

# 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



**JUNIOR LEAGUE**  
COLUMBUS

DEVELOPING WOMEN TO DO A WORLD OF GOOD™



## 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 2024-2025 League year, I am filled with deep gratitude and immense pride for everything the Junior League of Columbus has accomplished together. This year has been one of growth, resilience, and renewed purpose as we continued to fulfill our mission of developing the potential of women and creating lasting community impact.

Through our two signature projects, Bridging the G.A.P. and the Kelton House Museum and Garden, we once again demonstrated the power of women leaders committed to meaningful change. In this annual report, you will find a comprehensive overview of our achievements, including a transparent look at our financial performance. Your generosity through financial contributions, in-kind support, and countless volunteer hours has allowed the Junior League of Columbus to sustain and strengthen programs that directly benefit our community.

Our training and leadership development programs remained a cornerstone of our work this year. Through hands-on experiences, dynamic workshops, and meaningful mentorship, members gained confidence, sharpened their skills, and advanced as capable leaders within both the League and the broader Columbus community. These efforts continue to cultivate a powerful network of women dedicated to service and leadership.

Bridging the G.A.P. continued to expand its reach this year, offering vital support to youth aging out of foster care. Through partnerships with community organizations and the dedication of our volunteers, we provided essential resources and compassionate connections to young people navigating pivotal transitions. The impact of this work is visible in the many lives strengthened through support, stability, and opportunity.

At the Kelton House Museum and Garden, we continued to honor and share the rich history of our community through education, preservation, and public engagement. The museum remained a meaningful space for learning and reflection, offering programming and experiences that connect the past to the present.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the dedication of our members, the expertise of our staff, and the generosity of our donors and partners. Each of you plays a vital role in advancing our mission and ensuring the continued success of the Junior League of Columbus.

Together, we have made a real and lasting impact on our community. As we look to the year ahead, I am inspired by the possibilities before us and confident that, united in purpose, we will continue to lead, serve, and uplift those around us.

Thank you for your unwavering support, your energy, and your belief in our work. Here's to another year filled with growth, empowerment, and meaningful community impact.

Best regards,  
Rochelle Toth  
JLC President 2023-2025



## 2024-2025 AWARDS

### Outstanding New Member Award

Melissa Helpman  
Julia Marino

### Team Player Award

Jess Maldonado

### Presidents' Awards

Marci Leveillee  
Virginia Reutzel

### Community Award Recipient

Deric Cobb, Franklin County  
Children's Services

**IT STARTS  
WITH A WOMAN**

## 2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Rochelle Toth

**President-Elect:** Kristina Ellis

**Recording Secretary:** *Vacant*

**Treasurer:** Katie Persico

**Vice President of Community Impact:** Marci Leveillee

**Vice President of Fund & Partnership Development:**

Nicole Bergman

**Vice President of Kelton House:** Kayla Shawver

**Vice President of Membership Development:** Linda Sabatini

**Vice President of Nominating:** Danielle Fricke

**Sustainer Representatives:** Kelly Mitchell & Kara Newbury

## 2024-2025 COMMUNITY RECOGNITIONS

### RECOGNITIONS

- Columbus Foundation | Stories of Impact | September 2025

### IN THE MEDIA

- NBC4 | Feature about JLC on Daytime Columbus | August 2025
- NBC4 | Interview for 20<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Holiday Tour of Homes | December 2025
- City Pulse | JLC and Kelton House highlighted in their bi-annual Charity Guide | 2025
- AJLI's The League Life | Find the Good Day League Highlight | Spring 2025
- Mahogany Magazine | Kelton House Highlight | January/February 2025



# 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:** This year, the Junior League of Columbus expanded our commitment to advocacy and education by partnering with our Advocacy Partners to host a Big Table discussion focused on issues affecting child well-being and youth transitioning out of the foster care system. Throughout the year, JLC members also convened weekly on advocacy calls, creating a consistent space for dialogue among community experts and partners. These conversations played a critical role in strengthening the collaborative network that supports our foster youth initiatives. Our advocacy work extended to the Statehouse as well. The JLC provided testimony to Ohio lawmakers in support of the Foster-to-College Scholarship Act, further amplifying the needs of foster youth pursuing higher education.

**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 partnered on 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 successfully met the wishes of over 180 young people.





