



JUNIOR LEAGUE
of CHICAGO

2020-2021 Annual Report



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Letter From Our President



Melissa Schumacher
2020-2022 President

Since 1912, the Junior League of Chicago has been committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving our community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. That commitment remained true in the 2020-2021 League year as we weathered the challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic. Our members rose to the occasion, finding new and creative ways to host virtual meetings and programming, volunteering when and where we could, reimagining fundraising, supporting members in need, and refocusing our finances.

Amid these challenges, we also experienced a national reckoning with systemic racism in the United States. Along with all Junior Leagues, we looked internally at how our organization needs to evolve and recommitted to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within our League. We formed a DEI task force and established a 5-year DEI plan to embed diversity, equity, and inclusion through every aspect of the League.

Each month brought a new challenge and a new opportunity, motivating every committee to try something different. Throughout the Annual Report, you will read about the highlights from the 2020-2021 League year, which include:

- Developed three new signature issues to be supported by our community projects: Meeting Essential Needs, Literacy and Violence Prevention and Awareness
- Celebrated 100 years of our beloved community project, Mad Hatters
- Hosted our first-ever virtual Gala raising over \$57,000 to support our mission and our work in the community
- After a 30-year relationship, bid farewell to the Women's Treatment Center when they closed its doors in May 2021
- Hosted our inaugural Little Black Dress Initiative (LBDI) to draw attention to human trafficking while raising over \$15,000 to support our mission
- Completed a DEI Quick Solver Program to assess the appropriate leadership and team structure for our DEI programming

All of this would not have been possible without the passion of our members. Each year our members give hundreds of hours of their time, talents, and funds to ensure we continue moving forward in fulfilling our mission. This year was no exception!

Thank you to our members, sponsors, donors, staff, and the Chicagoland community. Your support allows us to make meaningful changes in the lives of women, children, and families through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

Looking ahead, I am hopeful that our next League year will look much different and will welcome more in-person opportunities to push forward our mission, now with a renewed perspective.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa Schumacher".

Melissa Schumacher

Our Mission, Values and Signature Issues

OUR MISSION

The Junior League of Chicago (JLC) is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. The Junior League of Chicago welcomes all women who value our mission. We are committed to inclusive environments comprised of diverse individuals, organizations, and communities.

OUR VALUES

Commitment to Community: The Junior League of Chicago is passionate about the causes we support. We are deeply committed to advocacy, development, collaboration, and community service.

Respect for Individuals: The Junior League of Chicago members treat each other, those with whom we work and those we serve, with respect and dignity.

Welcoming: The Junior League of Chicago welcomes all women who wish to serve the community with their unique ideas, differences, and contributions.

Mentoring: Members of the Junior League of Chicago share their experiences and skills with one another, as well as with those we work with and serve.

Thoughtful Risk-Taking: The Junior League of Chicago provides training and a safe space for responsible and safe risk-taking.

Camaraderie: The Junior League of Chicago is an organization where members enjoy their experience and are able to develop personally and professionally.

OUR SIGNATURE ISSUES

The Junior League of Chicago donates volunteer hours and holds fundraisers for community organizations and programs that support underserved women and children throughout Chicagoland.

All of our 2020-2021 Community, Advocacy, and Fundraising efforts support women and children in alignment with our three signature issues:

- [Healthy Lifestyles](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Human Trafficking](#)

Over the past 11 years, the JLC has been working across these three pillars to address the needs of our community. Each one of our community projects addresses at least one of these issues. The Community Projects section later in this report details the specific activities that each of our Community Placements undertook to address these issues in Chicago.

2020-2021 Leadership

Board of Directors

Officers

Melissa Schumacher, **President**
Jacqueline Zimmerman, **Executive Vice President**
Nicole Lambiase, **Executive Vice President***
Rebecca Hogan, **Senior Vice President of Strategy**
Bridgette Lobdell, **Treasurer**
Cristina Galvan, **Recording Secretary**
Virginia Hunt, **Recording Secretary****

*Nicole Lambiase served as the Executive Vice President through April 13, 2021. Jacqueline Zimmerman replaced Nicole.

**Virginia Hunt served as the Recording Secretary through March 15, 2021. Cristina Galvan replaced Virginia.

Directors

Lisa Allen, **Board Member at Large**
Damaris Aquino, **Diversification Director**
Caroline Donlin, **Board Member at Large**
Jess Fernandez-Evans, **Fundraising Director**
Rayna Glumac, **Nominating Director**
Claudia Jones, **Board Member at Large**
Beckley Maggio, **Board Member at Large**
Kristin Olson, **Board Member at Large**
Kim Sebastian, **Advocacy Director**

Management Committee

Anika Allen, **Event Development Vice President**
Kristin Bernhard, **Advocacy Vice President**
Jessica Bonham, **Budget Vice President**
Rebekah Bueschel, **Advocacy Vice President**
Kirsten Butler, **Education & Training Vice President**
Colleen Carrillo, **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Director-Elect**
Amanda Decker, **Marketing Vice President**
Margaret Devlin, **Membership Vice President**
Amy Dunn, **Sustainer Vice President**
Elizabeth Ervin, **Community Vice President**
Genevieve Fabisch, **Community Vice President**
Kara Goodbrand, **Personnel Vice President**
Jane Heistand, **Nominating Director-Elect**
Kathleen Jenkins, **Fund Development Vice President**
Elizabeth Kennedy, **Project Development Vice President**
Alyssa Kim, **Sustainer Vice President**
Vanessa Kosloski, **Fund Development Vice President**
Stephenie Lazarus, **Project Development Vice President**
Mary Kate Mack, **Technology Vice President**
Amy Marchlen, **Marketing Vice President**
Hayley Rawers, **Event Development Vice President**
Cara Stern, **Education & Training Vice President**
Jenessa Tabba, **Technology Vice President**
Taylor Trovillion, **Senior Vice President of Strategy-Elect**
Samantha Westerhof, **Facilities Co-Chair**
Jacqueline Zimmerman, **Executive Vice President-Elect**

Headquarters Staff

JaCee Burnes, **Operations Director**
Lydia Hawthorne, **Membership Manager**
Leah LaDuke, **Communications and Development Coordinator****
Lupe Villegas, **Housekeeper**

