



THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**PHILADELPHIA**

# JLP Works

WINTER/SPRING  
2025

## THE IMPACT ISSUE

### WHERE WE'VE BEEN AND WHERE WE'RE GOING

#### *REFLECTIONS FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT*



Dear Junior League of Philadelphia Members,  
As I reflect on ONE MORE remarkable League Year with the Junior League of Philadelphia, I am filled with immense gratitude for every one of you. Your dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to our mission made our collective achievements last year truly special. It was an honor to serve as your President!

Throughout the 2023-2024 League Year, you all rose to the occasion and ONE MORE was anything but linear. Watching everything we accomplished together was nothing short of inspiring: from Fall Fête and Friendsgiving to significant improvements to our beautiful Headquarters (did someone say 'new roof?!'), community events, increased metrics, and the continued success of our incredible Thrift Shop, new friends, old friends...the list is endless and it's beautiful!

We are here by choice, driven by a passion to serve, and we stay because we've found a place to connect – with each other and with ourselves. Your enthusiasm and hard work have been the driving force behind our success. Together, we have made a tangible difference, and for that, I am so proud and deeply grateful.

Beyond our community accomplishments and metrics, what sets the JLP apart is the sense of community and support we foster. Each of you brings unique talents, perspectives, and experiences to the table. It is through our collaboration and solidarity that we have been able to make a meaningful impact. Your kindness, generosity, and willingness to lift each other up have created a warm and welcoming environment that defines our League.

As we reflect on our 111th year and look ahead to the future, let us carry forward the spirit of compassion, unity, and empowerment that drives us. Together, there is no limit to what we can achieve. I am eager to see all that you will accomplish in the months and years to come.

Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for your dedication and hard work. You are the heart and soul of the JLP, and I am endlessly grateful for each and every one of you.

With Deepest Appreciation,  
Stephanie Rhein Lippincott  
President 2023-2024

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*The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. is an organization of women whose shared mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.*

# A SEASON OF OPPORTUNITY AND COMMUNITY

## Letter from the President



As we continue our 112th year of service to the Philadelphia community, I am filled with excitement and gratitude for the work we've accomplished together so far and the opportunities that still lie ahead. Serving as the President of the Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. (JLP) for the 2024-2025 League Year is an honor, and I am inspired every day by the dedication of our members.

Our theme this year, Building Community through Service Together, reflects our commitment to inclusion and fostering a sense of belonging within our membership, which helps us create impactful change. A key area of focus this year is organically weaving a sense of belonging into the foundation of how we operate as a League. We welcome all women who value our Mission. By focusing on the belonging aspect of membership, we not only welcome and embrace our members, but aim to provide a membership experience that fosters community within, which then broadens our impact. Keying in on belonging is not just a once-and-done focus for this year. It lives within League operations daily as part of our focus on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging.

We remain steadfast in our focus on food insecurity, a critical issue facing the communities we serve. Our community council, along with our Director of Development, is working diligently to expand partnerships across the region, ensuring that we provide meaningful service-learning opportunities for all members, regardless of where they live or work. At the same time, we are crafting a new strategic plan to guide us into the future. Our current plan has been instrumental in navigating change since the COVID-19 pandemic, and we now look forward to setting three new priorities to ensure the League continues to innovate and be a strategic leader in the Philadelphia region.

I'm also proud to share updates on our branding. Our Marketing Council has been hard at work implementing our new brand guidelines from AJLI, making the necessary enhancements to our logo and color scheme to align with the new vision. We look forward to continuing to showcase some new pops of color that are available with the new branding and even look forward to finding a way to showcase our throwback JLP green. Additionally, we're excited to roll out the new Community Impact Fund, which will allow donors to directly support the JLP's community initiatives.

The year is already shaping up to be one of growth, connection, and progress. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together as we continue our mission-forward approach and strengthen our sense of belonging through our service together. I'm excited to see what we are able to accomplish and can't wait to meet more of you in the upcoming months. Thank you for your dedication to the JLP—it is through our collective effort that we achieve remarkable things. Let's continue to make this a season of impact and opportunity.

Loyally and with love,  
Kate Hall  
President 2024-2025

## 2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Kate Hall  
**President-Elect:** Pam Phojanakong  
**Assistant to the President:** Jacqui Rothera  
**Secretary:** Adrienne Taylor  
**Director of Development:** Victoria Mullane  
**Parliamentarian:** Jennifer Adams  
**Nominating Chair:** Natalie Caldwell  
**Treasurer:** Rose Cuozzo  
**Chief Operating Officer:** Erin Nanovic  
**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging Chair:** Jennifer May

## 2024-2025 MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

**VP of Marketing & Communications:**  
Barbara Manning  
**VP of Fundraising:** Laurel Mangini  
**VP of Community:** Beth Hysick  
**VP of Membership Development:**  
Lauren Smith  
**Editor-at-Large:** Jamila Robinson  
**House Chair:** Lauren Rezendes  
**Treasurer-Elect:** Angela Velez  
**Chief Operating Officer-Elect:** Dalia Omran  
**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging Chair-Elect:** Kate Koob

## 2024-2025 SUSTAINER LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OFFICERS

**Sustainer Chair:** Deb Snyder  
**Sustainer Chair-Elect:** Margie Patches  
**Recording Secretary:** Lauren Zabel  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Alexis Sternhell  
**Treasurer:** Jane Sagendorph

**JLP Works Chairs:** Lindsay Jordan,  
Serena Zelezny & Victoria Denaro  
**JLP Works Submissions:**  
jlpworks@jlphiladelphia.org  
**Office:** 610-645-9696 | **Fax:** 610-645-0996  
www.jlphiladelphia.org

**JLP Thrift Shop:**  
**25 West Lancaster Ave., Ardmore, PA**  
**19003 Open 7 days a week.**  
**Phone:** 610-896-8828 | **Fax:** 610-896-8924

**Shopping Hours:**  
Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sunday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Donation Hours:**  
Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Consignment by Appointment:**  
Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## JLP WORKS DEADLINES

Spring Issue: April 30

Please contact the *JLP Works* Committee via email at [jlpworks@jlphiladelphia.org](mailto:jlpworks@jlphiladelphia.org) with questions or comments. The *JLP Works* committee is eager to accept your articles and story suggestions. Please feel free to contact us with your articles and proposals to make this publication better. Or advertise in the *JLP Works*: Classified \$25, business card size \$115, quarter page \$200, half page \$300, full page \$525. The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization.