## KELTON HOUSE MUSEUM & GARDEN

Since 1976, the Junior League of Columbus (JLC) has proudly stewarded the Kelton House Museum and Garden, ensuring the preservation and impact of this treasured historic landmark. Built in 1852, the Kelton House showcases Greek Revival and Italianate design and holds deep historical significance as a documented stop on the Underground Railroad. Today, it continues to serve as a vibrant community resource offering tours, educational programming, and event rental opportunities.



During the 2024–2025 League year, the Kelton House welcomed more than 5,500 visitors for tours, educational programs, private events, and community meetings. The JLC continued its tradition of hosting the annual HERStory Girl Scout Patch Program and the Girl Scouts Tea, both of which saw exceptional engagement and enthusiasm from participants.



A highlight of the year was the return of Fernando’s Funeral. This popular event shared the rich and sometimes eerie history of the Kelton family and included recent firsthand spooky experiences of the house. This year’s program was an extraordinary success, with tickets nearly being sold out.



The Kelton House also received more than \$135,000 in grants and donations, reflecting a strong community commitment to preserving local history and advancing educational outreach.

This year marked important growth for the Kelton House team, including the addition of Administrative Assistant Jessie Tudor-Tangeman and Event Coordinator Taylor Shaw. Their leadership and dedication have already made a meaningful impact on operations, guest experience, and program delivery.



Overall, 2024–2025 was a year of momentum, community support, and increased visibility for the Kelton House Museum and Garden. The Junior League of Columbus looks forward to building on this success and expanding the museum’s reach and impact in the years ahead.

## QUICK IMPACTS

Throughout the year, many community organizations identify critical needs but lack the staff or volunteer capacity to fully meet them. The Junior League of Columbus (JLC) continues to bridge these gaps through our Quick Impact projects, providing targeted support through funding, hands-on volunteer service, or both. These projects not only address immediate community needs but also give our members meaningful opportunities to collaborate directly with partners across Central Ohio.

During the 2024-2025 League years, our Quick Impact initiatives made a visible difference in the lives of children, families, and local organizations. JLC members:

- Assembled and distributed holiday meal kits for families served by Columbus Early Learning Centers.
- Created cozy, handmade blankets for youth in foster care in partnership with My Very Own Blanket.
- Helped local high school students find their perfect prom attire with Fairy Goodmothers.
- Supported ACTION Ohio by assisting with their annual Thanksgiving Dinner for current and former foster youth and their families.
- Volunteered at the Columbus Arts Festival, presented by the American Electric Power Foundation, allowing us to support the arts community, engage with thousands of attendees, and proudly represent the JLC throughout the event.
- Volunteered with a new community partner, Women 2 Women, supporting their GirlGoCoach program, which mentors women transitioning out of foster care.
- Sorted donations and placed them into bins, packed food to support our two food pantries and assisted with organizing tasks in the art room at the drop-in center at StarHouse.

These initiatives exemplify the power of collective action, small but purposeful efforts that create meaningful, immediate impact while deepening our connections across Central Ohio.



## EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH TRAINING

This year, the Junior League of Columbus continued its strong commitment to developing the potential of women by offering a wide array of meaningful, high-impact training opportunities. These programs were designed to strengthen leadership skills, promote personal and professional growth, and prepare members to lead both within the League and throughout the community. From hands-on workshops to national conferences, our members engaged in experiences that deepened their knowledge and expanded their capacity for effective action.

### Member Training & Development Highlights

- Belonging & Inclusion Workshop featuring Jess Gendron, President & CEO, The Center for Leadership Excellence focused on intentional relationship building and creating a culture where all members feel welcomed and supported.
- Ditch the Myths, Build the Wealth training Led by JLC Member Jennifer Jenkins, a financial empowerment session centered on shifting money mindsets and building long-term personal wealth.
- Empower Hour with Dr. Jessica Sharp “Building a League Where Everyone Belongs” equipped members with practical tools to strengthen inclusion and foster meaningful belonging across the League.
- Interactive Skills & Personal Development Night, members participated in three hands-on sessions designed to boost confidence, promote personal safety, and support professional presence:
  - Hands-Only CPR Training
  - Self-Defense Workshop
  - Color Analysis
- ElevateHER at Seventh Son Brewing, featuring Jess Gendron, author of *What It Takes to Shatter Glass* was a powerful DEIB-focused leadership event that was also open to the Columbus community.
- JLC History Program featuring JLC Past Presidents Judi Stillwell and Mabel Freeman celebrated JLC’s historic impact, with community partners highlighting how the League has strengthened and supported their work.
- Conference & National Training Participation by JLC members expanded their expertise and connections at:
  - Women’s Leadership Conference
  - CODE Day
  - AJLI Organizational Development Training
  - AJLI Advocacy & Leadership Institute (inaugural)
  - AJLI Annual Meeting
  - Leadership Columbus

