



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

Women building better communities®

ARBOR ACCENTS

President's Message

It is very hard for me to believe that it is already time for me to write the year end Arbor Accents article. It feels like just yesterday that I sat down to welcome everyone back to a new league year! If we don't take a breath and the time to think about our accomplishments, we risk missing them in the chaos.



As such.....here are a few of our AMAZING accomplishments for the year:

- We kicked off a new program with SOS. We helped serve up countless meals, sat and talked to children, delivered turkeys, read stories, donated hundreds of holiday gifts, educated volunteers on homelessness, and in all had a great kick off year.

- Our newest members learned about our history with Perry, and jumped right in to make more. They renovated the kitchen and the reception area; they talked with staff and learned what the needs were and made efforts to fill them. We replaced their playground mulch, baked cookies, and helped decorate them.
- We sent our volunteers all over Washtenaw County. We delivered meals and poinsettias; we helped people who are struggling financially to pick out warm winter clothes for their children; we encouraged young girls to meet their running goals...and so much more!!
- We trained our membership on budgeting, self fulfillment, public policy, healthy eating, and the importance of vaccination (to name a few things). We discussed the importance of early childhood education. We spent a day at our capitol. We wrote budgets, thought about how to fundraise, and strategized on moving forward in a downward cycling economy.
- We voted and chose Girls Group as our new project for 09-10. We will mentor teenage girls and hope to help make a difference in their lives.
- We voted to continue in a fourth year focused on Strong Moms Strong Girls, and relational aggression. We have raised awareness of this issue in the community.
- We had "speed dating" from Nominating and Placement, and monthly fun themes from Arrangements. We bonded over hot cocoa, sweets, and even wine! We played craps and poker☺!• We improved our internal and external communications. We are looking towards strategic changes to our web server so that we will be able to reduce our workload over time and use technology more effectively.
- We had 30+ women feel confident and empowered enough to step into leadership. They now start a path of training and learning that will move us forward and into the next generation.
- We raised \$23,000 for the continuation of our mission; thanks to the wonderful efforts of ALL of our FD committees!! We learned and developed long term strategy for fund development.

So, THANK YOU to everyone for the part you played in our collective success in our ongoing pursuit to develop the potential of women, promote volunteerism and improve our community!!

We can look forward together to building on these successes by creating new goals and developing new strategies for moving the Junior League of Ann Arbor forward so that we can continue to make a difference in our community.

-Deb Urquhart, President



Pictured: Michelle Eleby and Kim Scartelli selling raffle tickets

The First Millionaire Raffle is a Big Success!

Thank you to all of the league members who purchased or sold raffle tickets or arranged for donations for this year's Live Like a Millionaire Raffle. Together we were able to raise over \$11,000 for the Junior League of Ann Arbor!

The winning ticket was drawn at the Luck 'O The League Party on March 14th. The lucky winner was league member Shanna Ertell who won the grand prize drawing and thousands of dollars in gift certificates that she can use this year.

Because Shanna sold the ticket to herself, she donated the seller's prize back to the league and we were able to draw a second winner. Stacey Bodner won the seller's prize and will enjoy a week at a Boyne Mountain cabin courtesy of the Lammers family.

Thank you to everyone for your incredible support!

-Kim Scartelli, Live Like a Millionaire Raffle Chair

Welcome to the Winter 2009 New Member Class!

**Kristin Carr
Alison Corey
Beth Fohrman
Kim Gardner
Kimberly Grimes
Lauren LeDuc**

**Sara Nelson
Megan Smulders
Nicole Timm
Lisa Turner
Kate Varley**



Pictured: Kristine Cable, Maya McElroy, Laurie McClatchey, Kelly Clay

Luck O' the League Update

Thank you to everyone who made the Luck O' the League social fundraiser a great success! We hope everyone had a great time at the event. We sold 104 tickets and raised over \$1,500 for JLAA. The event was held at Lake Forest Golf Club on Saturday, March 14th and featured craps, Texas Hold' Em poker, blackjack as well as Wii games, darts, and putt putt. Prizes went to the top three players with the most gaming money left at the end of the night: 1st place- Maya McElroy (1st place trophy, 2 rounds of golf at Lake Forest Golf Club, and Willow golf sleeves and golf balls), 2nd place- Alison Cotsonika (2nd place trophy and Willow golf sleeves), 3rd place- Dania Dunlap-Hurden (3rd place trophy).

