

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



JUNIOR LEAGUE
COLUMBUS

WOMEN BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES SINCE 1923



OUR MISSION

The Junior League of Columbus, Inc. is an organization of women whose Mission is to advance women’s leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.



OUR VISION

The Junior League of Columbus is the leading resource for trained volunteers. Through our programs and the Kelton House Museum and Garden, we educate the community, preserve the past and build for the future of Columbus.

OUR VALUES

Collaboration: We believe lasting societal change is achieved through both collaboration and meaningful disagreement. Living the value of collaboration inspires us to accomplish more together.



Community: We believe a strong sense of community is essential to human well-being. Living the value of community provides a foundation of inclusion, which allows us to make a greater impact on the world around us.

Empowerment: We believe that the empowerment of women is a necessary requirement to create positive, lasting societal change. Living the value of empowerment fosters trust and confidence in each other.



Leadership: We believe in the unique power of women’s leadership abilities to transform communities for the better. Living the value of leadership allows us to make a collective difference.

Respect: We believe respect is a fundamental human right. Living the value of respect instills in us an unconditional positive regard for others.

Service: We believe it is through service that we build core relationships with others. Service is the lens through which we decide how we will invest our time and resources. Living the value of service empowers us as catalysts for lasting community change.



OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

IN DIVERSITY THERE IS BEAUTY AND STRENGTH. The Junior League welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations and communities.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT Rochelle Toth, 2023-2025

Dear Junior League of Columbus Members and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense pride for the extraordinary achievements of the Junior League of Columbus. Together, we have fulfilled our Mission of training women and also made significant strides in our community impact projects, Bridging the G.A.P. and the Kelton House Museum and Garden.

Our dedication to transparency and accountability is paramount. In this annual report, you'll find a comprehensive overview of the League's successes and financial performance, illustrating how the support we received has fueled positive change through our community impact projects and programs. Thanks to your financial and in-kind contributions as well as volunteer efforts, the Junior League of Columbus continues to serve the Columbus community.

This year, our training programs empowered countless women, providing them with the skills and confidence needed to lead and serve. Through workshops, mentorship, and hands-on experiences, we have nurtured a new generation of leaders who are ready to make a difference in our community.

Our Bridging the G.A.P. initiative has continued to thrive, addressing critical needs by supporting youth aging out of foster care in our community and creating lasting change. Through collaboration with local organizations, we have supported families and individuals, ensuring they have access to essential resources and opportunities for a better future. The impact of this project is seen and felt in the countless lives we have touched.

The Kelton House Museum and Garden remains a cornerstone of our efforts to preserve and celebrate our rich history in Columbus. This year, we hosted numerous educational programs, community events, and preservation activities, welcoming visitors from all different backgrounds. The museum not only serves as a historic landmark but also as a vibrant center for community engagement and learning.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the unwavering support and dedication of each and every one of you. To our Members, your commitment and passion drive our Mission forward. To our dedicated staff, your hard work and expertise are the backbone of our success. To our generous donors and community partners, your contributions and collaboration are invaluable.

Together, we have impacted many lives for the greater good. As we look to the future, I am excited for the possibilities that lie ahead and confident that, together, we will continue to make a meaningful difference in our community.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to the Junior League of Columbus. Here's to another year of growth, impact, and success.

Best Regards,

Rochelle Toth
JLC President 2023-2025



2023-2024 AWARDS

Outstanding

New Member Award

Kara Kearns

Rising Star Awards

Olivia Cotton

Team Player Award

Nicole Lucas

Myna Rai

Betsy Oellermann

Presidents' Awards

Katie Persico

Kayla Shawver

Community Award Recipient

Lisa Dickson, ACTION Ohio

2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Rochelle Toth

Past-President: Jennifer Shea

Executive Vice President: Chauna Mason

Vice President of Kelton House: Kayla Shawver

Recording Secretary: Nicole Stanley

Treasurer: Kristina Ellis

Sustainer Representatives: Mandy Slack-Baker & Kara Newbury

2023-2024 MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Executive Vice President: Chauna Mason