These training opportunities enriched the knowledge, confidence, and leadership abilities of our members, reinforcing our mission of developing the potential of women and improving the community through trained volunteers. The Junior League of Columbus remains steadfast in its commitment to providing high-quality learning experiences that empower women and create lasting, measurable impact across Central Ohio.



## INTERNATIONAL FIND THE GOOD DAY

This year, the Junior League of Columbus (JLC) proudly participated in International Find the Good Day, a time to reflect on the incredible impact our League has made in the community. International Find the Good Day invites us to pause and celebrate the journey we've shared, the lives we've uplifted, and the power of coming together with purpose.

In recognition of Find the Good Day, JLC welcomed the community to a free Open House at the Kelton House Museum and Garden on Sunday, September 15th. Guests explored the beautiful grounds, enjoyed guided tours and participated in engaging activities to hear about JLC's community work. Guests also had the opportunity to shop from Kendra Scott and Lilly Pulitzer pop-up shops.

This celebration highlighted not only the rich history of the Kelton House and Garden as well as the meaningful work of Bridging the G.A.P., but also the countless ways JLC Members have fulfilled our mission over the past year. From preserving local history and advocating for youth aging out of foster care to training women to be volunteers in the community, we proudly showcased the impact of our members' dedication to creating lasting, positive change in Columbus.





## FUNDRAISERS

Junior League of Columbus presents



### HOLIDAY TOUR OF HOMES

On December 7th, the Junior League of Columbus hosted its annual Holiday Tour of Homes, an event that proved to be the most successful Tour in our history. Featuring beautifully decorated homes throughout Upper Arlington, Grandview, and Marble Cliff, the Tour delighted guests with festive inspiration and an opportunity to celebrate the season alongside the JLC.

The celebration began with a lively Kickoff Party, where guests gathered to enjoy an evening of connection, entertainment, and a vibrant silent auction. The combined events generated extraordinary community engagement and support.

This year's Holiday Tour of Homes raised more than \$50,000 in revenue, surpassing all previous fundraising records. This success was made possible through the generous contributions of more than 80 local businesses, 6 nonprofit partners, and the unwavering dedication of our members. Their collective efforts not only ensured a phenomenal event but also strengthened the partnerships that fuel our Mission. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helped make this year's Tour truly exceptional.

