Dear Members and Friends,

During this time of economic uncertainty, the role the Junior League of Chicago (JLC) plays in serving at-risk families is even more important. Each day the women of our organization selflessly give of their time to positively impact the lives of the people we touch through our outstanding community work. In this year’s Annual Report, you will have a chance to read a few of the highlights of our project work and see for yourself the impact we are making.

The organization continued our efforts this past year to connect individuals to the mission of the organization, embrace the fun and value of voluntarism, and impact the community through our volunteer efforts and community leadership. We accomplished a lot, but here are some highlights from the 2007-2008 year:

» We expanded our community programming, education, and advocacy efforts to include a focus on healthy lifestyles.
» We introduced a two class Associate Course structure. This new structure allowed us to welcome our largest associate class in 5 years, with more than 300 individuals joining the organization as Associates.
» We expanded our internal training program to better equip our volunteers with the skills to be effective community leaders.
» We exceeded our overall fundraising targets by 20%, with the Annual Fund and A Family Affair setting records in the amounts raised.
» We held our 3rd Annual Kids in the Kitchen, with the event fully underwritten thanks to the generosity of UnitedHealthcare.
» We concluded our 95th Anniversary celebration with our Sustainer members hosting an Afternoon Tea fundraiser at the Signature Room on the 95th floor of the John Hancock Building.
» We transitioned two projects back to the community, Stanton Park and Partners Educating Parents (PEP), and introduced two new projects, Girls Get Gourmet and Health Train, for a total of 14 projects.
» We added new revenue streams through the online sale of logo wear and the launch of the AJLI virtual mall. Additionally, our Associate members organized a clothing drive and sale.
» We implemented new processes and procedures to help increase the profitability of our events.
» We expanded the JLC brand awareness through an increase in print and television coverage, as well as participation in non-profit volunteer fairs.
» We produced a new informational brochure to distribute at events, new member informational sessions, and donor/sponsor meetings.
» We launched a new cookbook, Peeling the Wild Onion, and exceeded our first year sales targets.
» We enhanced our internal website in an effort to continually improve and expand this resource for our members.
» We won the AJLI Membership Development Award, which recognized the JLC for the outstanding development and effective execution of our Communications Plan.

I am proud to announce that on top of all these great accomplishments, we once again ended the year with a surplus in our operating fund. This surplus was a result of the effective execution of our fundraising events and campaigns, careful expense management by our members and staff, and savings during the time we were not fully staffed. Per our Financial Policies, the surplus repaid the money borrowed from our Operating Reserve to cover the cost of the production of our new cookbook, Peeling the Wild Onion. The amount of the surplus allowed us to fully prepay the 2008-2009 repayment amount, and enabled us to pass a balanced budget for 2008-2009 without reducing the operating budget.

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.

Our Vision
The Junior League of Chicago will be a preeminent and innovative organization of trained volunteers empowering diverse and dynamic women serving as catalysts to improve life in metropolitan Chicago through community partnerships.

Our Focus
The Junior League of Chicago empowers at-risk families, especially women and girls, through mentoring, advocacy, and education.

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 Reaching 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.

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

Kids in the Kitchen participants make healthy granola bars.
A sincere thank you is extended to our members and donors who continue to make it possible for us to achieve our mission. It is through your support that we can continue to make a difference in building better communities throughout Chicago.

Also, thank you to the 2007-2008 Board of Directors and Management Committee for their outstanding leadership in moving the organization ahead on so many key initiatives. I especially want to thank Julie Mann for the forward-thinking leadership and management she provided in her role as Executive Vice President.

During my term as President, I was able to experience the organization in a new and exciting way. I was able to witness daily the great accomplishments of our 1,500 volunteers, the impact we make on the lives of thousands of people in Chicago, and the ways we continue to drive change in our community. Thank you for this opportunity and the pleasure to serve you as the 2006-2008 JLC President. I look forward to continuing to support the Junior League mission as our great work in the community grows.

Fondly,

Michelle D. Kerr
JLC President, 2006-2008

Community Council

CARE:

JLC volunteers meet with teen moms residing at the Maryville Teen Parenting Center weekly to work on community projects. This project is aimed to raise self-esteem, teach parenting skills, and help these women become independent and self-supporting moms. Community projects include packing lunches for the Lincoln Park Community Shelter and the Any Soldier Project.

