

JUNIOR LEAGUE of CHICAGO

Annual Report 2015-2016







Ann Brinkman Carstensen President 2014-2016

Mission Statement

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 Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

The Junior League welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations and communities.





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1,060+ Followers

@Junior-League-of-Chicago 800+ Members

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Photo Credit: Ann Brinkman Carstensen

Community Spirit Award Erin McWilliams

> Founders Award Delane Heidt

Outstanding Associate Award Tarah Smith

Outstanding Service Award Mollie Tavel

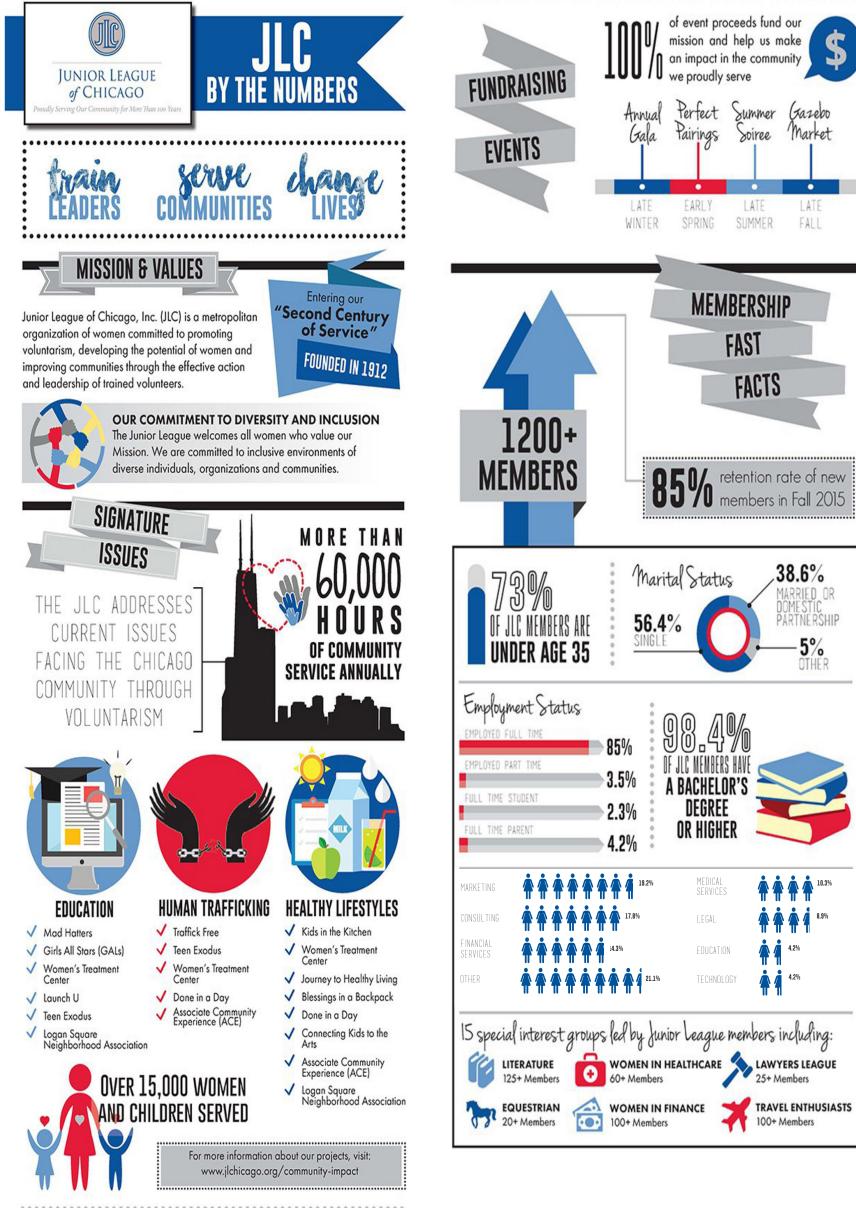
Outstanding Sustainer Award Michelle Cronin

> Starburst Award Blythe Newton

Torch Award

Nicole Lambiase Erika Lowe Jacqueline Cheatham

Junior League of Chicago Annual Report 2015-2016 Design and Layout: Kristen Pezzoli Edits: Brigid Slattery Photo Credit: Kathleen Virginia Photography, Ann Brinkman Carstensen. Gittings Photography, Giorgio Marcenaro, and Junior League of Chicago volunteers



Junior League of Chicago Annual Report 2015-2016



Photo Credit: Gittings Photography

Associate of The Year **Tarah Smith**

Meet the

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER AND WHAT COMPELLED YOU TO JOIN?