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## ABOUT JLP

The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. (JLP) was founded in 1912 and, by 1915, our membership had reached 100 in number. World War I was upon the nation, so the JLP volunteered as nurses' aides and volunteered in hospitals. By 1920, the 19th Amendment became law, increased access to voting for women. Work with the blind also became the major focus area of the JLP.

In 1924, the proposition was made to the Fairmount Park Commission for the JLP to become guardian of the Park's Sweetbriar Mansion, and, by 1928, we had raised all the funds necessary to take possession of Sweetbriar, our new Headquarters.

In the fall of 1929, the JLP made Children's Heart Hospital our chief beneficiary and the League's main project until 1938. In the early 1940's, we renewed our efforts to support the country through the Second World War. The JLP played an advisory role in the Civilian Defense Office and helped organize the volunteer service of the University Hospital. We worked closely with the American Red Cross and the Home Defense Program.

In the mid 1950's, we began working with Lankenau Hospital, created the Junior Museum at the Academy of Natural Sciences, and developed the "Wheels for Welfare" program. The beginning of the 1960's brought new projects, serving as tour guides at Independence Hall, participating in Art Goes to School, and teaching English to foreign-born women.

In 1983, the JLP sought and received \$1.8 million in grants for the restoration of the Old Mill House at the Water Works. During the 1988-1989 League Year, the JLP contributed more than 55,000 hours to projects and committees and raised more than \$265,000 to support programs and projects.

Some of this funding was distributed to the City of Philadelphia for Phase III of the restoration of the Water Works and for the restoration of the Water Works Entrance Houses. After 15 years of JLP involvement, we were able to turn the Water Works Restoration Project over to the community as a Legacy Project.

In 2003, we purchased the former Harrison's department store in Ardmore to serve as our first-ever permanent Headquarters. Today, our Headquarters houses our office as well as our largest fundraiser, the JLP Thrift Shop. Revenue from our thrift shop exceeds \$500,000 per year and supports our efforts in the community.

In 2012, the JLP celebrated its centennial anniversary, and our membership adopted the Apple a Day Healthy Living Initiative™, which is a multi-tiered community initiative with the goal of creating a positive impact on the health and wellness of adults and children in the Greater Philadelphia area.

In 2012-2013, the League commenced the silent phase of a historic fundraiser, the Capital Campaign for Building Community, which raised over \$1.4m to bolster our community impact by (1) creating and implementing valuable, innovative, and unique issue-based programming; (2) funding capital improvements necessary to create a state-of-the-art headquarters building that supports our membership and mission; and (3) showcasing our service to the community through the development and implementation of a public relations plan.

In June 2015, the JLP proudly hosted the grand re-opening of our Ardmore headquarters after the completion of a major \$1M renovation of the top two floors. In 2017-2018, the League completed extensive renovations of our Thrift Shop.

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING

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

## MISSION

The Junior League of Philadelphia Incorporated is an organization of women whose Mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

## VALUES

- We value training and education that supports our mission and advances our personal and professional leadership skills for the betterment of the community.
- We value service, responsibility, and accountability and support each member's ability to affect change in our community through leadership and voluntarism.
- We value partnership and collaboration to enhance and strengthen our relationship with the community.
- We value inclusion through our members' diverse backgrounds, opinions, talents and skills.
- We value advocacy as a means for initiating change.
- We value the loyalty, personal commitment and dedication of our members in furthering the mission of the JLP.
- We value our members' needs for flexibility in their League involvement.

## VISION

Empowering and equipping women to be catalysts for lasting community change.

## ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR LEAGUES INTERNATIONAL, INC.

The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. is a member of The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI), an organization that brings together over 295 Leagues and more than 200,000 women volunteers in five countries (Canada, Great Britain, Kenya, Mexico, and the United States). AJLI provides members with access to invaluable training, from leadership and organizational development, to community program workshops, diversity training, and fundraising. This training enables members to learn to manage and train volunteers, unite communities, and form partnerships. AJLI organizes regular conferences and meetings to create opportunities for networking, collaboration, and shared learning.



# COMMUNITY IMPACT:

## WHO WE SERVE AND HOW WE SERVE

### EXPANDING OUR REACH

Our organization continues to expand its reach, touching lives in various communities through impactful volunteer initiatives. Over the past year, we've partnered with local organizations and rallied our dedicated members to make a difference. We provided support to those in need with events spanning across multiple neighborhoods.

- 39 Volunteer Events
- 246 Volunteers
- 15 Community Partners
- 15 Zip Codes Served  
(Philadelphia: 11, Suburbs: 3, NJ: 1)



### SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

Fundraising is an important element of our success – enabling us to support our programs and initiatives. From our thrift shop to community fundraising events, every dollar raised directly contributes to our mission of service and impact.

**Annual Fund:** Last year, we raised over \$46,000 to support our ongoing efforts, thanks to our generous donors.

**Thrift Shop:** Last year we brought in a total of \$775,611, along with consignment sales of \$59,067 and eBay sales of \$7,505.

#### Fundraising Efforts:

- Annual Fund: \$46,204
- Thrift Shop Sales: \$775,611
- Consignment: \$59,067
- eBay Sales: \$7,505

### INITIATIVES THAT MAKE A TANGIBLE DIFFERENCE

Our community programs have grown significantly over the past year, providing essential resources and education to local families. Through initiatives like Food to Families and *Kids in the Kitchen*, we've been able to make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

**Food to Families:** We packed nearly 4,000 boxes of food, a significant increase from 2,200 boxes the previous year, resulting in approximately 120,000 pounds of food being delivered to families in our region.