Management Council Administrator: Lindsey Shaw

Vice President of Finance: Kathryn Persico

Vice President of DEIB: Lynette Campbell

Vice President of Community Impact:

Maddison Simmons & Allie Starbuck

Vice President of Partnership & Fund Development:

Marci Leveillee

Vice President of Membership Development: Michele Marcinick

Sustainer Representative: Tamora Lupton-Wilkinson

2023-2024 COMMUNITY RECOGNITIONS

AWARDS

- Franklin County Children Services Community Advocate Award | 2024

RECOGNITIONS

- Recognition in Columbus Foundation's Annual Report | 2024

IN THE MEDIA

- Channel 10 | Feature about the Kelton House for Black History Month | February 2024
- ABC6 | Feature about the Underground Railroad at the Kelton House | February 2024
- AJLI League Life | History Feature | March 2024
- City Pulse | JLC and Kelton House highlighted in their bi-annual Charity Guide | 2024

IT STARTS WITH A WOMAN



Celebrating 100 Years 1923-2023

The Junior League of Columbus (JLC) concluded its year-long centennial celebrations with a grand Centennial Gala on September 21, 2023, at the Franklin Park Conservatory. This milestone event marked 100 years of JLC's dedication to community service and empowerment, bringing together 128 guests to honor its rich history and promising future.

The highlight of the evening was the announcement that the centennial campaign team had successfully raised an impressive \$613,012. This substantial sum will play a crucial role in securing the future of JLC, ensuring its continued impact on the Columbus community for years to come.

Adding to the significance of the evening, JLC received a special recognition from former First Lady Laura Bush. This honor was particularly poignant, given that one of JLC's founding members, Dorothy Walker Bush, is Laura Bush's husband's grandmother. This connection to American history added an extra layer of pride and celebration for all attendees.

The Centennial Gala was not only a celebration of the past 100 years but also a testament to the enduring spirit and dedication of JLC's members. The event served as a remarkable culmination of the centennial year, setting a positive and hopeful tone for the organization's future endeavors.



CURRENT SIGNATURE PROJECTS

The Junior League of Columbus (JLC) continues to make an impact in Central Ohio. With its two signature projects - Bridging the G.A.P. and the Kelton House Museum and Garden - the JLC has reached and connected with the community in a multitude of ways.

Bridging the G.A.P.

Bridging the G.A.P. (Guide, Advocate, Provide) is a project that supports youth aging out of the foster care system.

Project Guide: In partnership with Franklin County Children Services, JLC members taught a “Life Skills” program that assisted young adults preparing to graduate high school. Class topics ranged from personal finance to rental housing and interview skills. These topics aimed to prepare participants for independent living after graduation.

Project Advocate: Throughout the year JLC members convened weekly on an advocacy call, which helped keep the community’s various experts engaged with each other on issues pertaining to foster youth. These calls were essential to the strong collaborations that JLC has built to support foster youth. The JLC also advocated for the Foster-to-College Scholarship Act by providing testimony to Ohio lawmakers in support of the Act and also hosted a Pep Rally during the House vote. This year the Foster-to-College Act passed in the Ohio House and will now head to the Senate for a vote.

Project Provide: Through Project Provide, the League was able to provide 65 high school graduates currently in foster care with high-quality suitcases containing household and personal necessities. The success of this project was due, in large part, to a \$15,000 grant received from AEP. Additionally, the JLC led a holiday drive for young people served by Huckleberry House, an organization that supports central Ohio youth struggling with homelessness, family conflict, poverty, and violence. This year, the holiday drive was able to meet the wishes of over 170 young people.

We are thrilled to announce that the Junior League of Columbus has been honored with the 2023-2024 Franklin County Children Services Community Advocate Award. This prestigious recognition celebrates our significant contributions to the agency through our Bridging the G.A.P. project. JLC’s unwavering support for children and families continues to make a profound impact in our community, and we are deeply grateful for this acknowledgment.