I have been a member for almost a year. I joined the Burton class in January 2016. I relocated to Chicago in October 2015, and was looking for a way to make friends. I also have always been involved in a service organization, so it felt like the best option for me.

••••• WHAT IS YOUR JLC POSITIONS ••••• OR WHAT COMMITTEES HAVE YOU SERVED ON?

I have been on the Summer Soirée committee, helped with the Evening on Astor event, and am currently on the Membership Satisfaction committee. I also co-chair a Members Like Me Health and Fitness group.

My favorite part of being in the JLC is knowing that you have a common ground with everyone else. All of the members care about giving back to their community.

•• WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE VOLUNTEER ••• EXPERIENCE?

My favorite volunteer experience was cleaning out a church that doubles as a homeless shelter. It is so rewarding to see how appreciative people are to have help, and it just makes me want to find other ways to give back.

WHAT PIECE OF ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR OTHER JLC MEMBERS?

The best piece of advice for other JLC members would be to take advantage of all of the opportunities the JLC has to offer. From JLCUs to all of the Members Like Me groups, get out there and meet all of the fantastic women in the JLC. There are so many opportunities to network, as well as make lifelong friends. There is something for everyone.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY IN THE ASSOCIATE CLASS ?

My favorite memory in the Associate class was during welcome week. I walked into the happy hour and someone recognized me from an event the week prior. I ended up meeting a great group of women, and we get together every month even though our associate term is over.



Photo Credit: Giorgio Marcenaro

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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Freeing Individuals from Human Trafficking

-Tracy Walter

Human Trafficking is a form of modern day slavery

In 2016, the Junior League of Chicago kicked off a partnership with Traffick Free to support the fight against human trafficking in Chicago. Since 2008, Traffick Free has provided tools and sustainable programs to combat human trafficking and transform the lives of survivors and communities. This year, the JLC is working with the organization to mobilize the Chicagoland area into a place where human trafficking is unacceptable and where survivors have resources for immediate and holistic needs.

In 2007, Lt. Paul Kusinski of the Chicago Police Trafficking Team stated, "It would be naive to think that human trafficking is not occurring here in Cook County". In 2003, The New York Times labeled Chicago as a national hub for human trafficking and, in 2005, the FBI designated Chicago as one of thirteen locations of "High Intensity Child Prostitution". Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, because of its strategic location and importance, is considered a highly-used transit location by traffickers to transport victims and disperse them as needed to other cities and states. Traffickers seize opportunities for increased profits by trafficking greater numbers of women for sexual exploitation into Chicago during events where the city is filled with large numbers of spectators and tourists. In metropolitan Chicago, 16,000 to 25,000 women and girls are involved in commercial sex trade annually, with one third of them first getting involved in prostitution by the age of 15 years, and 62% by the age of 18 years. Traffickers use fraud, deception, coercion, threats and force to transport, harbor or obtain people to perform commercial sex or labor acts against their will.

JLC committed to fight

Junior League of Chicago recognizes the severe impact of human trafficking on the well-being of women, men, and children in Chicago. Therefore, we are committing to awareness efforts, public education, development of strategic partnerships and networks with other community organizations, and finding solutions for victims to have

"

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greater access to the services and resources they need to exit that life. Our President, Ann Brinkman Carstensen mentioned, "Once we learned about the significance of human trafficking in our own community, we knew we needed to get ourselves educated and aware so that we could understand our role in the solution."



Preparing Traffick Free's Drop In Center for opening. Photo Credit: Tracy Walter

Freeing Individuals from Human Trafficking

In 2016, the JLC organized a new project to begin our work tied to human trafficking in Chicago: F.I.H.T (Freeing Individuals from Human Trafficking.) This committee has established a partnership with Chicago-based, nonprofit Traffick Free (TF). TF is seeking to close the largest gap in victim services: emergency services. Through this partnership, F.I.H.T is supporting TF in opening Chicago's first low-demand overnight drop-in center in February 2017. F.I.H.T members have cleaned, painted, moved-in furniture, and set up the drop-in space that will serve all adult women who are commercially sexually exploited in our city. As the drop-in center prepares to open, F.I.H.T members will engage in a variety of educational exercises to understand the issue and receive training on how to properly interact with trafficking victims for in-center volunteer positions with TF.