**Kids in the Kitchen:** With more school partners and expanded programming, this initiative reached 820 students, providing 9,720 hours of educational opportunities, a notable increase from last year.

#### Food to Families:

- 4,000 boxes of food packed
- 120,000 lbs. of food distributed
- Up from 2200 boxes last year (for comparison)

#### Kids in the Kitchen:

- 820 students impacted
- 9,720 hours of programming
- Growth from 565 students and 6,780 hours the previous year

*"I'm excited and grateful that we are still in partnership to make this program, KITK, accessible for our students .... I'm looking for this partnership to continue each semester to come." – Marcie Tanner (Mastery Schools)*

### DEVELOPING THE POTENTIAL OF WOMEN

Our members are the heart of our organization, and we are committed to developing their potential through ongoing training and leadership opportunities. During the 2023-2024 League year, our membership grew to over 700 women, and we provided numerous learning opportunities to equip them for success both in the League and out in the world.

For our more than 700 members, including 104 new members, we offered 27 learning opportunities covering a wide range of topics hosted by EVT and DEI&B. Highlights included *Understanding Anti-Fat Bias*, *Demystifying Disability*, *Cultivating Leadership: Non-Profit Board Membership 101*, *Parenting & Diet Culture*, and *Generative AI: How*

- 713 Members: (253 Actives, 356 Sustainers, 104 New Members)
- 27 Learning Opportunities (EVT: 16, DEI&B: 9)
- 22 Area Meetings
- 4 GMMs
- 37.5 hours of training

*it Works, How to Use It.* These sessions reflect our commitment to fostering education, inclusivity, and leadership development across diverse areas of interest.

Our members participated in 22 area meetings and four General Membership Meetings (GMMs), accumulating 37.5 hours of training and collaboration.



## 2023-2024 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Our financial foundation ensures we can continue supporting the programs and initiatives that make a lasting difference. Here's an overview of our 2023-2024 fiscal year and how member contributions and strategic investments supported our impact:

- **Revenue Growth:** Increased Thrift Shop sales and member quotas boosted total revenue
- **Strategic Investments:** This year, the League made significant investments in infrastructure, including a major roof renovation, and partnered with a public relations firm to enhance visibility and outreach.
- **Sustaining Impact:** These resources allow us to support our community programs and maintain financial stability for future initiatives.

## BEHIND THE SCENES

The resources to the right have allowed us to make important organizational improvements, setting the stage for even greater success.

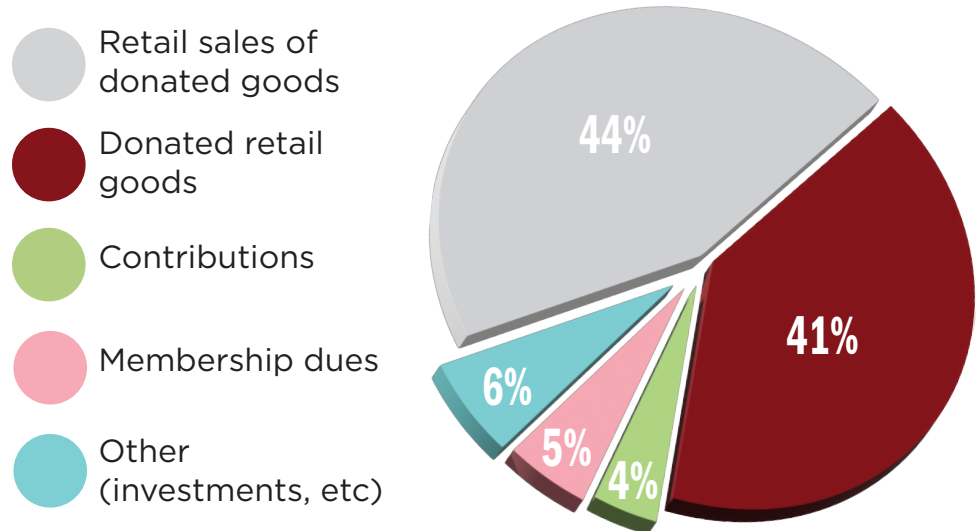
- We completed several updates at our headquarters, including updating our HVAC system, installing the new roof, and mounting new keypads for our doors.
- In addition, we forged new collaborations with Philly PR Girl, participated in the international Junior League initiative Find the Good Day, and secured a \$6,000 grant from the Wawa Foundation to further our efforts.

While total expenses increased in 2024 due to increased quota processing costs, and investments in infrastructure and public relations, the net result remained positive, thanks to the League's revenue growth.

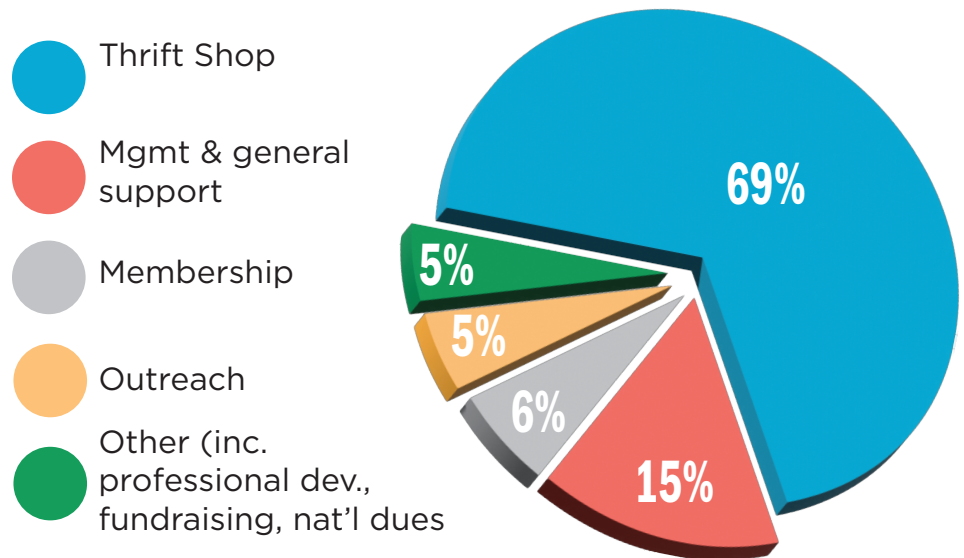
## REVENUE AND EXPENSES AT A GLANCE

The charts below illustrate the breakdown of revenue sources and key expense categories for the 2023-2024 League Year.

