continued our commitment to improve our community through our focus area: to improve the overall health and wellness of families in some of Chicago's underserved neighborhoods. This focus area adds a key component to our community service portfolio that also includes projects that address some of our city's toughest issues – homelessness, teen pregnancy, maternal addiction and early childhood literacy.

Each year, we raise money for these community programs, which focus on at risk families, especially women and girls, through mentoring, advocacy and education. Net proceeds raised by special events and donor contributions allow the JLC to serve its mission. The money fundraised in this year truly represented an investment in our community. Our members impacted the lives of over 6,000 women and children and provided over 200,000 volunteer hours. For every dollar spent, we increased the value of that dollar through the work of our unpaid trained volunteers.

The JLC is tremendously grateful to so many for our continued success: our outstanding staff who work tirelessly to ensure the success of our volunteer efforts, our community agency partners who continue to innovate with us to push the envelope of positive impact, our community advisory council who provides insight and guidance and our donors and sponsors whose generosity allows the JLC to serve its mission. I would like to thank our Executive Vice President for 2008-2009, Beth Kost, for her amazing leadership of the JLC's operations, our Board of Directors and Management Committee for their leadership and all 1,500 of our members who bring an unmatched commitment to community service. To close, I would like to share a quote by Margaret Mead that embodies the spirit of the JLC, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." *

All my best,

Laura anderson

Laura Anderson, President 2008-2010



Our Values

Commitment to the Community

JLC is passionate about the causes we support. Our commitment includes advocacy, development, collaboration, and service.

Mad Hatters volunteers perform skits and read stories to promote literacy to children.

Community Council

C.A.R.E.

C.A.R.E. stands for Creative Avenues Raise Esteem. The members of Project C.A.R.E. work together with the Maryville Teen Parenting Center. The Teen Parenting Center is a permanent residence for teen mothers and their children. The teen moms are wards of the state and may have been abused, neglected or exploited. This past year, C.A.R.E. members met every Wednesday evening to provide services aimed at raising self-esteem, independence, and parenting and interactive skills. C.A.R.E. members were required to attend three evening events and be a Project Leader one evening each quarter. Some of these projects included crafts, life skills, and packing sack lunches for the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. C.A.R.E. members also participated in the Any Soldier Project during December and January. The members collected items to be sent to soldiers stationed overseas. The members and teen moms packed up the boxes and included personalized notes. In September, the teen moms hosted an orientation BBQ for all the C.A.R.E. members to kick off the new JLC year.

CON:CERN

In its 13th year, the JLC project volunteers partnered with three agencies: Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition, Reach the World, and Cancer Wellness Center (CWC). Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition is dedicated to promoting and improving the health of women and children by advocacy, education, community empowerment and policy development. Our partnership resulted in a new marketing campaign and branding for the agency. Reach the World is an educational non-profit organization founded in New York City which exposes public school students to other cultures by tracking different teams as they explore the world. The New York based agency started the Reach the World program in Chicago and in conjunction with Project CON: CERN, they were able to develop a Chicago board. CWC provides supportive services and health information to cancer patients and their families. CWC leveraged our partnership to create new marketing materials and techniques for a cost efficient marketing campaign. Additionally, CON: CERN hosted two free breakfast networking forums which focused on strategic planning in a difficult economy and featured experienced board members and non-profit leaders. Each event drew between 60 and 75 Chicago area non-profit professionals and volunteers.

Connecting Kids to the Arts

Trauma is often stored in images, making art therapy a useful tool to facilitate communication where there is a reluctance or difficulty with that expression. That's where Junior League of Chicago's Connecting Kids to the Arts program comes into play. This program gives children struggling with illness or difficult family circumstances a safe outlet of expression and healing through mentorship and exposure to the Arts. It also aids child development, raises self-esteem and allows for an expression of feelings at a time of significant transition. This program is conducted through partnerships with four established and reputable Chicago medical institutions and shelters: The Rehabilitation Hospital of Chicago, Kohl's House, Ronald McDonald House, and Mary Lou's Place in Evanston.