In addition to the JLC's partnership with Traffick Free, F.I.H.T is networking and volunteering with other local organizations seeking to eliminate human trafficking. These organization include: The Salvation Army's STOP-IT Program, Saleh Freedom, and Fourth Presbyterian Church's Sunlight Project. Further, F.I.H.T. has accepted a seat on the Cook County Task Force Training Subcommittee. For the 2016-2017 year, F.I.H.T. is preparing a film screening event, JLCU programs, and human trafficking fact sheets. These initiatives are intended to educate members internally, to heighten public awareness externally, and to cultivate our voice as advocates for the passing of legislation that penalizes traffickers and that protects children and youth who become victims.

Our mission calls for our participation in the fight against human trafficking

F.I.H.T. committee members recognize the depth and breadth of this complex human rights issue globally. And, we concur with our Board and the Association of Junior Leagues International that our mission calls for our participation in the fight against human trafficking - this "new slavery" - in our community. F.I.H.T member Meghan Hansen shares,

"I believe that human trafficking is the type of issue that once you become aware of how widespread and devastating it is, you want to do something. I am proud of how the Junior League has approached the issue - focusing on education, voluntarism with key partners in the community and working with advocacy - to educate our members and have the greatest impact possible. My favorite experience so far has been working with our partners on their projects - setting up the drop-in center for Traffick Free and helping with the clothes drive for STOP-IT. I think that Junior League is in a unique position to provide surge capacity volunteers to meaningful projects and I am excited to see where we will take this new committee in the coming years."

Sourses

1.https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/226850.pdf 2. https://leb.fbi.gov/2011/march/human-sex-trafficking

3.http://www.traffickfree.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/TF_

The Legacy of **Junior League of Chicago** Continues

-JLC Sustainer of the Year Michelle Cronin

ime, talent, and treasure - three important ways that volunteers contribute to their communities. Over 15 years ago, I was looking for an organization that would offer the opportunity to give back to the community in different ways as well as grant me the opportunity to learn and grow. I found the Junior League of Chicago (JLC), and its 85 year-old mission to educate and empower, to be a good fit with my busy work and travel schedule. As a member of the JLC, I have had an enriching experience that has been very different from my previous volunteer efforts. At a young age, I had the unique opportunity to learn how to become a better volunteer and civic leader to make a lasting impact our community by working side-by-side with an amazing group made up of over 1,000 women. The members of the JLC reflect the passion and dedication to service in Chicago

15 community projects. Together with the Board, Advocacy, and other areas of the League, Community Council developed and integrated the signature issue of Healthy Lifestyles into all community work, including launching new projects such as Kids in the Kitchen, Health Train, Girls Get Gourmet, and Health STARRS. "The camaraderie and teamwork between the volunteers is what keeps me coming back," Betsy said as she continued to support the League as a Board Member representing community issues. "Voluntarism is a powerful force in society today and this large group of JLC volunteers continues to have a significant impact in Chicago."

The JLC has a legacy of developing, funding, and staffing projects to ultimately turn them over to the community, such as the Children's Museum of Chicago and Chicago Child Care Society of Chicago's Next Step for Teen Moms. The dedication of the Next

As a JLC Sustainer, I continue to learn and engage; My ory I have of being proud of how the experience in the League has helped me take on leadership and experience to connect community and management roles in my professional and civic life." organizations and help them launch a

Step Center was an early fond memmuch needed program for Chicago's teen population. The JLC continues to

donating over 120,000 hours to community agencies and programs serving at-risk children, women and families. I have had the honor and pleasure of volunteering with many women who have become lifelong friends and who continue to support the JLC as Sustainers.

I began my time in the JLC with the Mad Hatters, the League's longest running community project. I looked forward to sparking children's imagination and loved reading through performances in libraries and in schools. I also enjoyed getting to know my fellow volunteers as we all got to share our creative side and laugh together. Eventually, I served as Co-Vice President of Community Council with Elizabeth (Betsy) Whitlow Farrell to help lead the League's

respond to the changing needs of the community by evolving its projects. Fellow Sustainer, Heather Gardner, spent a decade helping to grow and develop Teen Exodus, which began serving at-risk teenagers in Cabrini-Green and has expanded to include Washington Park, Uptown, and Rogers Park. "Building trust, respect, and confidence are key elements of the program which engages the teen mind and expands their horizons by connecting them with mentors and resources in the city." The curriculum continues to evolve to include life skills, nutrition, college, and career preparation. "Not only do the teenagers benefit from the program, but the volunteers are impacted by their experience by learning more about their community, and gaining leadership, relationship-building, and project management skills."