# FUNDRAISERS

## KELTON HOUSE GARDEN PARTY

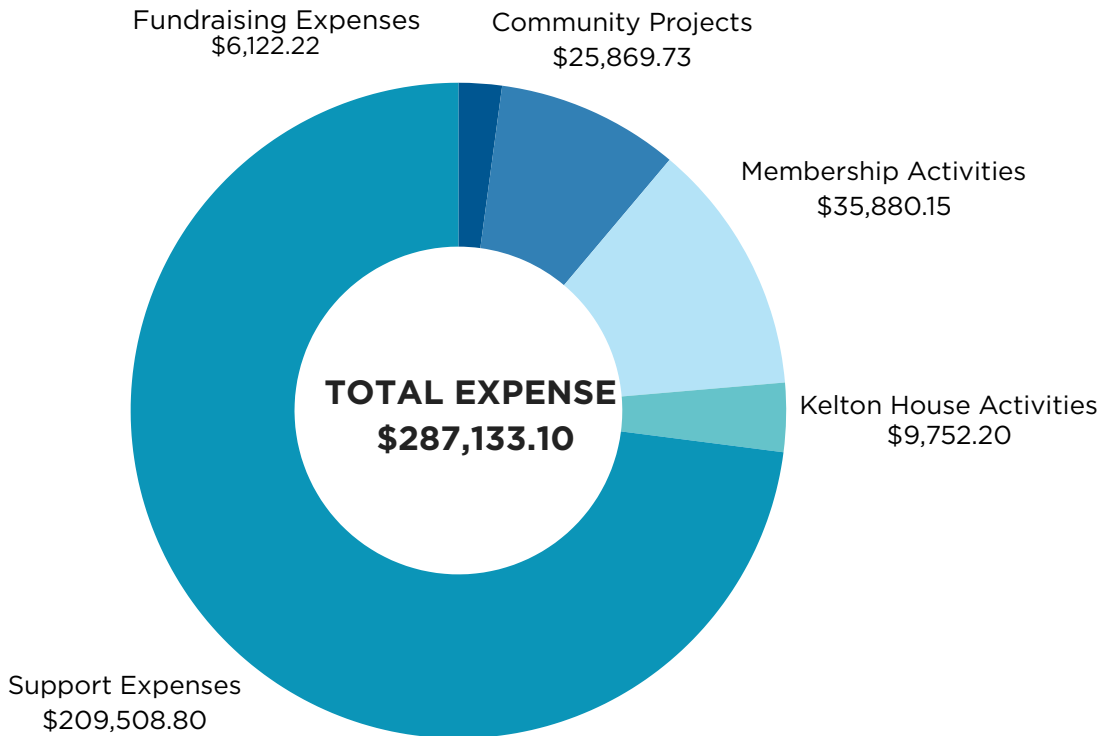
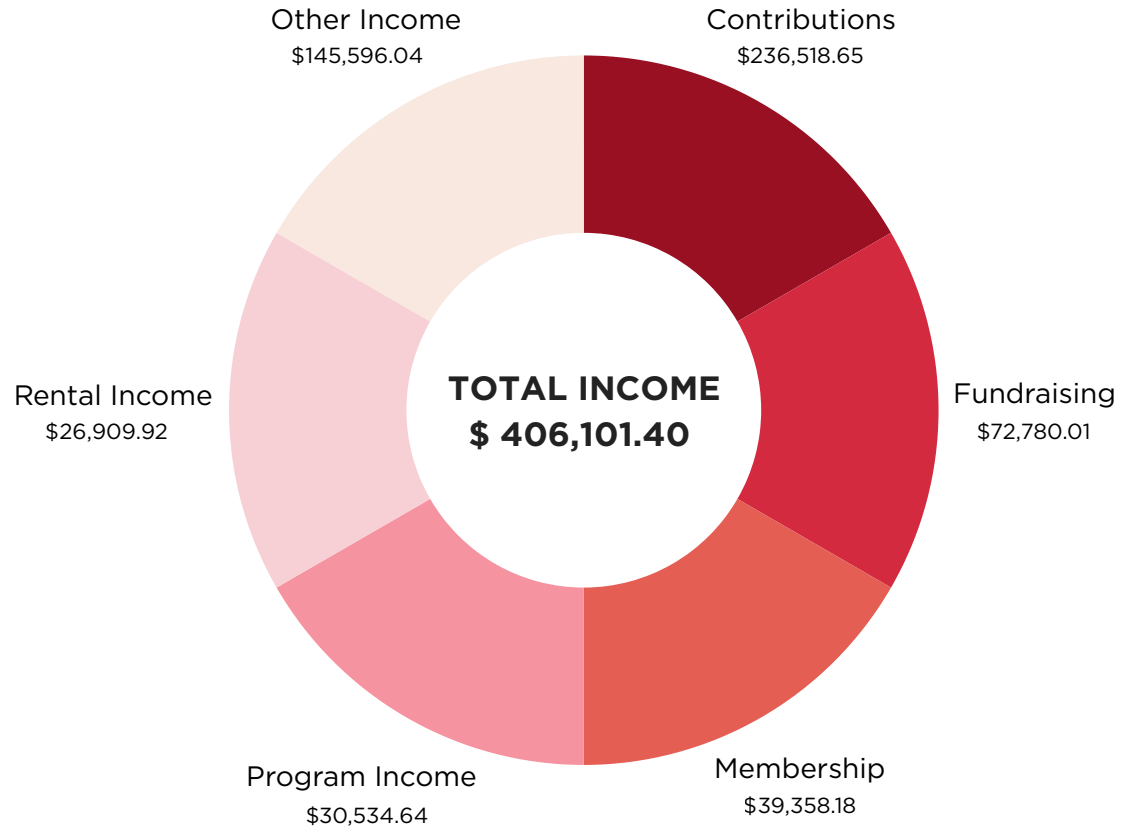
The Kelton House Museum and Garden hosted its largest fundraising event of the year on May 17th, bringing in more than \$20,000 to support the museum's mission of providing historical education and preserving the decorative arts in Central Ohio.