We would like to thank our sponsors Porter One Designs for the beautiful invitations and Willow Building for their generous donation. We would especially like to thank our committee members: Jaime Benkelman, Kristin Finn, Laurie McClatchey, and Maya McElroy. Without your hard work and wonderful contributions, our event would not have been as successful and fun! We consider ourselves very lucky to have had such a great committee!

-Kristine Cable and Kelly Clay, Gaming Party Co-Chairs



Pictured: Members and friends at the Luck O' the League event

Thank You!

I personally want to extend a huge THANK YOU to members of the League! Because of our League's commitment to training, I was able to attend two Association of Junior League's International (AJLI) conferences - the Annual Meeting in Atlanta and a Leadership Training in Birmingham, Alabama. These three day events educated me on the experiences of leagues around the world and helped me understand the opportunities and challenges that our League, like many, are facing in these changing times.

I learned about strategic leadership, which is: "the ability to anticipate, prepare and get positioned for the future... It is the courage to think deeply about what needs to be done now that will set the stage for the coming years" (Vicki Clark, 2/6/09). Additionally, Ms. Clark taught me about the congruency between League philosophy and Robert Greenleaf's concept of the servant leader, described this way: "In order to achieve the organization's goals, the servant leader focuses on building a sense of community by helping others to develop their potential and, thereby, enhance their contribution to the organization." In learning these ideas, I have a deeper appreciation for the unique attributes of League membership and service. I feel fortunate and privileged to be part of an organization with such a solid philosophical foundation and limitless potential!

If you haven't already, I encourage you to sign up to the members section of the AJLI website (www.ajli.org) for access to an incredible amount of training material and League information. Thank you again,

-Shannon Campbell, Membership Council VP



Pictured: New members Beth Fohrman, Jill Coultas, Jen Lenard-Benson, Leigh Anne Mixon, Kim Gardner, Heather Brenneman Miles

New Members Finalize Perry Nursery Project

The New Members continue to work closely with Perry Nursery to improve areas of the school for their New Member Project. Following up the successful Mulch Project, which raised over \$800 and brought Perry Nursery's mulch levels up to standard, was a productive day spent cleaning and organizing Perry Nursery's kitchen. The New Member Project will culminate in early May with a redecoration effort to modernize and refresh high traffic areas. New Members have been campaigning to

raise \$2000 to cover paint and manual labor by implementing a DIAD opportunity for League members. The New Members are well on their way towards achieving this goal and completing a successful New Member Project with Perry Nursery! Thank you to all of the League members who have contributed to the Perry Nursery New Member Project this year! The New Member class sincerely appreciates your efforts and knows that Perry Nursery is very grateful for your generosity!

-Ryan Pfahl, New Member Assistant Chair

Strong Moms Strong Girls

"Strong Moms Strong Girls fosters a culture of healthy, mutually respectful relationships among girls and women. We equip them with the knowledge and resources to appreciate and celebrate diversity in each other. We create community connections and alliances that support constructive interaction, communication, and collaboration."

The Strong Moms Strong Girls signature project in collaboration with the University of Michigan Center for the Child and Family has made great progress during its third year. The above mission statement is the result of collaborative meetings between the SMSG Committee and UCCF. Strategic planning efforts to help ensure a viable program began in February 2009.

A major initiative for the Strong Moms Strong Girls program is to create a community network to engage other professionals and mentors working with girls, such as teachers and girl scout leaders. SMSG is currently seeking grant funding to offer a comprehensive training workshop for these community leaders in conjunction with the Hardy Girls Healthy Women program of Maine. Thank you to the assistance of the Grants & Sponsorships Committee, three grant applications are pending. Also to help establish a network, enhancements to the SMSG website are underway to make it an interactive resource for parents, professionals and girls.