Leah LaDuke joined after the 2020-2021 year

Award Winners

Amanda Caldwell, **Community Spirit Award**
Vanessa Kosloski, **Founders Award**
Amy Dunn, **Outstanding Sustainer Award**
Kathleen Rosenbaum, **Outstanding Associate Award**
Margaret Devlin, **Starburst Award**
Bridgette Lobdell, **Starburst Award**
Kim Sebastian, **Torch Award**

How We Make a Difference

LEADERSHIP

The JLC provides leadership training events designed to help our members hone in on their leadership potential. Central to the mission of the Junior League is developing the potential of women to be civic and community leaders. In the 2020-2021 year, JLC Leadership:

- Participated in the AJLI 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge, offering an intensive learning experience with other league members across the country in a small group setting to discuss racism and their role in achieving racial equity in their communities.
- Hosted Summer and Winter Leadership Retreats for our 121 leaders.
- Attended AJLI's 2021 Winter Leadership Event: Critical Resources for Success!
- Continued to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic by offering the "Dues Support Program," assisting members that encountered significant financial hardships due to the pandemic.

ADVOCACY

The JLC's Advocacy Council encourages members to be informed and active citizens who address the public issues that impact our community.

In the 2020-2021 year, the Advocacy Council:

- Participated in Vision2020Votes, a national, nonpartisan effort to get more women than ever registered and voting as part of the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment
- Partnered with Project Development and Education & Training committees to host a series of Town Hall sessions for all members to learn about our new signature issues and engage in an open dialogue with one another and JLC leaders. At each session, we discussed:
 - The background, research, and input that went into selecting our new signature areas of focus
 - Fundraising, advocacy, and community partnership opportunities
 - How these changes will positively impact the community and the JLC in the years to come
 - Next steps to implementing our new signature issues
- Hosted the first-ever virtual Advocacy Week. Throughout the week, building awareness of the JLC's commitment to advocacy and our new signature issues with our members, the general public, and most importantly, our state elected officials at a "Morning coffee with Legislators."
 - Day 1 - Who is the JLC?
 - Day 2 - Why do we advocate?
 - Day 3 - Meeting Essential Needs
 - Day 4 - Literacy
 - Day 5 - Violence Prevention and Awareness

How We Make a Difference

REFOCUSING OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT

With the passing of JLC's Strategic Plan in the fall of 2019, a key goal under Community Engagement & Impact was to evaluate our signature issues to assure they are in alignment with the greatest needs of the Chicagoland area by the close of the fiscal year 2021.

Based on meetings with government leaders and legislators, extensive online research, and input from various committees & the Board over the past year, the data supported the transition to our new signature issues:

- **Meeting Essential Needs**
- **Literacy**
- **Violence Prevention & Awareness**

The JLC is excited to embrace these new signature issues in 2021- 2022 to help address the evolving needs of women, children, and families across Chicagoland.



Sharpening Our Strategic Focus / New Strategic Direction

STRATEGIC PLAN ACTIVATED

The Junior League of Chicago's Strategic Plan captures our vision and goals as an organization; it outlines the initiatives the JLC will undertake to advance our legacy of service, leadership, and community impact and continue to build better communities in Chicago.

The Board of Directors revisited the JLC's Strategic Plan to move the organization into the next five years. The approved plan creates a roadmap to ensure that our membership's energy, resources, and time focus on impacting the community and that our members have a meaningful and engaging experience with the JLC.

The Strategic Planning Committee made significant updates to include a concentrated effort in increasing programming, training, and recruitment in the areas of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, which also embraces AJLI guidance. The team also met with and surveyed Diverse Members of the Junior League about their experience to guide the formation of a five-year DEI plan that will work in tandem with the Strategic Plan. These updates aim to make JLC a more welcoming organization to any woman who embraces our mission while also laying the groundwork to more proactively recruit women leaders that will help us advance our mission in the years to come.

The Strategic Plan continues to include benchmarks and goals in the following areas:

- [Community Engagement](#)
- [Membership Engagement](#)
- [Organizational & Financial Engagement](#)
- [Brand Sustainability](#)

Strategic Plan milestones achieved in 2020 - 2021 included the completion and roll-out of new strategic community pillars to ensure JLC community projects serve Chicago's most pressing needs, as well as the implementation of a committee placement system based on skills development and goals to train stronger leaders.

Our Community Projects

ASSOCIATE COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

The women who serve on the Associate Community Experience (ACE) partner with community organizations and other JLC committees to address the evolving needs of women and children in Chicagoland. ACE is unique in that the placement is staffed solely by new members, which helps foster strong ties amongst new JLC members and help them better understand the needs of the communities we serve.



As an example, this year new members participated in the “Clean Up our City” project, where they passed out supplies and collected trash and litter throughout a local park.

CHICAGO CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTER

Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center (CCAC) is a front-line responder for reports of child sexual abuse, as well as reports of physical abuse of children under age three. Their mission is core to the JLC’s signature issues and is a critical part of how we make a positive impact on our community.

Since opening their doors in 2001, the CCAC has served thousands of children. It is the city’s only not-for-profit organization that coordinates the efforts of child protection staff, law enforcement professionals, family advocates, medical experts, and mental health clinicians under one roof.



The JLC hosted multiple outdoor, masked Family Fun Days on the CCAC lawn throughout the year. The CCAC Committee also created bilingual take-home family activity kits throughout the year, which included 100 treat bags, 40 slime kits, and a COVID-friendly Halloween event.

CONNECTING KIDS TO THE ARTS

Connecting Kids to the Arts work gives children the opportunity to express themselves creatively, raise their self-esteem, and have fun during what may be a stressful time in their lives. At the same time, the childrens' parents are given time to either receive services themselves or simply take a much-needed break.



This year, the Connecting Kids to the Arts committee created craft boxes for distribution to the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab, the Big Shoulders Fund, and Ryan Banks Academy. These do-it-yourself projects gave children across the Chicagoland area an opportunity to unlock their imagination and find a healthy outlet for stress during a challenging time.

DONE IN A DAY

Done in a Day (DIAD) organizes service projects throughout the year to help women and children in the community - in just one day. The committee has relationships with dozens of partners throughout the city and creates opportunities for JLC members to work with other organizations and explore future partnerships.