Photo Credit: Kathleen Virginia Photography

The variety of ways to give back and learn are aspects of the JLC that make it an attractive volunteer opportunity to hundreds of new members each year. Throughout my membership, I have had the opportunity to take on many different leadership roles in the League, from Project Lead, Project Development, and Co-VP in Community Council, to Treasurer and Strategic Planning Director on the Board, to Finance Committee, Nominating Committee, and the JLC Connect Mentor as a Sustainer. At a young age, Jacqueline (Jacqui) Cheatham led the transition of the Next Step program back to the agency, worked on our signature development events, stewarded our resources as Treasurer and Facilities Chair, and spent 3 years working with community agencies through our consulting Project CON:CERN. "My Junior League experience has been rewarding personally and professionally." said Jacqui. "With Project CON:CERN and my operational roles in the League, I had the opportunity to learn, analyze, and create solutions for nonprofit and community challenges."

As a JLC Sustainer, I continue to learn and engage; my experience in the League has helped me take on leadership and management roles in my professional and civic life. The collective knowledge and grass-roots experience of the JLC enables us to advocate for issues that support our community work. In addition to leading the financial and operational aspects of the League as Treasurer and Finance Committee member, Anna Musci has helped to research and develop our positions on healthy lifestyles, early childhood education, and our newest issue, human trafficking. This research helps us continue to update our community project portfolio and mobilize partners to respond to the changing needs of the community. "As a large group of experienced volunteers, business women, mothers, civic leaders - we have a legislative voice that our representatives want to hear." said Anna. Our network of empowered women help to strengthen each other and help us strengthen our ties with our neighbors in Chicago. "You can count on JLC members. We work hard, challenge each other, and create a mutual sense of trust, respect, and admiration."

My Junior League experience enhanced my passion for community impact and leadership which led me to evolve my professional career from banking, to consulting, to nonprofit work as well as leading me to several civic leadership roles on boards. "The leadership, communication, and project management skills I learned in the League definitely helped me advance my professional career." said Jacqui upon her recent promotion. "The educational component and hands on community work of the League, uniquely prepares you for board experience like no other volunteer program", remarked Heather as she took on two new board appointments. "Developing and mentoring women through leadership experiences and network development sets a good example for corporations," said Anna, who has led women's mentoring efforts in financial services. "We are stewards of the future as we take our experience out into the community - with an enhanced self-awareness, confidence, and commitment to making Chicago thrive." said Betsy as we discussed our next steps in our journey with the amazing group of women of the Junior League of Chicago. We are proud to carry on the century old tradition of our founders and continue to evolve with the changing needs of our lives and communities so that we can learn, give back, and grow.



Photo Credit: Junior League of Chicago Volunteers

Financial Statement

For the fiscal year ending May 31, 2016, the audited financial statements reflect an overall decrease in net assets (\$6,759 or 0.38%). This minor decrease was driven primarily by a net investment loss on our investment portfolio resulting from market performance. As a benchmark, the S&P500 return was negative 0.73% for the same period. Notwithstanding this decrease, our investment portfolio and cash position remains strong at \$980,851 and \$776,879, respectively.

Our special events revenue increased 16% year-over-year to an impressive \$277,594, compared to a 10% increase the prior year. The double-digit increases in two consecutive years highlights our members' commitment to supporting the JLC mission with not only our time and talent, but also our treasure. As a result of these increases, we are able to deepen our community

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| Condensed Statement of Financial Position | |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------|
| May 31, 2016 | |
| Current Assets: | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$537,572 |
| Board designated cash | \$239,307 |
| Investments | \$980,851 |
| Prepaid expenses and deferred charges | \$19,702 |
| Total Current Assets | \$1,777,432 |
| Property and equipment (net) | \$329,848 |
| Total Assets | \$2,107,280 |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | |
| Current Liabilities: | |
| Accounts payable | \$18,036 |
| Accrued liabilities | \$13,828 |
| Deferred membership dues | \$245,380 |
| Other deferred revenue | \$1,250 |
| Total Liabilities | \$278,494 |
| Net Assets: | |
| Unrestricted: | |
| Undesignated | \$485,195 |
| Board Designated: | \$1,343,591 |
| Total Net Assets | \$1,835,545 |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | \$2,107,280 |
| | |

impact in 2017 through an investment of an additional \$24,000 in four new projects (Blessings in a Backpack, Launch U, Logan Square Neighborhood Association and Traffick Free) while also increasing our budget allocation for the ten existing community projects by 28% from the prior year.