DIAD

Done in a Day (DIAD) provided volunteer support in quick response to the short-term, immediate needs of local nonprofit agencies – projects that could be accomplished in one day. During the 2008-2009 year, DIAD volunteers helped with food drives, charitable road races and meals at homeless



Kids in the Kitchen participants making some healthy snacks.

shelters to name a few areas of assistance. Agencies served included Open Books, Common Pantry, Ronald McDonald House, Asian Youth Services, Gilda's Club and Bear Necessities.

Homework Heroes

JLC volunteers assigned to the Logan Square-based project helped young girls, between first and eighth grade, with their educational development. The volunteers met with the girls once a week to help them with their homework and lead educational activities that enhanced the girls' interpersonal and social skills.

Journey to Independent Living

Journey to Independent Living (JTIL) is a mentoring program that supports women who live in a semi-permanent homeless shelter and are trying to get back on their feet. The members of Journey are each assigned a mentee that they partner with throughout the placement period to provide support and access to resources. In addition, JLC members arranged for expert speakers to come to the shelter and discuss topics to help the women enrich their lives and become independent. The goal is to provide knowledge and services needed to help these women succeed and transition into permanent housing.

Kids in the Kitchen

This project is a national Junior League initiative to empower youth to make healthy lifestyle choices and help reverse the growth of childhood obesity and its associated health issues. During 2008-2009, the JLC hosted its fourth annual Kids in the Kitchen event at Kendall College. JLC volunteers led a team-structured nutrition activity to help the kids become more familiar with food groups. The program continued with a fitness session of hip hop dance and yoga led by trainers from Bally's. The event ended with a hands-on cooking demonstration to teach the kids and their caregivers how to make quick, healthy snacks at home. The demo was led by Chef Dina Altieri and several culinary students from Kendall College. The children and their caregivers left the event with more information and new tools to live a healthy lifestyle.

Our Values Mentoring

JLC members share their experiences and expertise with one another, and those we work with and serve.

JLC volunteers helped children celebrate Halloween in a free, safe and family-friendly environment at the annual Lincoln Park Spooky Zoo Spectacular.



Community Council continued

Mad Hatters Children's Theater Project

Through this program, JLC volunteers (organized into small troupes) visited schools and libraries in underserved communities to promote reading to at-risk and low-income Chicago children ages 3 to 9. These troupes performed songs, skits and poems to encourage each child in the audience to expand his/her mind through reading and to get familiar with the local library. This story time also engaged parents with the intent to increase their child's reading level and foster a lifelong love of learning. Approximately 20 JLC volunteers delivered 50 *Mad Hatters* performances to a total of 800 children and families in neighborhoods primarily on the south and west sides of Chicago, including Beverly, Chinatown and Garfield Ridge. Performances were also conducted at public events including Lincoln Park Spooky Zoo Spectacular and Winnetka Pumpkin Fest.

Next Step for Teen Moms

A former signature project of the Junior League, this was the year Next Step for Teen Moms transitioned back to the community. This JLC project worked closely with teen moms as they considered their next step after high school. This year, JLC volunteers implemented the specific curriculum that had been developed to address the individual needs of each teen. Working one-on-one with a different mentor, the teen determined which lesson plan was best suited for her at that given time. Topics included goal setting, scholarship searches, essay writing, college selection, financial aid, and a celebration of black history and heritage.

PRIMO

In its second year, JLC volunteers developed and presented monthly workshops to the women at the Primo Center for Women and Children, a transitional shelter for homeless women and their children. The workshops were geared towards educating women on job search skills including resume writing and interviewing, household management and healthy lifestyles.