2020 was the year of the pivot, and DIAD did just that. We sprung into action in July to plan community programming for JLC members and were able to coordinate 148 events in the Chicagoland area, including both in-person and at-home events. Through our determination to plan thoughtful programming, we were able to serve our community and our members, and discovered additional partners, including Fight2Feed and Chicago Furniture Bank.



The JLC DIAD volunteers impacted 27,000 lives, wrote 433 cards of support to students, teachers and seniors, recorded 75 Children's books and made 90 handmade blankets donated to CPS students.

FREEING INDIVIDUALS FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING (FIHT)

FIHT works to stop human trafficking in the Chicagoland area by increasing community awareness and providing support to survivors of human trafficking and local anti-trafficking organizations. Members of FIHT provide support directly to survivors by volunteering at local drop-in centers for trafficked individuals, leading self-empowerment classes for survivors, and managing the local anti-trafficking telephone hotline.



This year, FIHT was featured as the Junior Leagues Little Black Dress Initiatives (LBDI) community partner, which helped raise awareness with our members and their networks about the severity of the issue in the Chicagoland community. LBDI, FIHT and Restoration 61, one of our community partners, hosted a member education training along with a movie night viewing of “Promising Young Woman” to promote awareness of sex trafficking.

HOMWORK HEROES (FORMERLY KNOWN AS GIRLS ALL STARS - GALS)

Homework Heroes’ focus is to support elementary and middle school children by assisting with homework, reinforcing study skills, and mentoring children in an engaging environment. The JLC partners with Second Presbyterian Church in Chicago’s South Loop to tutor neighborhood children and assist them with their homework during the school year. In addition to building the JLC’s relationship with the children through educational activities, the sessions include a fun activity and a nutritious snack.

The Homework Heroes transitioned to virtual programming, due to COVID, and are proud to report that the group still received good attendance from children in the community.

JOURNEY TO HEALTHY LIVING

Journey to Healthy Living (JTHL) works with The Michaels Organization to provide access to health and wellness programming to women and children living in the near north and west sides of Chicago.

Programming is targeted towards the specific needs of the individuals. For example, a volunteer may teach a participant self-defense moves, or she might lead a discussion about stress management. This project fills an important need to have consistent monthly programming focused on serving the needs of the community partners.



To accommodate COVID-19 restrictions, JTHL held in-person events outdoors early in the year. Additionally, JTHL held workout activities with a fitness trainer, both virtual and in person, as well as craft days - like decorating tie-dye masks.

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

Kids in the Kitchen (KITK) is an AJLI nationally recognized health education program that empowers youth to make healthy lifestyle choices and help reverse the prominence of childhood obesity and its associated health issues. The Junior League of Chicago's Kids in the Kitchen mission is to impact the lives of area children for healthier lifestyles through hands-on events throughout the year. By providing fun, family-oriented solutions to healthy living, kids and youth are encouraged to be active participants in their own health and well being.

KITK partnered with The Michaels Organization for in-person events and, for events held virtually, the group prepared recipe kits which were dropped off ahead of time, and then led the group through the recipes over a virtual platform.

LOGAN SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA) is a community-based organization advancing diversity, leader development, and models for engagement as the catalyst for social justice in the Logan Square neighborhood, spanning across ages and backgrounds. These programs offer basic life skills and opportunities for family bonding. Family nights include “Learning How to Give Back No Matter How You Give”, “Staying Active Rain or Shine”, and “5 Tips to Healthy Cooking”.

This past year, LSNA worked with the Mozart and McAulliffe Schools to host family nights for which the JLC provided activities packets (50 packets per school).

MAD HATTERS

The Mad Hatters promote literacy throughout Chicagoland by providing high-energy, interactive, storytelling-based performances geared toward children ages 3-9 and their parents. Primarily held in branches of the Chicago Public Library, these fun-filled storytime shows feature children's books, poems, and songs that demonstrate to children how much fun reading can be, while also encouraging parents to read to their children at home. Originally founded by the Junior League of Chicago in 1921 as a children's theater, the Mad Hatters have been promoting children's literacy for 100 years.

Read more about the 100-year legacy of The Mad Hatters on the next page.

TEEN EXODUS

Teen Exodus serves at-risk teenage girls ages 12 to 17 in the Near North Side, Washington Park, and Uptown neighborhoods of Chicago with the goal of providing young women with activities that foster both self-esteem and leadership growth. The JLC manages this project in collaboration with the non-profit organization, Chicago Youth Programs. JLC members structure each event to expose the teens to experiences and activities such as hip-hop dance class, healthy cooking, and theatre performances while addressing prevalent issues within the teens' communities, such as nutrition, college and career aspirations, and teen pregnancy prevention.

Mad Hatter's Celebrated 100 Years of Service

Mad Hatters is a traveling theatre group that promotes literacy by using fun hats to act out a story. The JLC has roots in local children's theatre and the performances continue. This year, Mad Hatters, the Junior League of Chicago's longest-running community volunteer project turns 100 years old.

The History

Mad Hatters began with the idea that early exposure to theater, arts, and literacy would be an educational and beneficial experience for children. In 1921, Junior League of Chicago members Alice Gerstenberg and Annette Washburne founded the Junior League of Chicago's Theatre for Children, which received an initial investment of \$22,000 from the JLC.

The Junior League's Children's Theatre began promoting children's literacy by acting out children's books. JLC troupers would go from hospital to hospital performing for children. These JLC Follies, as the group was known, also performed to raise funds for other JLC community activities. Due to the success of JLC's Children's Theatre Program, over 100 Junior Leagues across the country began their own children's theatre programs. A Chicago reporter wrote, "The Chicago Junior League has done a bigger thing than it has any idea of." By 1929, children's theater became an art form and a national movement.

The Productions

The first JLC Children's Theatre production was a play adaptation of "Alice in Wonderland," written by Alice Gerstenberg. Many of the early productions were based on fairy tales, but soon Junior League members began creating their own plays. In less than a decade, The Children's Theatre of Chicago was producing Broadway-quality shows. In 1926, the Junior League of Chicago hosted the first National Children's Theatre conference. Out of the conference came a national Junior League production of "The Blue Bird" by Maeterlinck. "35,000 children saw "The Blue Bird" play on a 15-city tour. The costumes & scenery were created by the Junior League of Chicago and traveled from city to city. In each city, local women performed under local directors. Children's theatre became a community service movement- introducing children to live theater and a creative outlet for the members of the Junior League.

