



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Junior League of Chicago Raises \$100,000 at Annual Gala** *Event celebrated 25 years of volunteer service in support of The Women's Treatment Center*

CHICAGO – February 14, 2016 – On Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, the Junior League of Chicago (JLC), a nonprofit metropolitan organization, that is known for empowering at-risk families, , through mentoring, advocacy, and education, hosted its Annual Gala fundraiser at the Chicago Cultural Center in downtown Chicago. This year's event brought together supporters, members, and the Chicago community for an exciting evening which raised approximately \$100,000 to support the League's mission and celebrate their 25-year partnership with the Women's Treatment Center (TWTC).

For more than 100 years, the Junior League of Chicago has inspired women from diverse backgrounds to become leading catalysts for change in our community. Through the development of timely programming, JLC volunteers address issues facing women and children in Chicago through impassioned giving and the establishment of trusted volunteer partnerships. During the 2016 Annual Gala, the JLC announced additional community events that aim to raise awareness for the prevalence of addiction in Chicago. The JLC has provided volunteer support for TWTC since 1991, contributing approximately 50 volunteer hours per month to help women at TWTC develop the skills they need to live independent, sober lives. Volunteer programming at TWTC encourages wholesome family fun and helps foster healthy relationships. For more information about JLC and their partnership with the Women's Treatment Center, watch the video which was premiered at the event: <https://youtu.be/ekSVqTMq7EY>.

Judy Hsu, co-anchor of ABC7 News This Morning!, emceed the event. Attendees enjoyed cocktails, appetizers, live music from Green Fourteen, raffle, a silent auction, and a live auction. All proceeds from the event will help JLC uphold their mission by supporting their volunteer training initiatives, community impact programs, and maintaining the JLC Headquarters to be a safe and efficient space for their members to host meetings and trainings.

This year's 2016 Annual Gala was made possible by the following sponsors: Green Fourteen, The Women's Group of Northwestern, Lagunitas Brewing Company, Limelight, Envestnet, Depp Eddy Vodka, Kathleen Virginia Photography, Mason Adams, Kehoe Designs, and Java Breeze Coffee.

Event Photos (Credit: Kathleen Virginia Photography)



Ann Brinkman Carstensen (President, Junior League of Chicago) and Judy Hsu (co-anchor, ABC7 News This Morning!) opening the Annual Gala.



Left to Right: Ann Brinkman Carstensen (President, Junior League of Chicago) and Florence Wright (Clinical Director, The Women's Treatment Center)





The Junior League of Chicago's Annual Gala in full swing at the Chicago Cultural Center.



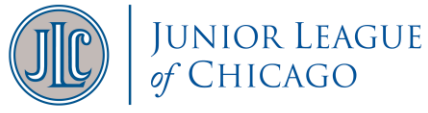
The Junior League of Chicago's Annual Gala Committee members in Preston Bradley Hall of the Chicago Cultural Center.



Left to Right: Heidi Thornton (Fundraising Director, Junior League of Chicago), Ann Brinkman Carstensen (President, Junior League of Chicago), Kelly McClure (Executive Vice President, Junior League of Chicago), and Judy Hsu (co-anchor, ABC7 News This Morning!).



Junior League of Chicago Annual Gala Co-Chairs (left to right): Melissa Schumacher, Karen McNamara, and Kelsey Reitz.

**About the Women's Treatment Center (WTC):**

The Women's Treatment Center is an Illinois 501(c)(3) agency, located on Chicago's Near West side, established to provide a comprehensive family-based treatment program for women 18+ who are battling addiction. The WTC is the only substance abuse treatment center in the state focused solely on women and specializing in treatment that is framed and informed by women's issues. Their continuum of care enables women to transition from addiction to recovery, with the ultimate goal of rebuilding families who will lead productive lives. For more information, visit <http://www.womentreatmentcenter.org>.

**About Junior League of Chicago**

Junior League of Chicago, Inc. (JLC) 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. Since 1912, JLC has been building a better Chicago by training our members to be leaders and by providing valuable volunteer service hours and critical funding to area nonprofits. This year, more than 1,500 JLC members will contribute more than 50,000 hours of volunteer service annually for Chicago area projects that focus on at-risk families, especially women and children. The JLC reaches out to women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and a commitment to volunteerism. For more information about the Junior League of Chicago, visit [www.jlchicago.org](http://www.jlchicago.org). Connect with the JLC on social media anytime on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @JuniorLeagueChi.

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