Teen Exodus

JLC volunteers provided a mentoring relationship with teen girls from Chicago Youth Program (CYP). CYP works with teens in the Cabrini Green, Washington Park, and Uptown neighborhoods. Through this program, at-risk teens who maintain a B-level grade point average or better are given college scholarships. JLC volunteers planned and attended Saturday events with the teens geared toward promoting self-esteem, encouraging higher education, self awareness, and prevention of teen pregnancy, substance abuse and gang activity. Studies show that 95% of Teen Exodus participants graduate from high school compared to 51% of Cabrini Green residents.

Woman to Woman - Northern Suburbs

Woman to Woman – Northern Suburbs (WTW) community project, located at the Lake County Women's Rehabilitation Center in Vernon Hills, connected JLC volunteers with women in different stages of substance abuse rehab to help them change their lives and make a fresh start. Volunteers led the women through activities such as art projects, exercise

and life skills training sessions to further enrich their lives. Together they also reviewed the GED/College/Certificate application process and Financial Aid programs. Programming was also provided for the children of these women to help the entire family plan for their new future.

Woman to Woman - The Women's Treatment Center

Woman to Woman – The Women's Treatment Center (WTW-TWTC) project worked with clients in the Recovery Unit and at the Recovery Home of The Women's Treatment Center (TWTC) located in West Town. JLC volunteers planned and conducted bi-weekly events to develop the mothers' job/life skills and to enhance the mother/child relationship. This year, the JLC coordinated Saturday events, including a trip to the Sears Tower, the Children's Museum and an on-site Funk Dance Class. The JLC also tutored 15-20 children through the PACT (Parents and Children Together) program at TWTC. In total, this project provided education for 32 women and 45 children on healthy lifestyles, basic life skills and the importance of quality childcare.

Health Train

This was the first season Health Train joined the Junior League of Chicago's Community Council. The goal of this project was to promote healthy and active lifestyles to children throughout the Chicago metropolitan area. During the year, volunteers traveled the city of Chicago and western suburbs to host health fair events geared towards children ages 6 to 10. JLC volunteers operated a 5-step program created by the Consortium to Lower Childhood Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC). The 5,4,3,2,1 Go! program focused on healthy eating and exercise. Kids and parents learned about the following concepts: five servings of fruits and veggies, four servings of water, three servings of low-fat dairy, two hours or less of screen time, and one hour or more of physical activity a day. This inaugural year, the JLC volunteers organized and participated in 10 events, which reached 432 members of the community.

Girls Get Gourmet

Girls Get Gourmet was introduced as a new community project. With great enthusiasm, Girls Get Gourmet partnered with Girls in the Game, a non-profit organization that promotes sports and fitness opportunities, nutrition and health education, and leadership development to enhance the overall health and well-being of girls. This year Girls Get Gourmet taught Girls in the Game participants and their caregivers healthy cooking tips through a monthly workshop. On average, each workshop involved 15 JLC volunteers and 20 Girls Get Gourmet participants. In the workshops, girls ranged in age from 7 to 16 years old. Both the girls and their caregivers participated in hands-on preparation, with recipes ranging from easy nobake snacks to hearty dinners. Meanwhile, participants were given healthy lifestyle tips and resources for shopping and cooking. Many workshops also incorporated training in yoga, sports, and stretching. Because both young girls and their caregivers were reached, the impact was that much greater. And since living a healthy lifestyle starts in the home, the chances of practicing what was learned from Girls Get Gourmet was significantly increased. It was a very successful pilot year. ❖



Our Values

Respect for Individuals

JLC members treat each other, those with whom we work, and those we serve, with respect and dignity.

JLC President Laura Anderson, Lauren Strzepek (IL Young Voters Director for Obama/Biden Campaign), Caitlin Naidoff (staff member for IL Young Voters for Obama/Biden Campaign) and Caroline Beaird (JLC Advocacy Council) at the Meet the Candidates reception.