In 1928, Elizabeth Fuller Goodspeed wrote "The Junior League Plays: The Wizard of Oz: Play in Three Acts," adapted from "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" by L. Frank Baum. Bobsy, as she was known among her JLC friends & Gertrude Stein, had her Junior League Script published by The Samuel French publishing company. The chronicler of the Junior League of Chicago, Celia Hilliard, reports that royalties from the Wizard of Oz for decades afterward supported Junior League theater activities in Chicago!



As Chicago prepared for the 1933 World's Fair, the Junior League of Chicago wrote a detailed proposal for a special children's area at the fair that would include playgrounds, a museum, and a theater. The JLC named the five-acre lagoon "Enchanted Island"- now known as Northerly Island. The Junior League was the only organization asked to produce children's theater at the Fair because of their success in staging plays in the Loop. During the Fair, Peggy Carr (who helped found Planned Parenthood) performed with the Junior League of Chicago's Theater Group. Peggy and her fellow troopers entertained thousands of children who were dropped off at the Junior League Theater while their parents explored the fair. Also at the World's Fair, the Junior League of Chicago performed matinees of "Peter Pan" three times a week for four months on the "Enchanted Island." Peggy's role was as Nana the dog in "Peter Pan," a role for which she wore a costume made of old cedar dust-mop heads. When forced to walk the plank, the actress who played Captain Hook jumped onto a mattress but did so a little enthusiastically and broke her leg! She returned immediately to the cast in a cast," Peggy recalled.

Also, in 1933, JLC began performances in every elementary school in the city. By the end of the 1940s, nearly 80 Leagues took theater into elementary schools. Soon, many of the Leagues' children's theater groups moved into radio and television. In the 1940s, Burr Tillstrom staged puppet shows with the Junior League of Chicago members. Tillstrom's television show *Kukla, Fran & Ollie* was an early puppet programming show for children. In Pennsylvania during the 1950s, Fred Rogers, with local Junior League, helped develop a one-hour program called Children's Corner- later transitioned into Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood.

In the 1970s, the JLC Follies transitioned, refocusing the group to promote reading through the performance or acting out of children's books. Throughout the next few decades, JLC Follies performed throughout the Chicagoland area and the suburbs. Today, the Mad Hatters perform fun-filled story time shows featuring children's books, poems, and songs, demonstrating how much fun reading can be for all! Each child that attends a performance receives a book to take home, encouraging parents to read to their children at home. Mad Hatters typically holds more than 60 performances a year, reaching 800 children and families.

For 100 years, the Junior League of Chicago and its children's theater program has revolutionized AJLI's and America's history. Mad Hatters continues to promote children's literacy year after year!



Women's Treatment Center Closing

In May of 2021, The Women's Treatment Center (WTC) announced that it would be closing its doors after 30 years in the West Loop. WTC offered residential care for 45 women, and it allowed them to bring their children to live with them at the center - an extreme rarity in the recovery world. Women at the center could have 24-hour nursery care, parenting classes, preschool and daycare while the women could make the healthy transition back into the world. The Women's Treatment Center was initially built as the Mary Thompson Hospital, whose namesake opened the facility at the end of the Civil War to treat the wives, widows & children of Union soldiers. The state bought the building in 1988 for 1 million dollars and opened the Women's Treatment center, billing it as the largest rehab center of its kind in the nation!

JLC has partnered with WTC for over 30 years to help women undergoing the final stages of therapy for substance abuse develop the skills they need for an independent, sober life. JLC volunteers planned 90-minute workshops twice a month to build professional skills, develop interview skills, assist with resumes, budget management expert relationship and parenting advice, and health and wellness.

On Saturdays, there were half-day experiences in the city for the women and children to enjoy together, such as Garfield Park Conservatory, Lincoln Park Zoo, Willis Tower, and trick-or-treating at the Zoo. By organizing family-oriented excursions and educational events, JLC volunteers helped the women have wholesome fun with their families & create healthy connections to their young children.

WTC had recently received the following donations through the Junior League of Chicago:

- In 2019, the A. Montgomery Ward Foundation awarded the JLC's Women's Treatment Center Committee a \$5,000 grant.
- Annually, the JLC volunteers would host a drive to obtain new coats, hats, gloves, and scarves for all of the women & children at the center.
- Redecorating the children's playroom and provided new toys and books
- Creating a Clothing Closet for the women and recently updating it
- A final Christmas Eve dinner donated by the Peninsula Chicago for 42 residents
- Flower Donation from Adore Flowers
- Beauty Kit Donations

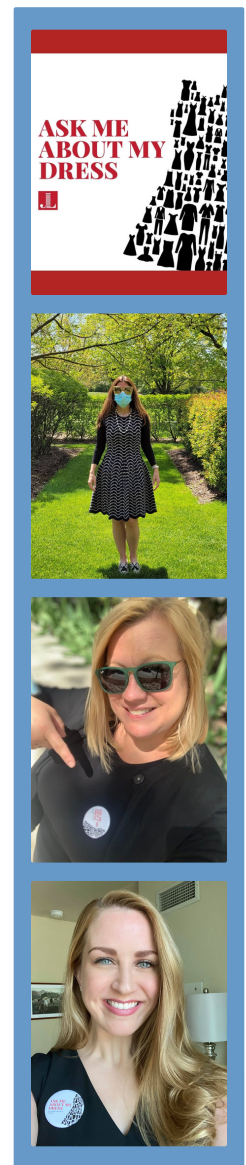


Inaugural Little Black Dress Initiative (LBDI) Campaign

The 2020-2021 year included the JLC's inaugural Little Black Dress Initiative (LBDI) campaign. From May 10-14, 2021, LBDI Champions raised more than \$15,000, which benefited the JLC's Annual Fund. Over the week, LBDI Champions donned a black dress or outfit of their choice and wore an "Ask Me About My Dress" button. Champions collected donations through their online fundraising page while bringing awareness to the campaign through social media posts, emails, and meaningful one-to-one conversations. LBDI Champions included New Members, Active, and Sustainer Members alike.