In 2016, we finished the Sustainer Windows restoration project, bringing beauty back to the façade of 1447 North Astor. Our Facilities committee is reviewing and prioritizing other needs at Headquarters to continue to preserve its rich history and beauty. We will build upon this success in 2017 and continue to train leaders, serve the community and change lives in Chicago.

By Kristine Parker 2015-2016 Treasurer

| 2010 2010 110000101 | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Condensed Statement of Activities and Changes in N Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 2016 | let Assets |
| Revenue | |
| Membership dues and fees | \$324,664 |
| Contributions | \$96,444 |
| Special event revenue | \$277,594 |
| Net gains and losses on Investments | \$(16,515) |
| Investment income | \$14,810 |
| Miscellaneous income | \$2,371 |
| Total Revenue | \$699,368 |
| Expenses | |
| Program services community | \$46,190 |
| . | |
| Membership development | \$19,578 |
| Special events | \$159,726 |
| Membership expense | \$62,520 |
| Management and general | \$362,489 |
| Fundraising expense | \$55,624 |
| | |
| Total Expenses | \$706,127 |
| (Decrease) Increase In Net Assets Net Assets - Beginning of the Year Net Assets - End of Year | \$(6,759) \$1,801,105 \$1,835,545 |
| | |

Thank You!

As a volunteer-based organization, our work in the Chicago community would not be possible without the support of those who share our commitment to volunteerism. Thank you to our individual and corporate donors who have allowed us to increase our impact on families and children in Chicago through their contributions.

You make our work in the community possible!

+\$2,500

Debbie & Wes Clark Heidi & Andrew Thorton Casey Boll

+\$1,000

Ann Brinkman Carstensen Michelle Burns Susanna Hilboldt Caroline Huebner Cynthia Sargent Courtney Shea Nancy Snyder Tammy Steele +\$500

1,3000

Patty Bandolik Sarah Bornstein Lauren Chrien **Amy Dickinson** Elizabeth Dolan Wright Angela Euston Kathryn Gillman **Delane Heldt** Mary Lynne Hickey Erin Istvan Katherine Klement Anne Lipford Angela Liu Ann Nerad **Barb Peters** Katie Price Fran Pukala Lisa Rees Joel Bud Shapiro **Tracy Whitehead**

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+\$100

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Noreen Walton Walter Waltz Marissa Wenk Katie Whitmore Jessie Williams Lindsey Woerther Krista Worzalla Elena Zalewski Laura Zimcosky Cristin Zweig

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Adrienne Chan in Honor of Ruth Gallagher Nelson

Ann Brinkman Carstensen in Honor of Ruth Gallagher Nelson

Christiane De Bauge in Honor of Anna Musci & Fran Pukala

Emily Hunter in Memory of Patricia Gray

Jane Johnson in Honor of Courtney Johnson

Joe Newton In Honor of **Blythe Newton**

Kymberly Marrinson in Honor of Ruth Gallagher Nelson

Marissa Wenk in Honor of Lucy

Ruth Nelson in Honor of Lauren Chase

Sherree Lenz in Honor of Courtney Johnson

Junior League of Chicago Annual Report 2015-2016

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> **River City Foundation** UBS Wells Fargo Foundation

How You Can Help

ATTEND

GIVE

- Give to Junior League of Chicago Annual Fund
- Desginate JLC for a corporate matching gift
- Honor someone special through a tribute or memorial gift
- We have four signiture events. We invite you to support our activities and events.
- 100% of event proceeds fund our mission and help us make an impact in the community we so proudly serve.

JOIN

Are you a woman looking for an opportunity to make an impact in the lives of others? Look no further than the Junior League of Chicago, a unique volunteer organization for women. Our members participate in large community projects that make a significant contribution to the community. Please contact us at prospectivemember@jlchicago.org.



JUNIOR LEAGUE of CHICAGO