KELTON HOUSE MUSEUM & GARDEN

Since its establishment in 1976, the Kelton House Museum has been diligently managed by The Junior League of Columbus (JLC), which continues to oversee its operations to this day. Built in 1852, this historic landmark exemplifies elements of both the Greek Revival and Italianate architectural styles. Significantly, it also served as a stop on the Underground Railroad. The Kelton House Museum & Garden provides a variety of offerings, including house tours, educational programs, and event rental spaces.



Throughout the past year, the museum welcomed over 5,500 visitors who participated in tours, educational programs, private events, and meetings. The JLC continued its tradition of hosting the annual HERStory Girl Scout Patch Program and expanded its programming with the Girl Scouts by adding a tea event this year. The Girl Scout programs have been hugely successful and we have increased the number of young girls attending the program this year.



One of the key events on the Kelton House calendar was Fernando's Funeral, which was an outstanding success. This year, the event was expanded to include an extended, "spookier" tour, and all sessions were sold out. Fernando's Funeral is a significant event that not only shares the Kelton family's story with the community but also raises funds to support the Kelton House's programming efforts.



In addition to its event programming, the Kelton House received over \$61,000 in grants and donations during the League year, underscoring the community's commitment to preserving history and promoting educational initiatives. Overall, the year was marked by success, recognition, and a growing impact on the community.

Another milestone for the Kelton House this year was the appointment of a new Director, Jeff Lafever. Jeff has been instrumental in fostering new connections for the Kelton House, broadening its reach, and deepening ties within the community. His leadership and vision have significantly contributed to the museum's continued success and its mission of preserving history and promoting educational initiatives.



This year has been a successful one for the Kelton House, marked by numerous achievements and milestones. We look forward to expanding our impact even further in the coming years.

Quick Impacts

Many times, organizations identify a need for assistance or resources, but do not have the volunteers or staff to fully meet those needs. Quick Impacts allow the Junior League of Columbus (JLC) to assist with these challenges by providing full or partial funding for a project, as well as volunteer services. These events also afford members the opportunity to work directly with other community partners in Central Ohio. This year, quick impact events included assembling and distributing holiday meal kits for The Columbus Early Learning Centers, completing blankets for youth in foster care with My Very Own Blanket, assisting high schoolers with finding their prom dress with Fairy Goodmother, supporting ACTION Ohio with their Thanksgiving Dinner for youth and families currently and formerly in the foster care system, volunteering for Nellie's Champions for Kids Back to School Bash to support children with cancer.

Empowering Women Through Training

This year, the Junior League of Columbus has been dedicated to empowering women volunteers through a diverse array of training opportunities. These initiatives are designed to enhance their skills, knowledge, and effectiveness in serving our community. Here's a look at the impactful training sessions we've offered in 2023:

- Hands-Only CPR Training by the American Heart Association
- Self-Care led by Krista Powers, a Life Coach and Consultant with Potere Coaching
- Supporting Foster Youth with panelists Katrina de los Santos- Columbus State Community College; Kim Eckhart- Children's Defense Fund of Ohio and Lisa Dickson- ActionOhio
- Goal Setting and Leadership led by Joe Rotella of Delphia Consulting, LLC
- Gallup StrengthsFinder Training hosted by Cardinal Health
- Fundraising Training with Arielle Johnson, Senior Associate Director of Gifts and Records at Denison College
- Better Together Brunch on Allyship with panelists Judge Laurel Beatty Blunt - Franklin County Court of Common Pleas General Division, Dr. Rustin M. Moore - Professor and Ruth Stanton Chair in Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Sharee Blackmon - Director of Human Resources at the Columbus Foundation, Jocelyn M. Armstrong, Esq. - Director of Inclusion and Outreach at the Ohio Bar Association and Kourtni M. Hatton, SHRM-CP - VP & Chief People & Equity Officer at United Way of Central Ohio

These training opportunities have significantly enhanced the skills and capabilities of our volunteers, reinforcing our mission of developing the potential of women and improving the community through effective action and leadership. The Junior League of Columbus remains committed to providing high-quality training and development programs to empower women and make a lasting impact on our community.