Started by the Junior League of London in 2014, dozens of Junior Leagues have replicated the Little Black Dress Initiative in their communities. LBDI is a recognized national, AJLI Association-wide program. Leagues worldwide use LBDI to raise funds, increase their support base, and bring awareness to specific community issues. The JLC's LBDI focused on raising awareness for our work around Violence Prevention & Awareness, one of our new Signature Issues, with a special focus on the issue of Human Trafficking, its prevalence, and the JLC's work to combat trafficking.



The campaign included virtual learning and awareness-building opportunities, including an educational JLCU, Advocacy Action Hour, and a panel discussion featuring a survivor of human trafficking with over 100 attendees.

For more than 100 years, the JLC has forged a route to a healthier, safer, and more equitable Chicago through fundraising, service, and advocacy. Despite challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, this legacy of innovation and commitment to the community continued as the entire League came together to support the inaugural Little Black Dress Initiative.

Led by the Annual Fund Committee, the LBDI campaign was a truly collaborative effort with planning and support provided by the Advocacy Council, Marketing Committee, Community Council, Management, and Board.

Member Stories

Blaire Sullivan

Over the last three years, the Junior League of Chicago has had a profound, positive impact on my life. When I first moved to Chicago, joining the JLC was at the top of my list as I was looking for an avenue to be connected to meaningful volunteer, philanthropic, leadership training, and social opportunities. I found all of this and more within the JLC and am grateful to continue to meet so many women who value the same mission.



Martina Coe

Fresh out of graduate school, and not originally a Chicago native, I knew I wanted to be a part of an organization dedicated to advocacy, uplifting and supporting women, and helping me build a sense of community. The JLC allowed me to connect with women from all walks of life and lived experiences to create many lasting friendships! By being the Advocacy VP, I had a wonderful opportunity to walk in previous leaders' shoes to really see the embodiment of the League's rich history of the Advocacy Council. Also, through my time on the Diversity, Equality & Inclusion Council, I really saw the League's commitment to inclusion of all



Kathleen Rosenbaum

I joined the JLC in hopes of deepening my connection with my community and my city. This past year alone has done exactly that, providing me with an abundance of opportunities to form amazing friendships and make tangible contributions to society that instantly make life feel richer. I only wish I had joined the league sooner!



Margaret Devlin

I joined the league when I moved here in 2015 - my company is based in Madison and I was a transfer from the Junior League of Madison. I was looking to learn the city and meet people as a transplant back to Chicago. It was a great way to meet women in the city who shared my interests and wanted to give back to the community. I've really enjoyed making close friends through our time spent together volunteering, working on committee projects, and serving on management.



Alison Youngblood

My JLC placement was always in Community – the heart of the League. I was fortunate to volunteer throughout the city where I learned about community needs, developed new projects that were recognized for making an impact, and applied my professional consulting skills to the nonprofit sector. These experiences, both rewarding and challenging, led to deep friendships, expanded my leadership skills, and inspired a continuing commitment to community service. Thank you, JLC!



Member Stories



Damaris Aquino

Joining the Junior League has had a positive impact on my life. JLC has given me the ability to find a way to give back to the community through volunteering. JLC has also provided me the opportunity to learn and hone my leadership skills and find a community of like-minded women in which to thrive.

Kathryn Konrad

I became a JLC member 10 years ago and quickly got involved within the Chicago community. Over the past decade, I've had the opportunity to serve as a leader and have met so many wonderful and amazing women. I'm extremely proud to be a member of the JLC Chicago!



Kristy Zatvornitsky

I joined the JLC because its mission is to promote volunteerism, develop the potential of women, and improve the community strongly aligned with my values. In my time with the Junior League of Chicago, I have been able to strengthen my engagement with the community as well as grow as a leader. I will continue to thrive as "my best self" both personally and professionally because of the Junior League and the many impactful women I have had the honor of connecting with.



Tyra Peterson

Membership in the Junior League of Chicago compliments my passions and lifelong commitments to community service and personal and professional development. I look forward to connecting, networking and building lasting friendships with other empowering women who are committed to making a difference in the lives of others in the Chicago community.



Anu Reddy

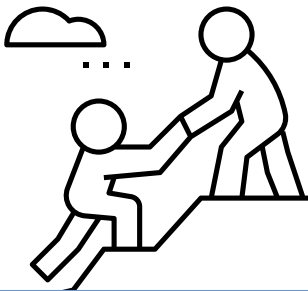
Being a member of the JLC has been such an incredible experience. When I moved to Chicago in 2018, I knew without a doubt that I would transfer to the Chicago League because I loved my experience in the Cincinnati League so much. It's been wonderful to be a part of this powerhouse of an organization where I have the opportunity to connect with other civic minded women who are so passionate about creating positive change in our community.



JLC by the Numbers



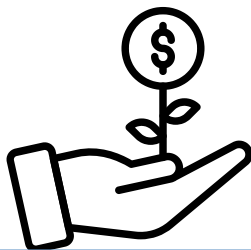
1,026
Women Strong



157
Attendees at Our Two
Leadership Training
Events

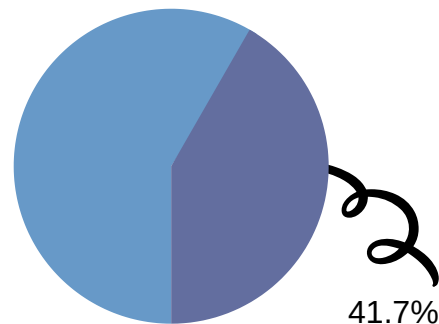


206,598
Women and Children
Served



3,323
Hours of Community
Service

That's 370 days!



41.7% Direct
Hours

Photo Highlights



Photo Highlights



Letter From the Treasurer, Bridgette Lobdell

For the fiscal year ending May 31, 2021, the audited financial statements of the Junior League of Chicago (JLC) reflect an overall increase in net assets of \$192,942. This increase primarily reflects an increase in our investment portfolio, funds from the Payroll Protection Program, and a decrease in operating expenses offset by decreased fundraising events and donations in light of COVID-19. Our investment portfolio and cash position were at \$1,257,145 and \$882,758, respectively, which is an increase compared to \$1,202,687 and \$769,596 at year-end 2020. Our investment portfolio had a combined net gains and investment income of \$179,309.