### 2024 REVENUE



### 2024 EXPENSES



Thrift Shop operations and supporting services represent significant expenses in 2023-2024.

	2024	2023
Revenue	\$2,067,085	\$1,814,579
Expenses	\$1,996,499	\$1,847,704
Net	\$70,584	-\$33,125

# THANK YOU

## TO THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF PHILADELPHIA'S 2023-2024 Annual Fund Donors

*(who raised over \$45,000 last year)*

### President's Circle (\$1000 or more)

Jeanne Andronowitz  
Susan Asplundh<sup>1912</sup>  
Kimberly Brown<sup>1912</sup>  
Elizabeth (Liz) Farr<sup>1912</sup>  
Kara Goodchild<sup>1912</sup>  
Stephanie Lippicott<sup>1912</sup>  
Ada Lubanski  
Debra Marsteller<sup>1912</sup>  
Mary Peller<sup>1912</sup>  
Jane Sagendorph<sup>1912</sup>  
Tracey Specter<sup>1912</sup>  
Helen Weary

### League Leader (\$500 - \$999)

Aronte Bennett<sup>1912</sup>  
Rose Cuozzo<sup>1912</sup>  
Courtney Durham  
Mary Hinds<sup>1912</sup>  
Priscilla Holleran  
Nina Lawall<sup>1912</sup>  
Ruth Nacey<sup>1912</sup>  
Meredith Nissen<sup>1912</sup>

### League Advocate (\$250 - \$499)

Meredith Brady  
Erin Bushnell<sup>1912</sup>  
Marie-Louise Escher  
Barbara Gasper<sup>1912</sup>  
Kate Hall<sup>1912</sup>  
Halley Hetrick<sup>1912</sup>  
Mary Kate Lo Conte<sup>1912</sup>  
Elizabeth Mallon<sup>1912</sup>  
Beth McCarthy<sup>1912</sup>  
Ella (Nell) Mecray  
Barbara Mohr Pettit<sup>1912</sup>  
Elizabeth Moyer<sup>1912</sup>  
Erin Nanovic  
Dorothy O'Donnell  
Olivia Scheyd  
Jennette Schlegel<sup>1912</sup>  
Marilyn Sprague<sup>1912</sup>  
Patricia Suplee  
Adrienne Taylor<sup>1912</sup>

### League Partner (\$100 - \$249)

Nancy E. Ahlum<sup>1912</sup>  
Jean Alsentzer<sup>1912</sup>  
Mychael Lee Askew  
Carolyn Bennett  
Tamara Bernstein  
Elisabeth Blum  
Jennifer Bravo<sup>1912</sup>  
Sarah (Sally) Brodie  
Mary Burr  
Barbara Cameron<sup>1912</sup>  
Shauna Carter  
Hollie Chhabra  
Rhonda Clinton  
Katherine Cole Douglas  
Elizabeth Daly<sup>1912</sup>  
Dodi Fordham  
Katherine Forester  
Kelli Friedrich Brown<sup>1912</sup>  
Dianne Giombetti<sup>1912</sup>  
Caroline Giunipero<sup>1912</sup>  
Alli Hanson  
Susan Henley  
Louise Hill<sup>1912</sup>  
Sherry Hoban<sup>1912</sup>  
Lauren Homel<sup>1912</sup>  
Stef Hurowitz  
Isabel Ingram  
Tara Johnson  
Lauralyn Jones<sup>1912</sup>  
Lorraine Jones  
Natalie Kay<sup>1912</sup>  
Carol Konski<sup>1912</sup>  
Nicole LaBletta<sup>1912</sup>  
Louise Ledwith<sup>1912</sup>  
Charlotte Lengel<sup>1912</sup>  
Barbara Manning  
Erin McCahill  
Dianne McMillan<sup>1912</sup>  
Susan Mease<sup>1912</sup>  
Valerie Mele  
Margaret Patches  
Lauren Pederson<sup>1912</sup>  
Pam Phojanakong  
Susan Rice<sup>1912</sup>  
Louisa Ridgway  
Patricia Rosenbaum<sup>1912</sup>  
Christine Rother<sup>1912</sup>  
Kristy Runzer

Nancy Schwab<sup>1912</sup>  
Jamine Shechter  
Lauri Sholar  
Simran Singh  
Anne Sly<sup>1912</sup>  
Dianne Smith<sup>1912</sup>  
Susan Spak  
Rebecca Stewart  
Kelly Steyn  
Katarina Sweeney<sup>1912</sup>  
Michele Thackrah<sup>1912</sup>  
Angela Velez<sup>1912</sup>  
Kris Viviano  
Amanda Weigle<sup>1912</sup>

