



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
ANN ARBOR, INC.**
Women building better communities®

2008-2009 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 26 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 347,000 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

COMMUNITY IMPACT FOR 2008-2009



The Junior League of Ann Arbor has been involved in the following community projects during the 2008-2009 League year:

Strong Moms Strong Girls (SMSG): As we completed the third year of this very successful initiative with the University Center for the Child and Family (UCCF), we celebrated the unanimous vote to approve financial and volunteer support for a fourth year. By the end of our fourth collaborative year, we will have given \$50,000 towards the success of this program. Community and membership support for this program has continued to be amazing. The focus of this program was expanded this year to include girls in 4-8 grades, and provide them with resources to challenge relational

aggression, as well as helping their mothers and community mentors develop resources to help girls in this challenge. Relational aggression is a broad term but includes behaviors such as gossiping, spreading rumors, or threatening to reject or exclude someone. JLAA volunteers have continued to be instrumental in conducting many information sessions in the community this year. Additionally, there have been 9 “Figuring Out Friendship” workshops (workshops free to the public offered by trained staff from UCCF for 8-10 girls and their mothers) offered this year, and 10 scheduled so far for 2009-2010.

SOS Community Services: This year marked the first year of a three year partnership with SOS. SOS offers services to families and individuals in our community who are homeless or who are experiencing housing-related crises, including a large number of children. Junior League members assisted this year with the *Playing, Learning and Growing Program*, providing education and family support for homeless parents from pregnancy through kindergarten. In addition, members sponsored and staffed a Children's Book and Activity Table at the SOS food distribution site monthly, to promote literacy among children served by SOS services. Active members and sustainers participated in several supply drives for SOS and also provided Christmas gifts for many families participating in SOS programs.

Flexifund Grants/gifts: Junior League funds are usually offered along with volunteer support, but we recognize that in these difficult economic times; funding is a critical need. When money is available for allocation, the JLAA offers flexifund grants in the amount of \$1000 or less (this comes from our net income each year). This year's recipients of Flexifund Grants were:

Friends of CASA, Awarded \$500

Leukemia and Lymphoma Society-Bone Marrow Drive at the LLS Walk, Awarded \$1000

Family Book Club: Awarded \$500

Huron Valley Ambulance Camp 9-1-1 Program: Awarded \$1000

826 Michigan: --Awarded \$500

Endowment Fund: In March, the Board of Directors approved a recommendation from the Ann Arbor Community Foundation to allocate \$3,145 in interest earnings from for our Domestic and Dating Violence Endowment Fund to SafeHouse. All monies from the Endowment Fund must go to fund activities that support ending violence against women and children

CAPP (Community Allocations and Project Planning): 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 Girls Group was accepted by the membership (see below). Additionally, this committee reviews volunteer request applications for community organizations in need of volunteer support. Once they have reviewed and considered all options, they pass the approved opportunities along to the DIAD committee.

DIAD (Done In A Day): DIAD is responsible for setting up viable volunteer opportunities (selected by CAPP through the RFP process) for the JLAA membership to have a hands-on impact in the community. Nearly **1700** in direct service volunteer hours were contributed to the community this year!! Some of the organizations that were helped by our volunteer hours this year were Girls on the Run, Huron Valley Ambulance, Neutral Zone, Ele's Place, Arbor Hospice, Ronald McDonald House, Motor Meals, Perry Nursery, Warm the Children and Alpha House.

Girls Group: The Junior League voted to approve Girls Group as our newest community partner; to begin in 2009-2010. Girls Group is an alliance of women dedicated to helping high school girls achieve emotional and economic security through expanded educational and professional opportunities. All programs provide a safe, nurturing environment where young women develop qualities and learn skills that enhance their self-confidence, leadership abilities, social consciousness, and sense of self-worth. This development supplies the tools necessary for young women to define and realize personal goals that lead them to self-sufficiency and ensure their future success. Junior League funds have been allocated (a total of \$10,000 over three years) to assist Girls Group in continuing their important work. Junior League members will be developing curriculum for monthly presentations for the girls, and be involved in their mentoring program.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2008-2009

This year was a year of setting strong foundations and for starting conversations about how the Junior League of Ann Arbor will look over the next decade. The Association of Junior Leagues International has been working for the past two

years on visioning for the next decade, and much discussion has been occurring at both a national and state level on the future of the Junior League. This was of particular interest to us in light of what we are seeing within our state in budget cuts, and fundraising difficulties. As such, our Board of Directors felt that it was important to begin thinking about how to make strategic changes so we may continue with our mission for decades to come. Some of the highlights and end results of these big picture discussions both in the board room and at general membership meetings resulted in the following:

- ❑ We evaluated our current income and outflow of finances and determined that it would be prudent to wait at least a year before taking on another community program; allowing us to build up our resources for the possibility of another larger grant (as in the case of SMSG). It was determined we could utilize our Community Allocations and Project Planning committee during the 2009-2010 year to do some community research regarding needs; and also investigate the idea of larger collaboration opportunities. The committee is also charged with determining the plan for 2010-2011 and will make recommendations to the BOD and membership throughout the year as information is collected.
- ❑ Cutting out the addition of a new community project for 2010-2011 will also free up women power for the projects that we have already dedicated our support to; as membership has shown a slight decline over the past few years.
- ❑ It was decided to continue with the Live Like a Millionaire Raffle (see below), but not to connect it with a large external event for 2009-2010. The drawing will be held at the Annual Meeting in May 2010. The rationale for this was that the return on investment for such events has been minimal over the past few years; and it is hoped that we can develop a more efficient use of our time and energy.
- ❑ A new committee called “Future Fund Development” was also added to the Fund Development council for the 2009-2010. The charge of this committee is to review fund development proposals and compile a packet for voting to determine the direction of fund development in upcoming years.
- ❑ During the 2008-2009 year the membership of JLAA voted on a budget that included the change in web servers to Digital Cheetah (also utilized by our parent organization AJLI). This change will allow JLAA to move forward technologically speaking in MANY ways!! The site includes many upgrades; including the ability to pay by credit card, easy access to the membership calendar and directory, and allows for each committee and group to upload all documents for members to view.
- ❑ In light of all available resources through Digital Cheetah, and to cut costs; paper copies of the JLAA handbook and Arbor Accents are now only being mailed out by request.
- ❑ With the abundance of training given to our Presidents during their 2 year placement; it was decided to create a leadership model to maximize the access to that training, and to assist with transition of leadership in future years. As such, a leadership model was proposed that included the Immediate Past President serving as Chair of the Board of Directors in the year following their Presidential year.

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 met 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. Additionally, the SPAC representative communicated information back to the JLAA membership so that we are more informed citizens. Noah Smith also came and spoke at our 2008 September General Membership Meeting and discussed some of the issues facing our state. In the spring SPAC held a statewide “Day at the Capitol” event in Lansing- where members were invited to learn about the legislative process and meet their senators and representatives.

FUND DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS FOR 2008-2009

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 2008-2009, 81% of our fund development budget of \$50,000 was achieved. Although we fell short of our goal, in the economic times that we are facing we are very grateful to all who support us and have contributed to the success of our organization. As indicated, we have made some changes to our 2009-2010 budget by evaluating realistic fundraising goals, and cutting costs where possible so as to avoid future shortfalls.

Luck O' the League: Held in March of 2009, this event was a great opportunity to try your hand at various card games and to socialize with friends in support of the Junior League's projects. This event was deemed mainly social this year as the main fundraiser was the Live Like a Millionaire raffle drawing were held at this event. There was a successful silent auction at this event as well. The net proceeds from this event were \$1500.00.

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 somewhat lower profits than in previous years, but still raised \$1800.00 to be allocated toward membership development and community projects.

Bountiful Arbor Cookbook Sales: Sales of the cookbook continue to be difficult in a saturated market; however other options for liquidation continue to be pursued. The year final sales of the cookbook equated to \$1400 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. Business sales marketing increased business purchases this year and resulted in poinsettia sales at just over \$9,000 of our fund development proceeds.

Live Like a Millionaire Raffle: Our newest fundraiser kicked off with a smash in 2008-2009! Although it did not meet its ambitious budget goal of \$50,000, the raffle was still considered quite a success in light of economic times and also as this was the debut year of this fundraiser. With raffle items coming in from many local businesses, and new partnerships formed; this was a foundation setting year for what is sure to be a successful endeavor. The year final net profit from this event was 11,400.

Grants and Sponsorships: Another new committee during the 2008-2009 year, this group of women sent out many grant applications and achieved above and beyond their goal of 5000.00 with a grant from the James A, and Faith Knight Foundation for 15,000.00 for the SMSG program (as indicated in grant request).



Ladies enjoying our Luck O' the League event in March

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES 2008-2009

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

Community Advisory Board 2008-2009: 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 2008-2009: Cliff Sheldon, Ann Arbor State's Bank, Nancy Schleicher, Ann Arbor Public Schools; Patrick Savage, Hylant Group; Greg O'Dell, EMU Public Safety; Karen Delhey, Ann Arbor Street Fair Marketing Director; and Gloria Brooks, Arbor Hospice

2008-2009 Board of Directors

Debbie Urquhart – President
Holly Heaviland- President-Elect
Kelly Williams- Recording Secretary
Julaine LeDuc- Sustainer Advisor
April Savage- Nominating/Placement Chair
Molly Bodenschatz- Communications Council VP
Stacey Bodner - Community Services Council VP
Sarah Helmich- Finance Council VP
Christine Lammers- Fund Development Council VP
Shannon Campbell - Membership Services Council VP
Heidi Nelson – Immediate Past President

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Holly Heaviland- President
Shannon Campbell- President-Elect
Katie Fraumann- Recording Secretary
Anne Cooper- Sustainer Advisor
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Sarah Kautz – Communications Council VP
Monica Williams- Community Services Council VP
Kelly Williams- Finance Council VP
Natalie Hoffman- Fund Development Council VP
Christy Hoban- Membership Services Council VP
Debbie Urquhart – Immediate Past President