Membership in the JLC decreased from the prior year (1,026 versus 1,221 in 2020) due in large part to COVID-19. We also expect continued declines in our membership during the upcoming year as a result of the pandemic but we expect our membership numbers to rebound to pre-pandemic levels in the 2022-2023 JLC year.

For a significant portion of the year, the city of Chicago did not allow indoor events. As such, the JLC had to pivot and reimagine ways to raise funds via virtual events. We held our first-ever virtual Fall Fest, Gala, and Spring Fest which raised \$97,842 in total. This compares to special event revenue from the prior year of \$149,666. We also launched a new fundraising campaign, the Little Black Dress Initiative, which generated more than \$15,000 for our annual fund bringing the total amount raised to \$94,752.

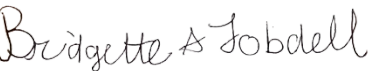
In light of the pandemic, the JLC took a detailed look at ways to control costs, which resulted in a decrease in total expenses over the prior year by \$81,081. The main areas of reduction were general and administrative, event, and community programming expenses.

In fiscal year 2020, we applied for and received a Federal Payroll Protection Program Loan from the Small Business Administration in the amount of \$57,621. The government forgave the loan during fiscal year 2021. In addition, we applied for and received the second round of the Federal Payroll Protection Program funds in the amount of \$50,942, which is reflected as a noncurrent liability. Similar to the prior loan, we expect 100% forgiveness.

In light of decreased revenues and a thorough review of our financial position, the JLC Board decided to fund our community project expenses from our Community Development Project Fund for the upcoming three years. We anticipate investment in community projects will slightly decline year over year, as the actual expenses were \$63,598 for 2021, and the budget for the upcoming year is \$62,550. The JLC is implementing a strategic review of our community projects to determine the most efficient use of resources to amplify our impact, and our investment in individual community projects will continue to be fluid in light of the ongoing effects of COVID-19. The JLC expects to invest in 8 community projects in the next fiscal year.

Even though this was a challenging year, our results demonstrate our ability to react to the changing environment and serve to highlight the dedication of our members in donating both their time and financial resources. The JLC is committed to deepening our mission of training leaders, serving the community, and changing lives in 2021 and the future.

With Warm Regards,



Bridgette Lobdell



Bridgette Lobdell
2020 - 2021 Treasurer

Financial Statement Highlights

Statement of Financial Position

As of May 31, 2021

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 882,758
Investments	1,257,145
Other Receivables	7,299
Prepaid Expenses	<u>17,281</u>
Total Current Assets	2,164,483

NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Property & Equipment (Net)	<u>239,096</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 2,403,579</u>

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 3,524
Accrued Expenses	20,866
Deferred Membership Dues	<u>167,945</u>
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 192,335

NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES

Refundable Advance (PPP Loan)	<u>50,942</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>243,277</u>

NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions	
Undesignated	609,309
Board-Designated	<u>1,547,513</u>
	2,156,822
With Donor Restrictions	<u>3,480</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>2,160,302</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 2,403,579</u>

Financial Statement Highlights

Statement of Activities

As of May 31, 2021

REVENUES

Support

Contributions & Grants	\$ 102,729
Donated Goods & Services	67,250
Payroll Protection Program Loan Forgiveness	<u>57,621</u>
	227,600

Special Event Revenue	<u>97,842</u>
Total Support	<u>325,442</u>

Program Services

Membership Dues & Fees	<u>255,875</u>
------------------------	----------------

Other Revenues and Gains

Interest & Dividends, net of Fees	10,075
Net Gains (Losses) on Investments	169,234
Miscellaneous Income	<u>3,843</u>
Total Other Revenues, net	183,152

Total Support & Revenue	<u>764,469</u>
-------------------------	----------------

EXPENSES

Program	<u>41,271</u>
---------	---------------

Supporting Services

Management & General	375,465
Fundraising	<u>111,091</u>
Total Supporting Services	<u>486,556</u>

Other Expenses

National Dues - Unallocated	<u>43,700</u>
-----------------------------	---------------

Total Expenses	<u>571,527</u>
----------------	----------------

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 192,942</u>
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<u>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</u>	<u>1,967,360</u>
--------------------------------------	------------------

<u>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</u>	<u>\$ 2,160,302</u>
--------------------------------	---------------------

Recognizing Those Who Make Our Work Possible: Donations to the Annual Fund

\$5,000+

THE FIVE GREAT LAKES CLUB

JaCee Burnes & Joe Trpik

\$1,912

THE 1912 CLUB

Bridget Dalton
Rebecca Hogan
Erika Kowall
Lauren Rich
Kim Sebastian

\$1,000+

MILLENIUM DONORS

Kristin Bernhard
Kirsten Butler
Jacqueline Cheatham
Christine Crum
Amy Dickinson
Caroline Donlin
Amy Dunn
Patricia Pace
Stephanie Schnick
Melissa Schumacher
Judith Shaw
Courtney Shea
Lisbeth Stiffel
Blair Sullivan

\$500 - \$999

LUCY MCCORMICK BLAIR LYNN DONORS

Laura Anderson
Katie Beard
Tracy Bodenmann
Maria Boland
Jane Denness
Madeline Enright
Lisa Gajjar
Phyllis Gardner
Molly Graves
Alpha IR Group
Delane Heldt
Susanna Hilboldt
Emily Hunter
Claudia Jones
Sarah Kimmer
Kathryn Konrad
Nicole Lambiasi
Tracey Lassiter-Levy
Kathryn Laux
Beckley Maggio
Ellen McCarthy
Julie McKernan
Rebecca Nall
Ruth Gallagher Nelson
Ann Nerad
Christine Recsetar
Erin Satterthwaite
Jordan Skowron
Mary Smart
Vaughn Smith
Caitlin Spear
Lauren Tavel
Jacqueline Turyna Fetters
Chelsea Wiedemann

\$250 - 499

MAJOR FUND DONORS

Elyse Adamo
Lisa Allen
Anika Allen
Pamela Andrews
Damaris Aquino
Kimberly Beard
Martha Biede
Peggy Bodine
Nancy Bremner
Judy Bross
Janet Buckstein
Kamaria Campbell
Ann Brinkman Carstensen
Victoria Cassidy
Sarah Clancy
Rachel Coburn
Melissa Daniel
Sara Davison
Elizabeth Ervin
Genevieve Fabisch
Molly Favret
Jessica Fernandez-Evans
Grace Gau
Margaret Grady
Melissa Hansen
Margaret Herrmann
Josalind Hoy
Jana Ievins
Mariam Jafri
Kathleen Jenkins
Juilann Johnston
Kate Kennedy
Crystal Kirscht
Briar Koehl
Vanessa Kosloski
Anne Krall
Maura Lakowski
Molly Laurain
Stephenie Lazarus
Mary Kate Mack
Kate Major
John Martin