### League Sponsor (\$50 - \$99)

Joan Allmaras  
Susan Arnold<sup>1912</sup>  
Laura Bahnck<sup>1912</sup>  
Casey Breslin Murphy<sup>1912</sup>  
Lynn Burke  
Vanessa Colley<sup>1912</sup>  
Sarah Curry  
Elaine Dzuba  
Nyree Ellison  
Ellie Good<sup>1912</sup>  
Annamarie Hellebusch<sup>1912</sup>  
Jacqui Rothera<sup>1912</sup>  
Renee Howell  
Elizabeth Hysick  
Kimberly Jackson  
Emily Jay  
Lisa Kreiling<sup>1912</sup>  
Marnie Ludwig<sup>1912</sup>  
Judy Moneta<sup>1912</sup>  
Lisa Ndiaye  
Cordelia Ochis<sup>1912</sup>  
Jenae Patrick  
Maima Radcliffe  
Laura Reichl  
Sarah Reyes  
Carrie Scheitrum<sup>1912</sup>  
Sarah Seeling  
Debbie Talbot Snyder<sup>1912</sup>  
Alexandra Tancredi<sup>1912</sup>  
Jenn Upton  
Kimberly Wagner  
Ashley White  
Carolyn Zaccagni  
Serena Zelezny<sup>1912</sup>

### League Friend (Up to \$49)

Emily Bowman  
Aquila Clement  
Jacqueline Cvinar  
Winnie Doherty<sup>1912</sup>  
Linda Dutton  
Tamara Feagins  
Elizabeth George  
Veronica Gillenwater  
Kara Heilig  
Melissa Hensinger  
Lindsay Jordan  
Nancy Kang  
Lindsay Kelly  
Ja'Netta Kennedy<sup>1912</sup>  
Heather Lenker  
Megan Mayhew  
Molly Mazzuchi  
Lacey Mielcarek  
Shelia Morrison-Wesley  
Kendra Moton  
Jane Nevins  
Becky O'Brien<sup>1912</sup>  
Gabby O'Leary  
Hannah Rafferty  
Lauren Rezendes<sup>1912</sup>  
Jamila Robinson  
Alejandra Ruiz-Dana  
Megan Shaw  
Adeola Sonaike  
Anne Standish  
Jill Stein  
Jazmund Walker  
Julie Williams<sup>1912</sup>  
Lashana Woodard  
Kathryn Young Galla<sup>1912</sup>

1912 Members of the 1912 Club have donated for three consecutive years

NB: This list only includes Junior of Philadelphia members who donated. We are grateful for contributions from friends, employer matches, and others.

# EMPOWERING OUR MISSION THROUGH PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

## IN THE *KIDS IN THE KITCHEN* COMMITTEE EVERYONE IS AN EDUCATOR

By Lindsay Jordan

Within the Junior League of Philadelphia, the *Kids in the Kitchen* Committee is hard at work. Their core mission is to teach children about nutrition through educational *Kids in the Kitchen* courses held at Methodist Services near the Belmont Village neighborhood in Philadelphia. These classes are part of the broader Methodist Services programs, which include House and Community Services, Family Support Services, Community Counseling Services, and Agricultural Services through their farm, Heritage Farm. While Junior League members do not teach the nutrition classes themselves, they play a foundational role by developing the curriculum and acquiring supplies needed for the instructors.

Throughout the year, committee members spend their meetings developing lesson plans for *Kids in the Kitchen*. Two workbooks are created each year—one for fall and one for spring. Each workbook follows a similar structure: a program kickoff, specific lessons focused on MyPlate guidelines, measurements, nutrition labels, fruits and vegetables, proteins, fats, and a special topic. The lessons include relevant games and recipes that help the children apply what they've learned, and it's each committee member's responsibility to find suitable recipes to introduce to the children. "We cover similar topics for the fall curriculum, but the recipes and activities differ. So, while we hit the same subjects, we approach them in different ways, meaning the curriculum is rebuilt each semester," said Laura Riechl, the 2024 committee co-chair.

Once assignments are given,



members begin their projects by researching recipes, testing them for suitability, and finding images to include in the workbooks. Given the target audience and potential operational limitations, some recipes need to be modified to accommodate allergies. "We definitely minimize dairy and

peanuts, as we know those allergies are common among the children we work with," added co-chair Paige Hogan.

After finalizing the recipes, the committee compiles them into a digital workbook, which is sent to the instructors at Methodist Services. Creating a complete workbook can take up to 30 hours from start to finish. Before each lesson, Junior League members also send essential supplies needed by the instructors.

The *Kids in the Kitchen* Committee is busier than ever this semester, serving over 400 children across Methodist Services and Mastery Charter Schools. Whether developing a new workbook for the upcoming season or determining supplies for the next *Kids in the Kitchen* lesson, the committee is dedicated to staying in sync with Methodist Services to ensure each child receives a nutritionally enriched experience.







## JLP HOSTS EVENTS TO CELEBRATE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS ARDMORE THRIFT SHOP

By Corienne Myslinski

In October, the Junior League of Philadelphia was delighted to celebrate a milestone that truly marks a part of our legacy – 20 years of the JLP Thrift Shop operating in Ardmore, PA. Over the past two decades, the shop has established itself as a shopping destination and has won awards and recognition from organizations such as *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Main Line Life*, and *Main Line Today*.

One reason the shop continues to win local awards may be the amazing items donated, making every day an opportunity to find

something unique. Suzanne, the manager of the Thrift Shop, shared that someone once donated an authenticated Picasso print, which was sold through Freeman's Auction House.

In celebration of the 20th anniversary, Junior League members were invited to a luncheon hosted by the Thrift Shop Committee. There was food, fun, and guest speakers shared tips and best practices when it comes to closets, clothing, and undergarments.

Cheers to 20 years in Ardmore and beyond!

## A HOLIDAY RAFFLE SUCCESS

This holiday season, the Junior League of Philadelphia held a special Dollhouse Holiday Raffle, and we are thrilled to share its success! From late November through mid-December, members and supporters purchased tickets for a chance to win a beautifully restored, three-story colonial-style dollhouse: the Yorktown Manor Dollhouse by Walmer/Lilliput.

