



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
ANN ARBOR, INC.**

*Women building better communities®*

**CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE**

The Junior League of Ann Arbor  
Celebrates 25 Years of Service



## 2007-2008 Community Report

### HOW IT ALL GOT STARTED...

It all began in 1982, when 3 women from the Junior League of Birmingham decided that they would start a Junior League in Ann Arbor as their New Member Project. Within no time, there were 50 members that comprised the Junior Service League of Ann Arbor. It was a top priority to become affiliated with the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI), and in 1987 that lofty goal was achieved. At that time, AJLI had never been approached by a Service League that was created specifically to become a true Junior League organization. What a group of inspired, motivated, and ambitious women!

### What does it mean to be part of the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI)?

- ❑ The JLAA is one of 293 leagues worldwide all sharing a common mission – to promote volunteerism, develop the potential of women and improve the community through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.
- ❑ The JLAA has access to unsurpassed leadership training opportunities for incoming and current leaders called Organizational Development Institutes, Fall Conference, Winter Conference, and Annual Conference where all leagues are represented and invaluable learning and collaboration takes place.
- ❑ The JLAA is able to take advantage of visiting trainers from AJLI as well as the many resources available on the AJLI Website
- ❑ The JLAA is part of a collective movement of powerful women volunteers throughout the United States, Mexico, Canada, and the United Kingdom

### Our affiliation with AJLI and our 25 year history in Ann Arbor have allowed the JLAA to do amazing things:

- ❑ Over 4,000 women have been trained as members of the Junior League of Ann Arbor, and have take the skills that they have gained into the community to do more and share their knowledge
- ❑ Over 325,000 volunteer hours have been given, in working directly with other non-profits and people in need in the community
- ❑ Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised and funneled back into the community through our projects and flexifund grants

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2007-2008

The Junior League of Ann Arbor has a unique place in the community in which we really act as channel to help those in need – we are a means to an end. By our nature as a training organization, we empower our members to make a difference in the community via partnerships (projects) with local non-profits and outreach to the corporate/business sector. Members take on a new role in the League each year. Internally, there are many opportunities to learn new skills related to website technology, print media, press releases, interpersonal communication, meeting planning, special event planning, financial planning and management, leadership, and other human resources activities.

This year was especially critical as we saw a slight decline in membership to concentrate on projects, fundraisers, and internal activities that will deliver a higher return on energy. We determined that a few changes need to be made to make our activities more effective. Some of these changes were:

- ❑ Clarified what constitutes a Done-In-A-Day hour in terms of a member's committee placement. A DIAD hour must be earned outside of a member's committee placement. Voted and accepted a new fundraising policy where members are required to fundraise a total of \$150 net profit from our established fundraisers – poinsettia, gift wrap, cookbooks, raffle tickets, special event tickets and auction items.

- ❑ Implemented a Fund Development Review Committee to enable the League to better determine the effectiveness and feasibility of current/new fund development streams.
- ❑ Added a new fund development committee for 2008/09, Grants and Sponsorships, to diversify our fund development portfolio and assist special event committees with the task of acquiring event sponsors.
- ❑ Implemented and completed a Policies and Procedures document for each of our Chairperson and Board Member positions so that our annual transitions will be made easier, and this guiding document can serve the leaders well year after year, as they make changes to it along the way.
- ❑ Identified a new annual meeting schedule to allow for adequate opportunities for our members to connect with one another, as well as be more effective in our decision-making about new projects and other issues.

### **COMMUNITY IMPACT FOR 2007-2008**

The Junior League of Ann Arbor has been involved in the following community projects during the 2007-2008 League year:

**CAPP (Community Allocations and Project Planning):** This committee has a two-fold function – Project Review and DIAD (Done In A Day). Project Review is responsible for conducting a request for proposal (RFP) process for selecting a signature project that would begin the following fall of the Junior League year. After a great deal of work, a project with SOS was accepted by the membership. The project has two components: Playing, Learning, and Growing Program (parent support) and a Children’s Book/Activity Table at the SOS Food Distribution Site. DIAD (Done In A Day) is responsible for utilizing an RFP process for setting up viable volunteer opportunities for the JLAA membership to have a hands-on impact in the community. Nearly 1500 DIAD volunteer hours were contributed to the community this year. Some of the organizations that were served were Alpha House, Center for Independent Living, Girls on the Run, RMH-Evening of Giving, and Pregnancy Counseling Center.

**Flexifund Grants:** Junior League funds are usually offered along with volunteer support, but we recognize that at times funding is a critical need. For those situations, the JLAA offers flexifund grants in the amount of \$1000 or less which comes from our net income each year. This year’s recipients of Flexifund Grants were: Friends in Deed (\$1000) and Washtenaw Literacy (\$729).

**Kids In The Kitchen:** For a second year, the JLAA partnered with Girls on the Run Southeastern Michigan at their Celebrate U! Spring Kick Off Event to offer hands-on opportunities to make healthy snacks as well as nutritional education to over 50 young girls in attendance. The JLAA Kids in the Kitchen event is part of the AJLI initiative in which as many leagues as possible execute a Kids in the Kitchen event in their communities each spring.

**Strong Moms Strong Girls (SMSG):** As we complete the second year of this very successful initiative with the University Center for the Child and Family (UCCF), the support that the program is getting from the community has been phenomenal. The program is geared at helping Moms and Daughters develop awareness about how and why relational aggression occurs and learn about alternative relationship strategies. JLAA volunteers have been instrumental in conducting 12 information sessions in the community this year. Additionally, there have been 8 “Figuring Out Friendship” workshops offered this year, with 10 scheduled next year. The committee was also successful in developing a stand-alone website for Strong Moms Strong Girls as well as supportive marketing materials.