Financial Statements

Por the fiscal year ending May 31, 2009, the financial statements show an overall decrease in net assets of \$85,805, primarily due to lower revenues from special events, cookbook sales and fundraising contributions. Lower revenues in fiscal 2009 were offset to the extent possible with expense containment with an overall savings of 4.5%. The Community Project Development Fund (CPDF) had realized and unrealized losses of \$126,171 while the Headquarters Capital Fund remained flat for the year. We ended the year with an operating surplus of \$17,661, driven primarily by overall cost management. Net cash provided by operating activities totaled \$113,341 for fiscal 2009, demonstrating our

ability to navigate the organization through trying economic times. We continue to increase our value to the community and as a result of the excellent and dedicated effort of members and staff, we achieved solid financial results. We are proud to have provided sizable financial support for our community projects and volunteer training initiatives during fiscal 2009 while still remaining strong, closing the fiscal year with more than \$1.47 million in cash, reserves and investments. ❖

Amy Baker Hoffman 2008-2009 Treasurer

Condensed Statement of Financia May 31, 2009	al Position	
Assets		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$834,372	
Accounts receivable (net)	3,719	
Inventories	80,520	
Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	21,504	
Total current assets	940,115	
Investments	638,766	
Property and equipment (net)	184,003	
Total Assets	\$1,762,884	
Liabilities and Net Assets Current Liabilities:		
Allocations to community programs	\$6,000	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	6,226	
Deferred dues income (members)	239,479	
Total Current Liabilities	\$251,705	
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted:		
Board Designated:		
Operating Reserve	\$400,000	
Community Project Development Fund	649,847	
Headquarters Capital Fund	103,072	
Undesignated	333,375	
Temporarily Restricted	4,885	
Permanently Restricted	20,000	
Total Net Assets	\$1,511,179	
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1 762 884	

Condensed Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets (Revenue, Expenses, and Fund Balances) Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 2009	
Revenue	
Dues	\$317,019
Associate course and other fees	16,270
Special events	364,333
Cookbook sales	30,392
Contributions	119,501
Interest income	16,330
Realized and unrealized gains/losses on investments	(126,171)
Advertising Income	2,065
Other	43,154
Total Revenue	\$782,893
Expenses	
Program services	\$601,038
Supporting services	267,660
Dues to the Association of Junior Leagues International I	nc. 58,125
Total Expenses	\$926,823
Change in Net Assets	(\$85,805)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$1,596,984
End of Year	\$1,511,179

Financial data was extracted from our financial statements, audited by Legacy Professionals LLP, which are available upon request from the Junior League of Chicago, Inc., 1447 North Astor Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610, phone: 312-664-4462, fax: 312-664-1963.

Our Values
Thoughtful Risk Taking

JLC provides training and a safe environment for responsible and thoughtful risk-taking.

Members and Associates attend a training session at JLC Headquarters.



2008-2009 Leadership



Clockwise. Front Row: Audalee McLoughlin, Michelle Miller Burns, Kristen Pettit Grube. Second Row: Ellen Baker Jurewicz, Trina Portillo, Beth McDowell. Back Row: Melissa Engram, Ann Brinkman.

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Outstanding Sustainer Award Julie Mann

Torch Award

Individual — Heidi Thornton Team Effort — Caroline Beaird

and Adrienne Chan

Annual Report Team

Katie Demetriou, Robin Fisher, Jessica Ebersberger, Kelly Arata and Elisabeth Wagener



Our Values Camaraderie

JLC is an organization where members enjoy their experience, developing personally and professionally.

JLC members and friends mingle at the Annual Wine Tasting held in April during National Volunteer Week.

2008-2009 Corporate and Event Sponsors

Junior League of Chicago would like to thank the individuals and corporations who contributed to our 2008-2009 fundraising efforts.

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Zunker Games

Our Values
Welcoming

JLC welcomes all women who wish to serve the community, embracing their ideas, differences, and contributions.

JLC members who volunteer for the Kids in the Kitchen community project.



2008-2009 Annual Fund Donors

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River City Foundation

\$1500+

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