An exciting partnership has been established with the Ann Arbor Public Library to host a presentation, delivered by UCCF, on the topic of cyber-bullying: Sept 21, 2009 at the Pittsfield Branch. This will be a great opportunity to reach a wide audience and increase visibility of SMSG in the community through the marketing efforts of the library.

The mother-daughter workshops continue to be well attended to the satisfaction of participants, approximately 81 mother-daughter pairs will have attended 9 workshops held July 2008 through May 2009. Although the March workshop was canceled due to low enrollment, registrants were able to choose alternate dates and the April and May workshops are at full capacity with July very close to full.

Three area schools have hosted community presentations this year, reaching 100 community members and parents. We are currently looking to schedule community presentations with PTOs, community or parent organizations for the fall. We are also seeking opportunities to bring the Community Presentation to the memberships of other Junior Leagues in Michigan. Please contact Karen Rothstein at jknis@sbcglobal.net if your group is interested or with any JL contacts. Thank you to all of the won-

derful SMSG Community Presenters for their continued participation!

The SMSG book clubs have been well attended this year, thank you all for your participation. For those of you who may have some more reading time over the summer here is what we've been reading:

Letters to A Bullied Girl: Messages of Hope and Healing by Olivia Garner

Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls by Rachel Simmons

Tripping the Prom Queen: The Truth About Women and Rivalry by Susan Shapiro Barash

Chrissa by Mary Casanova – the story of the 2009 American Girl, Girl of the Year, a great book to discuss with girls age 8-12.

The 4th year extension of the SMSG signature project, approved at the January GMM, will allow for further planning and development for the SMSG program and ensure a smooth transition from the JLAA signature project relationship. JLAA support will also help to continue distribution of the quality, professional programming SMSG offers for young girls and their support networks.

We can all look forward to more progress for the Strong Moms Strong Girls Signature Project, a healthy community alliance creating a community of healthy female relationships.

-Claire Stevens, SMSG Committee Chair

Flexifund Grants 2008-2009

Each year, Flexifund Grants are awarded to local organizations who apply for financial assistance up to \$1,000 for projects appropriate to the League's focus areas. This year, the Community Allocations and Project Planning (CAPP) committee is pleased to announce several area non-profits selected to receive a Flexifund Grant.

The Junior League gifted \$500 each to three organizations. **The Family Book Club** works to ensure children in Washtenaw County have an equal opportunity to develop a love of reading by providing books and information about the value of reading. FBC is starting a Storytime Program in two low-income neighborhood sites in Ann Arbor, which will also provide free books to regular participating families. The grant from JLAA will help purchase activity supplies, snacks, and outreach materials. **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)** recruits and trains community volunteers to serve as advocates for abused and neglected children under the jurisdiction of the court. Volunteers advocate for a safe, permanent, loving home for the children they represent. JLAA's grant will fund training for 15 additional CASA volunteers in Washtenaw County. **826Michigan** is a writing and tutoring center dedicated to supporting students ages 6-18 with their creative and expository writing skills. A Girls Writing Club for at-risk girls who reside at Hikone Community Center will use JLAA's grant to provide weekly writing sessions to design and publish a chapbook of the participating girls' original writing.

JLAA awarded a Flexifund grant of \$1,000 to **Huron Valley Ambulance (HVA)** in support of an educational summer program.

Our Mission

The Junior League of Ann Arbor is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective leadership and action of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

Camp 9-1-1 is where 8-12 year olds learn about safety and injury prevention, first aid, CPR, AED, and Emergency Medical Service careers. HVA has supported the camp for 11 years, providing emergency medical technicians and paramedics along with guest speakers to guide the campers through a variety of interactive experiences. Field trips to a hospital emergency department, fire department and police department give campers an opportunity to explore ambulances, fire trucks and police cars as well as participate in realistic demonstrations of people working in emergency services. The Junior League grant will help HVA cover the significant bus transportation expenses to make these field trips possible.