Carly McGuire
Kerry McGurn
Mary Lee Montague
Katherine Nicholl
Karen Nye
Meghan O'Leary
Genevieve Redd
Amanda Roberts
Taryn Robinette
Heather Sandoval
Chelsea Sarikas
Michelle Schneir
Kenra Scott
Nancy Snyder
Morgan Stelly
Sarah Stuckel
Jenessa Tabb
Colleen Taggart
Erika Teitz
Lindsey Walker
Carmel Wasemiller
Felicia Webster
Samantha Westerhof
Ivy Williams
Katie Woodfin
Kristy Zatvornitsky

Recognizing Those Who Make Our Work Possible: Additional Fund Donors

Maggie Ackell	Christine Cieri	Sallie Gill	Kate Kelly
Andrea Adighibe	Sophie Cikovsky	Kathryn Gillman	Elizabeth Kennedy
Cynthia Alcantara	Martina Coe	Elizabeth Gilman	Erin Kennedy
Nora Ancona	Brittany Collins	Cornelia Gittens-Huss	Katlynn Kennedy
Jennifer Anderson	Janna Conant	Sue-Gray Goller	Hannah Keogh
Katelyn Andrysiak-Begert	Rebecca Corbicz	Alexandra Golota	Elisabeth Kerpan
Anne Appel	Ashley Cornwell	Kara Goodbrand	Michelle Kerr
Alexis Aria	Kelsie Cox	Alexandra Goodman	Alyssa Kim
Megan Arth	Caitlin Crissey	Michelle Gould	Jennifer King
Sarah Axon	Caitlin Crocket	Abigail Gravenhorst	Colleen King
Liza Bamonti	Michelle Cronin	Katherine Gray Cherng	Jason Klika
Patty Bandolik	Jennifer Daniels	Melanie Greben	Heather Kline
Allison Barbour	Brooke Daugherty	Diane Gregg	Alix Kohrs
Abigail Beasley	Erika Dawson	Lily Griffin	Carolyn Kos
Katherine Beck	Deborah De Salvo	Kristen Grisius	Kaylee Krough
Mitzi Beebe	Devin DeAngelis	Casey Gross	Andi Kveton Mossa
Kim Belton	Amanda Decker	Lekisha Gunn	Danielle Lachance
Jean Berghoff	Natalie DeMuro	Petra Harrell	Jo-El Lacy
Julie Beringer	Joelle DePietro	Francia Harrington	Lynn Lee
Alyssa Bisanz	Brooke DeSmith	Lydia Hawthorne	Alessandra Leemputte
Jennie Blair	Margaret Devlin	Alison Hearne	Stephanie Leese Emrich
Marcene Block	Lauren Dittmar	Bridget Hegg	Maria Leirkjaer
Allison BomanJessica Bonham	Julia Donahue	Marilyn Helmholz	Christina Leonhard
Brittani Borhardt	Margaret Dougherty	Mary Lynne Hickey	Allison Leopold
Kristen Bourke	Julie Drewniak	Shayna Hilburn	Erica Libby
Kayla Brannen	Laurie Duncan	Taylor Hilton	Mary Ann Lillie
Allison Braun	Leah Edwards	Adriana Hoak	Christina Lingenfelter
Colleen Breems	Lacey Ehrlich	Victoria Hogle	Melissa Lipcamon
Danna Brim	Sarah Eiden	Julia Holmertz	Bridgette Lobdell
Annie Broadus	Kristen Eis	Kyla Houge	Ann Logue
Natalie Broler	Erika Emerick	Emily Howard	Paige Lohse
Lara Brongel	Shelby Enke	Elizabeth Hubbard	Emily Long
Raquel Brown	Sara Felix	Caitlin Hubbard	Katelyn Looker
Viola Brown	Maria Fernandez	Julia Hubeny	Anna Lovis
Morgan Buckey	Samantha Fillmore	Lauren Huefner	Mackenzie Lukas
Rebekah Bueschel	Lauren Finnis	Bobbi Hummel	Meghan Lundy
Paige Bullins	Isabel Fischbein	Virginia Hunt	Jillian Madden
Nicole Bulman	Stefanie Flock	Elizabeth Hurley	Hillary Mangiaforte
Daniela Burchardt	Elizabeth Fonger	Suzanne Huszagh	Amy Marchlen
Kate Burks	Madeline Fuja	Katherine Hyduk	Claire Markley
Victoria Burton	Margaret Gabrek	Kathryn Johnson	Kymberly Marrinson
Elizabeth Buzard	Kathryn Galbreath	Drea Jones	Sara Marsden
Colleen Carrillo	Cristina Galvan	Michelle Jones	Veronica Martinez
Amanda Casalina	Christina Gamboney	Maura Junius	Jennifer Mason
Jasmin Caverly	Alejandra Garcia Earley	Stacy Kammert	Michelle Mathiesen
Isabel Ceniza	Heather Gardner	Alice Kaufman	Lauren May

Recognizing Those Who Make Our Work Possible:

Additional Fund Donors

Sarah McCarron
Rosie McCarty
Megan McGuire
Katherine McKean
Kimberly McMenamy
Erin McWilliams
Catherine Merdian
Melissa Mestrovich
Natalie Metzger
Lindsey Meyer
Suzanne Miller
Jenny Mills
Suzanne Mills
Marie Misialek
Sydney Modeas
Mary Mrowicki
Victoria Mudro
Nubia Murray
Emily Murray
Anna Musci
Amanda Myers
Mark Nelson
Blythe Newton
Joe Newton
Sarah Nugent
Kari O'Brien
Jennie Oliver
Kristen Olson
Kristin Olson
Megan O'Rell
Emily Palmer
Monal Patel
Magda Pecyna
Ann Garland Pelham
Cheryl Peters
Emily Peterson
Chelsea Pickering
Anna Pille
Carrie Pinkham
Sammantha Pisciotta
Bridget Plesich
Danielle Powers
Megan Pratt
Brittany Price
Rachel Pustejovsky