The 2025 Kelton House Garden Party was an evening truly fit for Bridgerton, complete with charming décor, lively conversation, and a beautiful showcase of the Kelton House's timeless appeal. Thanks to the generosity of our guests, sponsors, and community partners, the funds raised will further the preservation and promotion of local Columbus history.

As we look ahead to the 50-year anniversary of the Junior League of Columbus' stewardship of the Kelton House project, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated JLC volunteers and community sponsors who made this Regency-inspired evening such a memorable success.



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF COLUMBUS  
INCOME AND EXPENSES  
JULY 2024 - JUNE 2025**



*This financial information is based on unaudited figures.*

# ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES, AND GENEROUS GROUP GIVING

## FOUNDATIONS AND GRANT SUPPORTERS

American Electric Power Foundation  
Harry C. Moores Foundation  
Mildred Horn Foundation  
ORIX Foundation  
Reinberger Foundation  
Reuter Fund at the Columbus Foundation  
Tom E. Dailey Foundation, Inc

## SPONSOR- PLATINUM \$2.5K+

Grandview Mercantile

## SPONSOR- GOLD \$1K+

The Bella Bean

## SPONSOR- SILVER \$500+

Andrew and Virginia Reutzel  
America's Floor Source  
The Cleary Company  
Connie and Clyde Woodburn  
Darci L. Wagner-Coldwell Banker Realty  
Derrick Layer Custom Homes  
It's Jobvicious!  
J.F. Baker's Sons Roofing Company  
Jo'el Jones- Civista Bank  
Rine Landscape Group  
Mary Campbell Staebler - Coldwell Banker  
Staging Spaces Design  
Three Daisy Studio, LLC  
Vutech Ruff | Cutler Real Estate  
Cutler Real Estate.  
Zuercher Law

## SPONSOR- BRONZE \$250+

Buckeye Interior Design- Custom Closets  
Deyanira Medina  
Jennifer Jenkins - CFP®-Bluestone Wealth Partners  
K.A. Menendian Rug Gallery  
Ray Insurance Agency  
Sabo Law LLC  
Steller Construction  
The Friedmann Firm LLC  
The Jane Jones Team - Howard Hanna Real Estate Services, Orangetheory-Upper Arlington

## SPONSOR- FRIEND OF THE LEAGUE \$100+

NB 3 Photography - Nicole Bergman

## PARTNER- EMERALD \$5K+

Autumn Dawn Design  
Palmer House Designs

## PARTNER- SAPPHIRE \$2.5K+

Argo & Lehne Jewelers  
The Chocolate Cafe  
Natalie Moore-Huntington Bank- Loan Originator  
Skyline Chili

## PARTNER- RUBY \$1K+

The Avant Garden  
The Ballroom Dance Experience  
Donato's Pizza  
Gordon Hill Designs  
Nothing Bundt Cakes

## PARTNER- OPAL \$500+

Annies Wine Cottage  
BrootLegg Extracts  
Brothers Drake Meadery  
Buffalo Wild Wings  
Carli Kessler Interiors  
Dwell Well Design Co  
The Flowerman  
Grandview Cafe and Homefield: Iconic Sports Bar  
Kelly Scott Interiors  
Penn and Beech Candle Co

## PARTNER- AMETHYST UP TO \$499

Beer Zone  
Emily's Bake Shop  
Kai's Sugar Shack  
The Hills Market  
Local Matters  
Meg's Delicious Cutouts  
The Original Goodie Shop  
Sadie Baby Sweets  
Luccas Flower Truck  
Desantis Floral Inc  
Flower Galaxy

## OUR SUPPORTERS

Anne DeVoe - Coldwell Banker Realty  
City Park Interiors  
David and Lesli Lawrence  
First Community Village  
Frontgate  
Landgrant  
Jordan and Kristina Ellis  
Magnetic Springs Bottled Water Company  
Marisa Nye + Sally Wolfe - Street Sotheby's International Realty  
Paula Koontz Gilmour - Keller Williams Classic Properties Realty  
RE/MAX Partners - The Wright Group  
Rine Landscape Group  
THE TUCKERMAN HOME GROUP