



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF OMAHA
Women Building Better Communities for 86 years

86th Edition



HIP Kids Gardening Project

Area IV of the Association of Junior Leagues, Inc.

Mission Statement

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

Reach Out Statement

The Junior League of Omaha reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins, who demonstrate an interest in and a commitment to voluntarism.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



“The service we render to others is really the rent we pay for our room on this earth. It is obvious that man is himself a traveler; that the purpose of this world is not ‘to have and to hold’ but ‘to give and serve.’ There can be no other meaning.”

– Sir Wilfred T. Grenfell

The Junior League of Omaha is excited and proud to present this annual report. It has been an amazing year filled with both exciting changes for our future and hallowed respect for the legacy that has brought us to this point. Most importantly it is a year in which the different disciplines of the League; financial, membership, communication and community programs, all came together to produce one beautiful and long lasting year of accomplishments.

Financially this year we strengthened our fundraisers and brought greater meaning and clarity to their purposes. Our Fund Development committee sought out new sponsors, re-vitalized our grant writing (and receiving!) capabilities and energized the annual giving fund. The Jumble Shop experienced another successful year financially while continuing to strengthen its greater good as a source of quality clothing for those in need. Their donations of clothing to other organizations and programs grew dramatically this year. The American Girl Fashion Shows experienced a phenomenal year financially almost doubling previous income. But the compliments we received for its training of young women on history, poise, presentation skills and volunteering firmly plant this fundraiser in the arena of community service. Finally our financial year was capped by an overwhelmingly successful inaugural event Toast to Omaha. Honoring our Past Presidents proved to be the catalyst that could unite our past with our future, our history with our dreams. Confident that the four successful fund raising vehicles signal a bright financial future the members of the League took this opportunity to donate \$100,000 to our Junior League Foundation with the hopes of building a perpetual source of funding for our operating expenses.

Membership and Communication really worked hand in hand this year to increase membership engagement and recruitment through better communication, social opportunities and recognition. The Placement and Admissions Committees increased focus on integrating and socializing provisional members and transfers. The Publications Committee continued these efforts by regularly introducing us to Sustainers, Donors, Community Advisory members and significant others through articles in the JLO This Month. Pride of membership became a focus in our communications and was highlighted in an amazing new ad campaign brought to life by the Marketing Committee. Media partnerships thrived building on our internal pride and recruitment of more and diverse members. The Marketing Committee also introduced a new e-networking program to the membership while the Training Committee provided speakers and programs throughout the year often tapping into the resources of our very own Sustainers.

Most importantly, our community projects flourished this year. In its last year, the Back to Sleep committee provided training on how to communicate to newborn mothers and fathers the importance of placing babies to sleep on their backs. By focusing this training on members of the medical community, this project will have long lasting effects. Heartland Literacy kicked off their first year by studying the needs of literacy organizations. Done In a Day held multiple events throughout the community aimed at meeting the immediate needs of organizations through one-day projects. Their quick efforts to make a special needs day care whole again after a disheartening robbery were noted by the media. Our signature project HIP Kids (Healthy, Inspired, Pro-Active!) experienced an astonishing inaugural year. Their kids gardening clubs garnered two grants and successfully launched two clubs in disparate but equally at-risk neighborhoods. Foodtastics, fitness and health fairs provided an atmosphere of learning and fun for entire families and saw attendance as high as 300 at one event. Finally their efforts to advocate on behalf of childhood hunger and nutrition and build awareness in the community served as forums to present the entire Junior League to the community.

This year, we experienced all areas of the League working together and building upon each other's strengths for not only a successful year but also a tangible future. After having served in my role as President of the Junior League of Omaha, and being in a position to represent this amazing organization in the community I can tell you there is no greater giving organization. Its whole purpose is to train women to become successful leaders, doers, thinkers and givers for OTHER organizations. It is that constant focus to build; not programs or projects, fundraisers or campaigns, but *women*, that makes this organization so special. This year we will have sixteen women leaving active status and taking their skills to other organizations in the community and many more members remaining in the League while increasing their commitments to outside organizations as we have done for the past 86 years. The Junior League of Omaha truly has a remarkable role in building this great community that we all have the privilege of residing in.