JLAA also awarded a Flexifund grant of \$1,000 to the **Leukemia and Lymphoma Society** in support of their Bone Marrow Drive in October 2009. A bone marrow drive encourages the general public in the area to register for the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) Registry. In addition to typing for possible donors, NMDP employees will have the opportunity to educate the public on what a bone marrow transplant is, how to sign up for the registry, and the importance of donors in saving lives. The Junior League grant will cover expenses for the test swab kits for potential bone marrow donors, hopefully matching a bone marrow donor to local patients awaiting a life-saving transplant.

-Amy Force, CRPD Sub-Committee



Pictured: Jill Coultas and Kate Zellers decorate cookies at Perry

DIAD Impact on the Ann Arbor Community

A special thanks to everyone who participated in the DIAD events this past league year! Collectively we have dedicated 1,418 hours as of the end of March!! With your help we were able to touch numerous organizations including Ronald McDonald House, Meals on Wheels of Ann Arbor, Huron Valley Ambulance, Girls on the Run, Perry Nursery School, SOS Community Services, Alpha House, Neutral Zone, Ele's Place, and Arbor Hospice. We can't wait to see what this outstanding group of women can accomplish in the next league year!!

-Jessica Bader, DIAD Committee Co-Chair

SOS Committee

The JLAA SOS signature project got off to an amazing start last fall with two major initiatives - The Playing Learning Growing Program (PLG) and the Children's Book/Activity Area (CBAA.)

Playing Learning Growing (PLG): This newly developed program provides a way for parents and JLAA volunteers to collaborate during evening playgroups. The PLG curriculum teaches parents how to take advantage of opportunities to teach their kids through play. The first 10 week PLG session was conducted October through December 2008 with participation from four Junior League members and three SOS families. Volunteers played with the children in one-on-one settings as well as with group play while parents were counseled by SOS staff.

Moving forward, the playgroups are enhancing the program with structured with activity stations and developmental exercises. Committee members are currently working with SOS to settle on the timing of the next PLG session - potentially as early as May/June 2009!

Children's Book/Activity Area (CBAA): This portion of the SOS three-year signature project offers JLAA volunteers a hands-on opportunity to engage children in literacy based activities while their parents wait for Food Distribution. In August 2008, the project acquired approximately 200 gently used books for distribution to children during CBAA activities. The first CBAA activity was conducted in October of 2008 and has continued monthly with volunteers setting up the activity area, reading to the children and distributing free books for the children to take home. In December 2008, Borders generously donated new books that were gift wrapped and distributed to families during the holidays.

Going forward, the CBAA will continue every third Wednesday of the month.

If you are interested in getting a head start on your DIAD hours during the summer months, you can volunteer for the PLG program or for a CBAA event. These programs are an excellent way to get into the community and make a difference one child at a time. Please contact Dania Dunlap - daniam-dunlap@yahoo.com if you are interested in volunteering.

-Gemaya Griffin, SOS Committee Chair

2009 JL Day at the Capitol - review of critical needs as budget cuts loom in state budget - March 11, 2009

Sponsored annually by the Michigan State Council of Junior Leagues, this year's sessions highlighted the critical needs of women and children. The event was held within walking distance of the state capitol building in downtown Lansing. Attendees were briefed on three important bills are being considered by legislators and how to present the case for them. We had the chance to chat about these issues and the Junior League organization, with our local representatives over lunch.

JLAA is fortunate that there are advocates in our local representatives, especially Pam Byrnes (D), State Representative from House District 52. Also joining our conversations were Liz Brater (D), state senator from Senate District 18 and staff person from Rebekah Warren's office (D), State Representative from House District 53.

Receiving favorable comments were the tabletop display showing the New Members project with Perry Nursery School and the donated raffle gift of baked goods from Ann Arbor-based business Zingermans. Our cookbook, Bountiful Arbor, was given as a thank you gift to the presenters.

Six members of our league attended the Day. This year 3 Done in a Day hours were given for attending. The afternoon included a well received tour of the state capitol building.

-Marcia Miner, SPAC Delegate