Meticulously refurbished by a dedicated JLP member, the dollhouse featured fresh paint, updated wallpaper, refinished floors, and new furnishings for the kitchen, bathroom, and nursery. Adorned with festive holiday decorations, the dollhouse delighted participants with its attention to detail and charm. Estimated at a value of \$850 to \$1,000, it was a true centerpiece of the season.

The raffle not only brought holiday cheer but also raised



valuable funds to support JLP's ongoing mission of community impact and volunteer service. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who purchased tickets and helped make this raffle a success.

As we look ahead to this year, we are excited to continue offering creative opportunities for our members and supporters to come together and make a difference. Stay tuned for more ways to connect and contribute!

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### AFIA LEWIS

In February 2024, Junior League of Philadelphia member Afia Lewis was featured in the Hall of Fame Spotlight at her alma mater, Temple University. Afia, a JLP member since 2023, has made remarkable contributions both as an educator and athlete.



One of the most accomplished sprinters in Temple women's track history, Afia earned 12 Atlantic 10 Conference titles during her time as an Owl, including being named the 2001 A10 Indoor Championship Performer of the Year. Her outstanding achievements on the track included individual titles in the 55, 100, 200, and 400-meter races, as well as multiple relay victories. She was inducted into the Temple Hall of Fame in 2020.

Beyond her athletic success, Afia has become a celebrated educator in Pennsylvania. She teaches sixth grade at Ardmore Avenue Elementary School and has received recognition from Fox 29 as a Top Teacher in 2017 and honored by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2019 for her exceptional work. She was also recently featured in the "Sports Legends of Lansdowne" mural, commemorating her legacy in her hometown.

Afia now also brings her passion for education and community to her role as co-chair of the Junior League's *Kids in the Kitchen* committee.



# CELEBRATING

## OUR MEMBERS, EVENTS, AND COMMUNITY



**FALL FETE AT  
INDEPENDENCE SEAPORT MUSEUM**



**JANUARY GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**



**DtXfy**



**SEPTEMBER GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**





## MAY CELEBRATION





## JLP CELEBRATES FIND THE GOOD DAY WITH SIP AND SHOP

On September 19, the Junior League of Philadelphia celebrated International Find the Good Day with a Sip and Shop event at The JLP Thrift Shop. Guests enjoyed an evening of connection, giving back, and shopping with special discounts. Along with browsing the Thrift Shop's gently used designer clothing, accessories, and home décor, attendees sipped wine from City Winery and browsed exclusive pieces from a Kendra Scott pop-up shop, where 20% of the proceeds

were donated to JLP's community initiatives.

The evening also featured a canned food drive benefiting JLP's community partner, Face to Face, which provides essential support to families and individuals in need.

Find the Good Day was a heartwarming reminder of the power of kindness and community, embodying the spirit of unity and positivity that the Junior League strives to foster in Philadelphia.



## JLP MEMBERS BATTLED IT OUT IN "DICED" COOKING SHOWDOWN

*By Isabelle Martinez*

On April 23, 15 JLP members competed for the honor of being crowned this year's "Diced" Champions, graciously hosted by Vetri Community Partners. The competition kicked off with a speedy challenge: assembling a classic mirepoix—a mix of chopped carrots, celery, and onion—and delivering it to the judges. The Volunteer Valkyries team sprinted to victory in this initial round, earning themselves a bonus five minutes.



With the stage set, three teams of five women battled it out to craft inventive dishes featuring the mystery ingredients: kale, pineapple, and tofu. After an intense 40 minutes, the first two teams—The Giving Gladiators and The Hunger Heroes—presented their culinary creations. The Volunteer Valkyries, armed with their bonus time, made their mark in the final moments.

In a thrilling showdown, both The Giving Gladiators and the Volunteer Valkyries showcased their takes on stir fry, igniting the kitchen with their culinary prowess. Ultimately, it was the Volunteer Valkyries who emerged victorious, seizing the title of this year's Diced Competition champions.



## FINDING BALANCE: FITNESS AND WELLNESS EVENTS FOR EVERY MEMBER

*By Emily DiPaolo*

In today's fast-paced world, where stress and computer-bound lifestyles often take center stage, the importance of fitness cannot be overstated. Beyond physical appearance, fitness is a holistic approach to health and well-being that touches every aspect of our lives.

JLP's Social Committee has expanded its fitness events for women looking to squeeze in a workout after their 9-to-5 or simply exercise with a group of friendly faces. Throughout the League year, members have gathered to attend Pilates, yoga, and barre classes along the Main Line and in Center

City Philadelphia. In addition to structured pay-as-you-go workout classes, members have also met for informal happy-hour walks in the area, including scenic strolls through Valley Forge National Historic Park and over the historic Benjamin Franklin Bridge.

The increase in fitness offerings reflects JLP's prioritization of health and well-being for its members and the community. This variety and accessibility not only empower members to pursue their fitness goals with greater ease and enjoyment but also foster a more inclusive and supportive fitness community.

## Q&A WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT PAM PHOJANAKONG



In January 2024, Pam Phojanakong was named the JLP's President-Elect. She will succeed Kate Hall as President in the 2025-2026

League year. Grace Schmidt caught up with her to learn more about her journey in the Junior League of Philadelphia, her experiences thus far, and her vision for the future.

### **How long have you been involved in the Philadelphia Junior League?**

I transferred into the League in 2015 and am so honored to be able to mark my 10-year anniversary as President.

### **What is your favorite thing about the JLP?**

As a natural introvert, it might be surprising that my favorite part

of JLP is the people. While the community work we do and have done is incredibly impactful, for me, the magic of JLP is the friendships I've made and the chance to learn from leaders of all stripes.

### **What committees have you been on/what leadership roles have you held in the League?**

Health Fair, Food to Families (Share), Social, DEI&B (including when it was D&I). I did get a kick out of new folks asking what committee I'm on while serving on the Board and Management Council this year.