FUNDRAISERS



Holiday Tour of Homes

In December 2023, the JLC hosted its annual Holiday Tour of Homes fundraiser. This Tour was the most successful Tour to date. JLC was able to surpass their previous ticket sales and fundraising goals. Not only did the Tour feature 7 beautifully decorated homes in the Upper Arlington, the JLC had back the Kickoff Party where guests gathered in one of the Tour's homes for an evening of mingling with friends, entertainment, and a silent auction. These events were such a success, raising over **\$31,000** to support the League's Mission.

Kelton House Garden Party

The Kelton House Museum and Garden's largest fundraising event of the year was held on May 31, 2024, raising over **\$9,000** for continuing support to the Kelton House Mission - providing historical education and preserving the decorative arts in Central Ohio. This year's theme - Welcome to Wonderland - celebrated the beauty of the Gardens and its history.



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF COLUMBUS
PROFIT AND LOSS
JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024**



Membership Dues
\$63,882

Fundraising Expenses
\$8,892.10



This financial information is based on unaudited figures.

ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES, & GENEROUS GROUP GIVING

FOUNDATIONS AND GRANT SUPPORTERS

American Electric Power Foundation
Columbus Foundation
Grace Kelton Fund
The Reuter Fund

SPONSOR- PLATINUM \$2.5K+

Poling Law

SPONSOR- GOLD \$1K+

Able Printing
Anne Wittlekind
Encova Insurance

SPONSOR- SILVER \$500+

Annie's Wine Cottage
City Park Interiors
The Cleary Company
Graumlich Funeral Home
Grandview Cafe
Marci Leveillee & Josh Tabler
Melissa Kruse/GryphonUSA
Rine Landscape Group
Street Sotheby's International Realty - Marisa Nye & Sally Wolfe
Theado & Co. Tuckerman Home Group
Vutech Ruff | Cutler Real Estate
Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLC

SPONSOR- BRONZE \$250+

Augusto Medina Associates LLC
Anne DeVoe - Coldwell Banker
Christin Smith
The Jane Jones Team, Howard Hanna Real Estate
KA Menendian Rug Gallery
Ray Insurance Agency
RE/MAX Partners (The Wright Group)
Steller Construction
Tailored Management
City Park Interiors
Deyanira Medina
Frost, Brown, and Todd Attorneys - Thaddeus M. Boggs
Marci Leveillee
The Printed Image
Ray Insurance Agency

SPONSOR- FRIEND OF THE LEAGUE \$100+

Go Mortgage/Kim Hoag
Marilyn Kearns
Christin Smith

PARTNER- EMERALD \$5K+

PARTNER- SAPPHIRE \$2.5K+

Chocolate Cafe
Palmer House Design
Skyline Chili

PARTNER- RUBY \$1K+

Annie's Wine Cottage
Autumn Dawn Design
Deya Medina
Donatos
Frontgate
Nothing Bundt Cakes
Sadie Baby Sweets

PARTNER- OPAL \$500+

Buffalo Wild Wings
The Original Goodie Shop
Veronica Bradley Interiors

PARTNER- FRIEND OF THE LEAGUE UP TO \$499

A Cake for Leroy
Avant Garden
The Avenue
C Krueger's
Carsonie's
Crumbly Cookies - Dublin
DeSantis Florists
Flower Galaxy
Flowerman
Glenn Avenue Soap Company
Hudson 29
Lavash Cafe
Meg's Delicious Cutouts
NB3 Photography
Pearly Vine
Penn and Beech Candle Co.
Posh Tea
Sherry's Silks