CON:CERN:

In its 11th year, the JLC volunteers of this project partnered with three agencies: A Safe Place, La Casa Norte, and New Moms, Inc. A Safe Place, servicing victims of domestic abuse, utilized the partnership to create a comprehensive marketing plan. La Casa Norte engineered a volunteer management program to coordinate its efforts to provide safety, education, and counseling to the homeless. Finally, New Moms, Inc. furthered its support of adolescent teen parents by producing a board development training program. Additionally, CON:CERN hosted two Breakfast Networking Forums focusing on board development, featuring experienced board members and non-profit leaders as speakers and panelists. Each event drew between 60 and 75 Chicago area non-profit professionals and volunteers.

Connecting Kids to the Arts:

JLC volunteers focus on creative development with children in local hospitals and shelters. Through arts and crafts projects, children are learning self-expression and raising their self-esteem. This past year, the JLC partnered with The Rehabilitation Hospital of Chicago, Kohl’s House, Ronald McDonald House, Mary Lou’s Place, and Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, serving approximately 50 children each month.

Done-In-A-Day (DIAD):

This project provides concentrated, one-day volunteer projects that address immediate community needs. During the 2007-2008 year, JLC volunteers participated in nearly 30 one-day community projects. Some of the agencies DIAD worked with included Open Books, Common Pantry, Ronald McDonald House, Asian Youth Services, Gilda’s Club and Bear Necessities.

Homework Heroes:

JLC volunteers assigned to this Logan Square-based project help young girls (between third and eighth grade) with their educational development. The volunteers meet with the girls once a week to help them with their homework and lead educational activities that also enhance the girls’ interpersonal and social skills.

Journey to Independent Living:

Through this project, JLC volunteers support the women of Chicago Christian Industrial League, a semi-permanent homeless shelter. Each JLC volunteer is assigned to a resident of the shelter and provides support to these women who are trying to get back on their feet. Additionally, the JLC brings in speakers relating to parenting, financial management, job search, and health. The JLC also hosts a holiday party and end of the year outing for the women and their children.

Our Values

Mentoring

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

Board Member, Laura Anderson, and Homework Heroes Chair, Sanders Lowery, discuss leadership in the League.
Kids in the Kitchen:  
This project is a national Junior League initiative to combat childhood obesity. In April, the JLC hosted its third annual Kids in the Kitchen event at Macy's Culinary Studio. Megan Aronson, a Clinical Dietitian with Chicago's La Rabida Children's Hospital, provided nutritional information, and the Macy's Culinary Studio chefs provided a hands-on cooking demonstration. The event closed with exercise activities taught by trainers Jennifer Smith and Brian Huffman from Lakeshore Athletic Club.

Mad Hatters Children's Theater Project:  
For the JLC Year 2007-2008, Mad Hatters volunteers promoted literacy to more than 800 children at 35 libraries, schools and hospitals located in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. Volunteers also made appearances at other JLC programs such as the Woman-to-Woman – The Women's Treatment Center, Homework Heroes, Woman-to-Woman – North Suburban, and Connecting Kids to the Arts. Performances were also conducted at community venues including the Lincoln Park Zoo and the Winnetka Pumpkin Fest.

Next Step for Teen Moms:  
This JLC project works closely with teen moms as they consider their next step after high school. This year, JLC volunteers developed a specific curriculum to address the individual needs of each teen. Working one-on-one with a different mentor each week, 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, and a celebration of black history and heritage.

PRIMO:  
In its first year, JLC volunteers developed and presented monthly workshops to the women at the Primo Center for Women and Children, a transitional home for the homeless. The workshops are geared towards educating women on job search skills, household management, and healthy lifestyle. Due to additional resources available for 2008-2009, JLC volunteers will offer one-on-one sessions with women.

Teen Exodus:  
JLC volunteers for this Cabrini Green-based project mentor teenage girls (ages 13 through 18) through a tutoring program hosted by Chicago Youth Programs. Through this program, at-risk teens who maintain a B-level grade point average or better are given college scholarships. Every Saturday, JLC volunteers plan activities for the teens as rewards for maintaining their GPA. Studies show that 95% of Teen Exodus participants graduate from high school compared to 51% of Cabrini Green residents.

Woman to Woman – North Suburban:  
JLC volunteers plan arts and crafts activities for the children of the women at the Women's Residential Treatment Center in Vernon Hills so the mothers can spend some quiet time focused on their substance abuse issues. The mission of this project is to help these women get their lives back on track and avoid possible incarceration.