Kavitha Rajendran
Hayley Rawers
Lea Redd
Anu Reddy
Dana Regan
Anna Rhau-Bernhard
Shweta Rich
Andrea Roberts
Hannah Roberts
Mary Pat Rooney
Jessica Roque
Kathleen Rosenbaum
Michele Rosenbaum
Katherine Roth
Cynthia Rudolph
Karen Rugh
Shalenie Sanker
Ellen Sawyer
Nicole Schalinske
Addyson Schubert
Ryan Schumacher
Katherine Schwieterman
Elizabeth Sharp
Krys Shaw
Stacey Shaw
Dream Shaw
Allie Shea
Kate Shepherd
Christine Shimel
Katie Siemon
Carolyn Skoul
Sarah Smallwood
Kimberly Smith
Mary Smith
Margaret Snorf
Alexandra Sobczak
Sharon Sparks
Diana Stapp
Amanda Stasinski
Jennifer Statler
Elizabeth Steckel
Melanie Stephens
Cara Stern
Madeleine Sulkin
Michelle Sullivan

Alexandra Suprise
Haley Swanberg
Hope Tate
Anne Theophilos
Christy Thielen
Caroline Thompson
Taylor Trovillion
Anne Tuohy
Adrianna Turner
Katie Uelk
Tionna Van Gundy
Kasondra Van Treeck
Christa Varga
Kristin Vasilj
Elizabeth Vastine
Leah Vaughn
Caroline Veazie
Mercedes Vega
Tanya Vernon
Anna Vettiankal
Sana Waseem
Andrea Wasem
Olivia Weyers
Erin White
Jane Whitesides
Elizabeth Whitlow
Barbara Wilczek
Callie Wills
Kristy Wilson
Natalie Wilson
Katherine Woodward
Regina Wootton
Krista Worzalla
Rayna Yaker
Allison Youngblood
Shelby Zagorski
Nancy Zimmer
Jacqueline
Zimmerman
Darby Zwagerman

Recognizing Those Who Make Our Work Possible: Donations to the Dues Support Fund & Tribute Donations

DUES SUPPORT FUND

Lisa Allen	Karen Nye
Alexis Aria	Jennie Oliver
Mitzi Beebe	Kristin Olson
Claire Bewalda	Kylie Orme
Viola Brown	Johanna Peterson
Rebekah Bueschel	Carrie Pinkham
Sara Felix	Lea Redd
Caitlin Fox	Suzanne Roberts
Cristina Galvan	Taryn Robinette
Kathryn Gillman	Kathleen Rosenbaum
Elizabeth Gilman	Stephanie Schnick
Michelle Gould	Melissa Schumacher
Rebecca Hogan	Kim Sebastian
Bobbi Hummel	Kate Shepherd
Meredith Jones	Kayla Smith
Hannah Keogh	Virginia Thomas
Robyn Lang	Jane Whitesides
Anne Lipford	Jacqueline Zimmerman
Emily Long	
Meghan Lundy	
Beckley Maggio	
Kate Neuens	

TRIBUTE GIFTS

In honor of Nancy N. Snyder
In honor of Alyssa Kim
In honor of Delane Heldt
In memory of Jan Schumacher
In honor of Melissa Schumacher
In honor of Lisa Lebeck Allen
In honor of Francina Harrington
In honor of Allison Leopold
In memory of Colleen Gleason
In honor of Phyllis Gardner
In memory of William Heard
In memory of Joyce McCarron
In honor of Erin Kennedy
In honor of Nubia Murray
In honor of Colleen King
In honor of Caitlin S Hubbard
In memory of Roxy Heart Blackledge
In honor of Meghan O'Leary
In honor of Donald Schwieterman
In honor of Kaitlin Smith
In honor of Katelyn Looker
In honor of Hillary Mangiaforte
In honor of Elizabeth Wylie

Recognizing Those Who Make Our Work Possible:

Donations to Headquarters Fund & Community Project Development Fund

DONATIONS TO HEADQUARTERS FUND

Maggie Ackell	Cornelia Gittens-Huss	Nancy Snyder
Sarah Axon	Kathryn Hughes	Lauren Tavel
Kari Bearman	Hannah Keogh	Anne Tuohy
Mitzi Beebe	Patricia Lanigan	Jennifer Waryjas
Peggy Bodine	Meghan Lundy	Tracy Whitehead
Paige Bullins	Hillary Mangiaforte	Jane Whitesides
Jasmin Caverly	Suzanne Roberts	Elizabeth Whitlow
Maria Fernandez	Cynthia Rudolph	
Samantha Fillmore	Kate Shepherd	
Elizabeth Fonger	Kimberly Smith	

DONATIONS TO COMMUNITY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND

Catherine Anderson	Carolyn Kos
Jennifer Anderson	Erika Kowall
Ashley Baumann	Melinda McIntosh
Cara Blackledge	Emily Palmer
Cailin Crissey	Cheryl Peters
Heather Dail	Cynthia Hunt Rudolph
John Eisel	Maya Serkin
Shelby Enke	Kimberly Smith
Bridget Hegg	Mariah Turner
Jason Klika	Sana Waseem
	Katie Woodfin

Corporate Sponsors & Corporate Matching Gifts

CORPORATE SPONSORS

IlliniCare Health
Northern Fork
OSM Worldwide
Rogers & Hollands Jewelers
The Peninsula Chicago

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS

Abbott Laboratories	Constellation Brands	Paypal
Abbvie	Deloitte	Protiviti
Adams Street Partners	Enova	Publicis Sapient
Aon	Exelon	PwC
Arch Capital	Factset	Salesforce
Ascent Technology	FTI Consulting	Travelers
AT&T	Google	Tyson Foods
Blue Vista Capital	Huron Consulting	UPS
BMO	Group	VMware Foundation
CBRE	INCAPITAL	Wells Fargo
Charityvest	Infinite Global	William Blair
Charles Schwab	Marsh & McLennan	Zillow
Chubb	McDonald's	
Cigna	Morningstar	

THANK YOU!

*We thank you for your continued support of
the Junior League of Chicago!*

Junior League of Chicago

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