### **Why were you inspired to pursue the role of 2025-2026 JLP President?**

It took a few conversations to convince me to apply, but it came down to a deep love of the growth that JLP fosters for its members and the community. Having a space where I've been able to wear different hats has been so valuable

personally, and it's clear from JLP's accomplishments that amazing things can happen when you get a group of women together firing on all cylinders. My hope is that I can repay what the League has given me by shaping the direction of our work.

### **What does your role as President-Elect look like in the meantime?**

Coming out of the COO role, it'll be a big shift from working behind the scenes. I'm looking forward to forming more direct relationships with our community partners and getting to exercise the more creative parts of my brain.

### **What advice do you have for members interested in leadership?**

Embrace the unexpected. JLP is full of surprises and curveballs. You'll find talents you didn't know you had and make new friends. Also, don't forget to thank our staff and HQ team along the way.



## SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Meeting on April 16  
May Celebration on May 20

Please check the calendar at [jlphiladelphia.org](http://jlphiladelphia.org) for additional details and a full list of events.

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# SUSTAINER CHRONICLES

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE 2023-2024 SUSTAINER CHAIR, CORNELIA VIEIRA

What a great League year it was, and what an honor it was for me to serve as the JLP's Sustainer Chair! My goal last year was to lead our Sustainers by coordinating our many events, serving as a sounding board for questions and ideas, and, most of all, fostering our "One League" mentality through collaboration between Actives and Sustainers.

I am so grateful for the energy and support of our Sustainer Executive Committee, Sustainer Committee Chairs, and Affinity Group Leaders, whose wonderful ideas and hard work made countless events possible. Together, we enjoyed theatre trips, holiday wreath-making, cooking and cake

decorating workshops, day trips to beautiful gardens and inspiring museums. We also served the community and helped those with food insecurity by volunteering at the Ardmore Food Pantry and Kids Against Hunger. We raised funds at community shopping events, learned about diverse topics through interesting speakers and book groups, and enjoyed each other's company at social events and teas.

In addition, hearing from Actives that they appreciated input from Sustainer Liaisons on their committees was especially rewarding. The Sustainers appreciated the valuable discussions when Active Board Members joined us for our

Sustainer Leadership Committee meetings to discuss the transition to the JLP Works, building repairs, and in general happenings in the JLP. Our Sustainer's participation in the Actives' winter General Membership Meeting with a history of the League presentation and trivia was well received, and everyone enjoyed the opening of the meeting by the Larks.

Thank you for supporting me in the leadership role for making the Junior League of Philadelphia a thriving volunteer and training organization. Together, we are truly **developing women to do a world of good!**

Cornelia Vieira

## A WORD FROM THE SUSTAINER CHAIR

On behalf of the Sustainers, I hope everyone is having a fulfilling 2024-2025 JLP year. I'm excited to build on the incredible foundation laid last year and to continue offering Sustainers meaningful ways to connect and engage.

We have a plethora of events planned this year, so please check our calendar for the many ways you can get involved, socialize, and meet new members. After 31 years in the League, I can personally attest to the many ways the Junior League offers opportunities to grow, both personally and professionally. From committees to leadership roles, the League has something for everyone.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming months and encourage you to invite others to join us in advancing the JLP's mission. Together, we can continue to make a lasting impact while enjoying the camaraderie that makes our League so special.

Deb Snyder

## FINDING INSPIRATION: A SUSTAINER DAY AT THE KEEN COLLECTION

*One ought, every day at least, to hear a little song, read a good poem, see a fine picture... —*

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

The Sustainer daytrip on October 16 accomplished seeing a fine picture, as Goethe suggests. About 10 Sustainers gathered to view the Keen Collection of Outside Art at the Bethany Mission in the Spring Garden neighborhood of Philadelphia. This private collection is owned by Victor Keen. The artists featured in Outside Art are self-taught and untrained in traditional methods.

The collection includes over 100 works of outside art, as well as several displays of antique radios, toasters, and toys. The tour was led by Molly Dougherty, Development Director, who shared touching stories about the lives and tragedies of the artists. Victor Keen also joined our tour, providing further insight into the art. The Keen Collection is truly a gem in the Philadelphia art community.





## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A SUSTAINER IN THE JLP?

By Corienne Myslinski

If you're like me, you've heard about Sustainer members of the Junior League of Philadelphia (JLP), but what exactly does it mean to be one? More importantly, how do you become one?

According to the JLP Bylaws, "Sustainer members are those members of the League who have elected to retire from Active service." However, I feel the word "retire" here needs additional context. When I think of retiring, I think of no longer working or being a part of the workplace. That's not quite the case for Sustainers in the JLP. As Sustainer Kelli Friedrichs Brown explained to me, being a Sustainer allows for greater flexibility with involvement in the League.

This explanation makes sense. On the JLP website, you'll find a Sustainer Leadership Council Chair on the Board of Directors, a Sustainer Leadership Council Chair-Elect on the Management Council, and the Sustainer Leadership Council itself. Clearly, there's room to stay involved as a Sustainer, but it seems there's also flexibility in how involved you choose to be.

### What Are the Requirements to Be a Sustainer?

Sustainers do have requirements. They pay dues – currently \$145 per year – and complete volunteer clearances. Additional details are in the JLP Policies & Procedures (P&Ps) document.

If you love being part of the JLP but want more choice in your level of commitment, becoming a Sustainer might be right for you. However, there are specific criteria you need to meet. According to the Bylaw(s):

- A member may become a Sustainer at the end of a League year if they have completed a minimum of 10 years of Active service.
- Alternatively, a member may qualify if they reach age 40 by April 30 of their anticipated last year of Active service and have completed at least five years of Active

service.

- Leaves of Absence and Non-Resident Status do not count toward Active service years.
- A member must be in good standing when requesting a change to Sustainer status.

### How to Learn More

Want to read more? Log into Digital Cheetah, navigate to the "Resources" tab, select "Resources" from the drop-down menu, and click on "Important Documents." The Bylaws and P&Ps are listed under "Governing Documents."