Woman to Woman - The Women's Treatment Center:  
This project touches clients in the Recovery Unit at The Women's Treatment Center (TWTC) and women from Madison Place. JLC volunteers plan and conduct bi-weekly events to develop the mothers’ job/life skills and to enhance the mother/child relationship. This year, the JLC coordinated activities to the Lincoln Park's Spooky Zoo, the Universal Soul Circus, and the Shedd Aquarium. 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 healthy childcare.

Transition and New Projects:  
JLC Community Projects are relevant to the community and provide JLC members with a diverse and fulfilling volunteer experience. We achieve success in keeping relevant projects by (1) transitioning existing projects when they are self-sufficient and (2) introducing new projects that address unmet needs of at-risk women, children and families. Two projects were transitioned out in 2007-2008: Partners Educating Parents (PEP) and Stanton Park Field House.

For the PEP project, the JLC partnered with Teen Parent Connection, which provides education on teenage pregnancy. JLC volunteers provided guidance to young parents in areas such as job place communications, economics of staying in school, etiquette, and parenting issues. Volunteers also helped staff the holiday store. For the Stanton Park Field House project, the JLC partnered with Chicago Park District to engage children in the Cabrini-Green neighborhood in sports and fitness-related activities.

For 2008-2009, Health Train and Girls Get Gourmet will be joining the JLC Community Council. Health Train will be visiting YMCAs, children’s museums, park districts and after-school programs in western Cook and DuPage counties. The project features the 5,4,3,2,1 Go! Message created by the Consortium to Lower Childhood Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC). The Go! Message promotes healthy lifestyle messages: 5 fruits/veggies per day, 4 glasses of water, 3 dairy, 2 hours or less screen time, and 1 hour of activity. The Girls Get Gourmet project is partnering with Girls in the Game (GIG). The purpose of this project is to educate GIG participants (ages 7-18) and their caregivers on nutrition and tips for incorporating healthy eating into their lives. With the support of GIG staff, the JLC volunteers will research, create and lead the nutrition and healthy eating curriculum. These projects are intended to address the increase of childhood obesity in Chicago, an issue the Junior League of Chicago has adopted as a current area of focus.

Our Values  
Respect for Individuals

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

Omar Lopez, 4th District Congressional Candidate speaking with JLC member Anna Musci and JLC staffer Laura McDougal. Advocating for women and children in the community, JLC members are a voice for positive social change.
For the fiscal year ending May 31, 2008, the audited financial statements show an overall increase in net assets of $121,178, primarily as a result of an increase in the operating accounts. The Community Project Development Fund (CPDF) and Headquarters Capital Funds were flat for the year. We ended the year with an operating surplus of $116,238; driven primarily as a result of cost savings related to the change in staff during the year, increased revenue from special events, the Annual Fund and the launch of Peeling the Wild Onion, and overall cost management. We also ended the year with positive cash flow, and as a result we were able to increase the amount of our cookbook repayment to our reserves account which was made earlier in the fiscal year. 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 good financial results. We are proud to have provided sizable financial support for our community projects and volunteer training initiatives and remain strong closing the fiscal year with more than $1.48 million in cash, reserves and investments.

Carrie Meyer
2007-2008 Treasurer

Condensed Statement of Financial Position
May 31, 2008

Assets

Current Assets:
- Cash and cash equivalents: $419,752
- Accounts receivable, net: 21,498
- Inventories: 96,724
- Prepaid expenses and deferred charges: 30,022

Total current assets: $567,996

Investments: 1,066,212

Property and equipment (net): 206,554

Total Assets: $1,840,762

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities:
- Allocations to community programs: $6,000
- Accounts payable and accrued liabilities: 34,330
- Deferred dues income - members: 203,448

Total Current Liabilities: $243,778

Net Assets:

Unrestricted:
- Board Designated:
  - Operating Reserve: $400,000
  - Community Project Development Fund: 755,098
  - Headquarters Capital Fund: 106,172
- Undesignated: 315,714
- Permanently Restricted: 20,000

Total Net Assets: $1,596,984

Total Liabilities and Net Assets: $1,840,762

Condensed Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets
(Revenue, Expenses, and Fund Balances)
Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 2008

Revenue

- Dues: $306,885
- Associate course and other fees: 16,703
- Special events: 290,188
- Cookbook sales: 67,320
- Contributions: 325,967
- Interest income: 41,526
- Realized and unrealized gains/losses on investments: (28,762)
- Advertising Income: 780
- Other: 10,013

Total Revenue: $1,030,590

Expenses

- Program services: $368,467
- Supporting services: 483,618
- Dues to the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc.: 57,327

Total Expenses: $909,412

Increase in Net Assets: $121,178

Net Assets, Beginning of Year: $1,475,806

Net Assets, End of Year: $1,596,984

Financial data were 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.