*Some young girls and their mothers learning about relational aggression at one of the Figuring Out Friendship workshops offered by the Strong Moms Strong Girls program.*

**Power Inc.:** The Junior League of Ann Arbor began a three year partnership with Power Inc. this year. The primary objective of the project was to develop and conduct life skills workshops for women re-entering society after incarceration via the Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative (MPRI). A financial workshop was successfully executed for 2 MPRI participants, but because of low numbers of women participating in MPRI, the Junior League created a secondary objective for the project in year one - in hopes that the client base of the MPRI program would increase. This secondary objective was supporting Parents Night Out and Family Fun Nights, which JLAA members supported with meals and volunteer hours. Attendance for Parents Night Out events increased to almost 50 attendees. As the year came to a close, it was clear that there was not a significant population of recently released female prisoners, and Power was unable to predict if there would be future participants in MPRI. Since the primary project focus (MPRI participants) could not be fulfilled, the Junior League amicably discontinued the project and funding with Power.

**State Public Affairs Committee:** A representative from each of the nine Junior Leagues in Michigan forms the State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC). During the League year, the SPAC representative from JLAA meets monthly with SPAC and our legislative consultant, Noah Smith to review policy issues being considered in state government around SPAC's focus area of Early Childhood Education. The SPAC representatives communicate this information back to the JLAA membership so that we are more informed citizens. Each spring SPAC holds a statewide "Day at the Capitol" event in Lansing- where members are invited to learn about the legislative process and meet their senators and representatives.

### **FUND DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS FOR 2007-2008**

Fundraising to Fund Development... the Junior League of Ann Arbor is rising to the challenge to raise the funds needed to continue fulfilling our mission in these difficult economic times. As noted in the Highlights section of this report, several decisions were made over the course of the year to diversify our funding streams in the future as well as become more strategic about the fund development programs we pursue. Our fund development programs enable the JLAA to improve the community, develop the potential of women, and promote volunteerism. In 2007-2008, 99.5% of our fund development budget of \$42,190 was achieved.

**Lady Luck: Card for a Cause:** Held in November 2007, this event was a great opportunity to try your hand at Texas Hold 'Em and other games all in support of the Junior League's projects as well as training for it's members. There was a successful basket raffle with a different theme for each one, along with delectable appetizers and desserts. The net proceeds from this event were \$2300.00.

**Gift Wrap Sales:** Selling Sally Foster Gift Wrap and Harry London Chocolates has been a tradition of the JLAA for several years and is now easily available on-line. This year sales from this effort generated profits of \$3047.00 to be allocated toward membership development and community projects.

**Bountiful Arbor Cookbook Sales:** In an effort to begin liquidating our inventory of cookbooks, all members purchased or sold a case of cookbooks at cost this year. With membership purchases and marketing the books with local businesses, the cookbook inventory was successfully decreased from 3700 cookbooks to 1200 cookbooks – which equated to \$6285 net proceeds for JLAA projects and training.

**Poinsettia Sales:** In partnership with Turner's Nursery, the JLAA sold poinsettias to the local community, friends/family, and local businesses. By delivering the poinsettias in time for Thanksgiving, more businesses were added to our customer base. Poinsettia sales accounted for \$7,762 of our fund development proceeds.

**Macy's Fashionista Event:** Macy's Somerset sponsored a fashion show from which a percentage of proceeds would benefit the three metro area Junior Leagues- Ann Arbor, Birmingham, and Detroit. The proceeds were based on attendance of members from each League. JLAA's participation generated \$1,866 for improving our community.

**Back to Our Future Anniversary Celebration:** In honor of the League's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary- an 80's themed event was planned. It was held at the Neutral Zone, one of the JLAA's past projects, and an 80's band called 80's Inc. really made it a night to remember. A commemorative video was unveiled at the event as well. The video highlighted the League's greatest accomplishments over the years. There was a wine raffle, silent auction, and live auction which were successful in generating revenue for a net total of \$20,698.

## **TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES 2007-2008**

The one thing that really sets the JLAA apart from other volunteer opportunities in the community is the extensive training that takes place for our members. Some of the ways that members receive training are:

- On-the-job training as committee chairs, assistant chairs, Board members, and committee members
- Training sessions as part of our General Membership Meetings each month
- Participation in local training offerings for which members can apply for tuition-reimbursement
- President-Elect participation in Leadership Ann Arbor
- Participation in Organizational Development Institutes offered by AJLI for incoming Board members
- Participation in AJLI Fall, Winter, and Annual Conference by League President and President-Elect
- Participation in Michigan State Council of Junior League trainings- Fall, Spring, and Day at the Capitol



*Vicki Clark, one of the esteemed trainers from ALJI, visited JLAA and facilitated a training on making the most of your Junior League career.*

**Community Advisory Board 2007-2008:** The JLAA is fortunate to have a diverse group of community members from which to draw counsel, recommendations, and solutions to our challenges. Thank you to the following members of the Community Advisory Board for their service in 2007-2008: Cliff Sheldon, Bank of Ann Arbor, Nancy Schleicher, Ann Arbor Public Schools; Dallas Moore, NEW Center; Denise Dalrymple, Washtenaw County; Patrick Savage, Hylant Group; Greg O'Dell, EMU Public Safety; and Norma Chase, Ann Arbor News.

### **2007-2008 Board of Directors**

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### **2008-2009 Board of Directors**

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