### How to Change Your Status

If you meet the requirements and would like to update your member status for the next League

year, start the process by emailing the Office Administrator at [office@jlphiladelphia.org](mailto:office@jlphiladelphia.org). The details are in the P&Ps.

### Can Sustainers Return to Active Status?

Wondering if you can return to Active status after becoming a Sustainer? Fret not, any Sustainer may return to Active status by writing to [office@jlphiladelphia.org](mailto:office@jlphiladelphia.org) to learn more about how to change your status.

Interested in learning more before making the change in member status? Contact the VP of Membership at [membershipdevelopment@jlphiladelphia.org](mailto:membershipdevelopment@jlphiladelphia.org).

## BROADWAY ADVENTURES: A BELOVED SUSTAINER TRADITION

By Victoria Denaro

The Sustainer Theatre group embarked on an excursion to New York City in March to attend a performance of Stephen Sondheim's Broadway masterpiece, *Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, featuring Sutton Foster and Aaron Tveit (honorable mention to Joe Locke as Tobias Ragg).

Their New York adventure commenced with a cozy cab ride to the theater district and lunch at Friedmans Restaurant. After the captivating show, they concluded their day with drinks and small bites at the iconic Sardi's.

Theatre outings have long been a treasured tradition for the Sustainer Group, and the enthusiasm didn't stop with *Sweeney Todd*. In October, the group returned to Broadway for *Stereophonic*, the most Tony Award-winning show of 2024. Set in a 1976 recording studio in Sausalito, California, the play transported audiences into the heyday of rock and roll, offering a behind-the-scenes look at a band on the cusp of stardom.

In November, members kicked off the holiday season with a

trip to the *Rockettes Christmas Spectacular* at Radio City Music Hall. This dazzling performance lit up the stage with its legendary precision dancing and festive cheer. After the 90-minute show, attendees enjoyed the festive sights and sounds of New York City during the holiday season.

Whether it's a Broadway classic or a holiday spectacular, these trips are more than just theatre outings—they're opportunities to connect, create memories, and celebrate the arts with fellow members.



# IN MEMORIAM

In life, we make connections that are strong and long lasting. However, the sand of time flow and we must all make the necessary adjustments to move on without our beloved friends and are left with only the memories of times shared. Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure.

## Dianne Smith



Dianne Smith, a Past President, passed on May 28, 2024 after a brief illness. Dianne was a respected and devoted member of the Junior League of Philadelphia during her Active and Sustainer years.

Her love of helping others was reflected in her commitment to the League's community programs especially her involvement with Books Aloud and Learning By Doing. Dianne held many leadership positions which included Board Community Council Director, Membership Development Council Director, Personnel Chair, and Board President (2010-2011).

As a Sustainer she served as New Sustainers Chair and for the past two years as the Leadership Council's Recording Secretary. Dianne had many Junior League friends, including her group of AJLI "besties," whom she met at an annual conference and remained friends with for many years. She is and will continue to be greatly missed.

We are respecting Dianne's family's desire for privacy so services and internment are private. The family has requested that a fund be created to support the Junior League of Philadelphia community programming Dianne was so passionate about.

A celebration of life ceremony was held at the JLP Headquarters on September 8.

## Deanna Jenkins



Deanna Jenkins passed away on July 7, 2024; those of us who were lucky enough to work with Deanna always knew that we had a supportive and steadfast teammate on our side. Those of us who knew her personally were continuously impressed with her many accomplishments, deep sense of purpose, and quiet strength. Deanna's impact on the Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. lives on through her friendships and work across the Project Research and Development, Food to Families, Health Fair, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, Social, and Nominating committees. Please keep her loved ones in your heart.

A celebration of life service was held on Friday, July 19, 2024, at Dare to Imagine Church in Philadelphia, PA.

## Jessica Boatwright Maher



We are saddened to share the passing of Jessica Rose Boatwright Maher, a cherished member of the Junior League of Philadelphia since 2015. Jessica passed away on January 29, 2024, after bravely battling cholangiocarcinoma for over a decade.

Born in Binghamton, New York, Jessica earned her Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering from Drexel University, where she met her beloved husband, Jim. She later received her MBA from Villanova University and built a successful career in medical device marketing and sales, contributing to life-saving technology.

Jessica's commitment to community service and women's empowerment was evident through her active involvement in the Junior League. She will be remembered for her perseverance, sense of humor, and the joy she brought to those around her.

## Karen Rueter Nagel



Karen Rueter of Haverford passed away on June 6, 2024, at the age of 77. She is survived by

her husband, R. Stephen Kamp; daughter, Jennifer Nagel Suttmeier (Stephen); son, Alexander Rueter Nagel (Arielle); grandchildren, Emily Gretchen and Robert Henry Suttmeier; and sister, Melanie Rueter Newbill. Karen was an Architectural Historian who helped preserve countless structures throughout the Main Line.

A celebration of life service was held on Thursday, June 13, 2024 at The Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr, PA.



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# MILESTONES & CELEBRATIONS

## **Celebrating Good Health**

Amy Battaglia is celebrating 2 years cancer free! She was diagnosed with stage 3b breast cancer in December of 2021 and completed her treatments in October of 2022.

## **Wedding Anniversaries**

Elizabeth George celebrated her first wedding anniversary in July 2024. Here's to many more happy years ahead!

## **New Job**

Emily Forte accepted a new role with YogaSix, as a Corporate Trainer with the national Education Team. Along with her local Lead Teacher role, she will be training and supporting yoga teachers across the country for YogaSix.

## **New Family Members**

Congratulations to Beth Hysick, who welcomed a baby boy, Garrett, in August 2023.



Lauren Rezendes welcomed a baby boy into her family. Logan was born on January 9, 2024

## **CELEBRATING A MILESTONE?**

New Job

Birth of a Baby

Wedding Celebration

Anniversary  
Awards

We want to celebrate  
with you! Publish an  
announcement in the next  
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