From left: (Elizabeth) Buffy Bains, Dina Searle, Kristine Jeka, and Mary Sweeney try their luck at Windy City Nights-Ante Up for Charity, an annual JLC fundraiser.
2007–2008 Leadership

Award Winners

Founder’s Award
Joan Callan

Outstanding Service Award
Tory Wong

Outstanding Associate
Katie Mischia

Outstanding Sustainer Award
Kim Bolden

Our Values

Camaraderie

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

The sun sets over the Junior League of Chicago’s annual fundraiser Summer Soiree.
JLC welcomes all women who wish to serve the community, embracing their ideas, differences, and contributions.

Friends and family join in the fun at JLC socials throughout the year.
2007–2008 Annual Fund Donors

$113,000

$3,000+
Nancy Snyder
Marcia and Dan Vanden Brink
Tom Wong and Mary Verbic

$2,000+
Ann B. Freeman
Michelle Karr

$1,500+
Jennifer Cavanagh
Paula G. W. Zurowski
Ruth Gaukler Nelson

$1,000+
Green L. Allen
Rebecca Cook
Heather Gander
Sally Mead Hands
Mrs. Angela K. Holleb and Mr. Tom Holleb
Elizabeth and Mark Hurley
Michelle Miller Burns
Kirsten Pettit Grube
Cynthia S. Margoent
Courtney C. Shea
Kathryn Simpson
Beth Stone

$750+
Amy T. Dickson
Tracy S. Whitehead

$500+
Ellen Baturin Jurwicz
Polly Baur
Linda Beck and Eric Estes
Elizabeth Nelson Buzard
Michelle Croin
Allison Egidi
Elizabeth R. Foster
Susanna Hiltbold
Caroline T. Huennekens
Justine D. Kilborn
Linda Lumpkin
Mary Ann Maclean
Karen A. MacLeod
Mary H. Smart
Kim Stead
Allison Szabatkins
Heidi Thornton

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Kimberly J. Beard
Sarah B. Bornstein
Janet F. Buckstein
Amy Buettner
Tiffany J. Burgess
Helin Grace Caldwell
Kathy Capodice
Courtney M. Cavatori
Emily Y. Chang
Bliss Crow
Alison S. Donnelly
Melody L. Drake
and Kevin Engram
Cari Gordon
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Mailleek Hopkins Kinsey
Christine M. Jack
Mindi Kaplase
Mrs. Jeanette Kinneil and Mr.
John J. Kinless
Julie Mann
Mary L. McCarthy
Ann McDowell
Laura L. Metzger
Jennifer A. Mekier
Heather Moor
Ann S. Nerad
Jackie Papadopoulos
Dorothy Masich Patlass
Glo Ralighed
Ann B. Snyder
Laura Southwick
Elizabeth Vastic
Hilary I. Wiltzen

$100+
Cecilia Abbott
Leigh Adams
Lisa Albrecht
Pim Alley
Laura and Scott Anderson
Lindsey Anderson
Patrice M. Andrews
Emily Arnold
Kerry A. Baker
Alyssa Balint
Candace Bailey
Bethany Kay Barefoot
Holly Bauer
Malia J. Bow
Mitzi Appel Beebe
Rebecca Beich
Kimberly Belton
Paige M. Ben-Dashan
Katerina Bender-Austermann
Melissa Bennis
Julia K. Bernhi
Linda J. Bergdahl
Julie Beringer
Tracy Bauer Bodermann
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Heather Bowles
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Elizabeth Buddig
Kathryn Buddig
Kara and Polly Burns
Elise S. Butcher
Erin A. Callahan
Joan Callan
Karle Calvert
Keisy Casady
Chadie Chelik
Adrienne Chachan
Janneke Chaumath
Cindy Clinekendin
Tanya Cloud
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Kendra Gondran
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Ann B. Snyder
Laura Southwick
Elizabeth Vastic
Hilary I. Wiltzen

Every effort has been made to report all 2007–2008 contributions fully and accurately. We apologize for any errors or omissions and ask that donors forward any corrections to the Administrative Director at Junior League of Chicago Headquarters. Thank you for your understanding and for your generosity to the Junior League of Chicago.