Respectfully submitted,
Sam Hohman
President, 2004-2005

Board of Directors

President

Sam Hohman

President-Elect

Karen Nelsen

Administrative VP

Michele Merrill

Financial VP

Christine Nikunen

Corresponding Secretary

Christine Stevens

Recording Secretary

Kara Kelley

Communications Council Director

Yvette Eike

Community Council Director

Melissa Steimer

Membership Council Director

Lori Meier

Finance Council Director

Tracy Kempkes

ByLaws

Christine Stokes

Nominating Chair

Lori Bucholz

Historian

Marietta Luellen

Sustainer Advisor

Robin Skutt

Members At Large

Renee Black

Julie Linqata

Erin Shonsey

Community Advisors

Business/Civic

John Blazek

Scott Mecham

Children/Family

Pete Tulipana

Professional Volunteer

Ruth Keene

Education

Rose Zwieback

Marketing/Public Relations

Julie Cornell

Bill Randby

Public Affairs

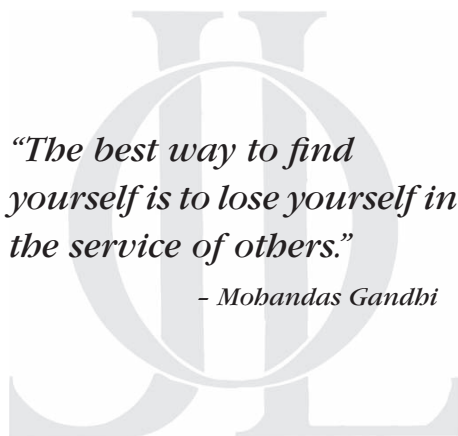
Chip Maxell

“A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens - citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization

- George Bush

HISTORY OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF OMAHA

The first Junior League was founded in 1912 in New York City by Ms. Mary Harriman. Her goal was to gather “women of leisure” and interest them in social services. Harriet Smith, with the help of Elizabeth Davis and Rachel Gallagher, established the Junior League of Omaha (JLO) several years later, gaining acceptance by the New York body in April of 1919. The original intention of the Junior League of Omaha was to continue the volunteer enthusiasm seen during wartime. It’s a simple mission of social service that lives on today. As we celebrate our 86th year, we are respectful and appreciative of our rich history and proud of our efforts that continue today.



“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

- Mohandas Gandhi

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

Communications

1. Communicate support and respect for all aspects of the League.
2. Implement an External and Internal Image campaign focusing on membership strengths.
3. Use and strengthen The JLO This Month as the premier communication tool of the League.

Community

1. Evaluate projects to ensure membership satisfaction.
2. As the Signature Project of the League, HIP Kid’s must be provided the resources needed to meet the ongoing community needs in the area of childhood hunger and nutrition.
3. Develop strong community impact projects that appeal to media, donors, and membership.

Finance

1. Focus fundraising on the recipient of each fundraising vehicle.
2. Continue to develop long-term donor relations.
3. Develop a resource list for in-kind donations of regular expenses.
4. Launch a successful Toast to Omaha Event.

Membership

1. Increase satisfaction by valuing member contributions and increasing social interactions.
2. Recruit new members throughout the year focusing on membership word of mouth efforts.
3. Develop the Placement Committee into our Human Resources Department.
4. Develop a program and placement for Leadership Academy participants.

AMERICAN GIRL FASHION SHOW

Committee Members: 17
 Revenue: \$81,444*



Purpose: To plan and implement an American Girl Fashion Show weekend. The event is a three-day fund-raiser each spring with seven shows of historically inspired clothing and modern fashions from the American Girls Clothing Collection and matching dolls. It promotes teaching young girls American history, while providing important lessons in presentation and poise. The event includes two patron party evenings, silent auctions, raffles, door prizes, catalog sales, boutique, booksellers and children vendors.

FUND DEVELOPMENT

Committee Members: 7
 Revenue: \$20,488*

Purpose: To identify sources of income and donation to help support the volunteer projects of the League and other expenses related to programs, training and operations. The Committee is responsible for evaluating current fundraisers, researching, and proposing potential fundraisers, and developing and overseeing a comprehensive financial plan for the Junior League of Omaha.

JUMBLE SHOP

Committee Members: 19
 Revenue: \$152,681*

Purpose: To provide funding for the projects, programs and operations of the Junior League of Omaha and to provide serviceable, good quality merchandise at a low cost to the public. The Committee provides experience in management, salesmanship, merchandising, computers and finance necessary to run a small business.

TOAST TO OMAHA

Committee Members: 19
 Revenue: \$29,740*



Purpose: To highlight the people, places and things that have contributed to the positive growth of the Omaha Community. We join to celebrate the successes of the year and raise funds for League projects. Toast to Omaha is in its inaugural year.

DONE IN A DAY

Committee Members: 6
 Funds Utilized: \$2,380*
 Volunteer Man Hours: 375

Purpose: To offer Junior League of Omaha members and their families an opportunity to work together on one-time, one-day events for community agencies that might not otherwise be served by the Junior League. The project gives assistance and visibility to community not-for-profit agencies.

BACK TO SLEEP

Committee Members: 9
 Funds Utilized: \$5,084*
 Volunteer Man Hours: 25

Purpose: Volunteers work with the Nebraska SIDS Foundation and the Douglas County Health Department to deliver a "Back to Sleep" awareness program targeting new parents and child care providers. Volunteers coordinate a community awareness campaign that includes printing and distribution of infant t-shirts with collateral materials to area hospitals.

HIP KIDS PROJECT

Committee Members: 24
 Funds Utilized: \$18,790*
 Volunteer Man Hours: 200



Purpose: To create a community that encourages, promotes and provides healthy eating and activity choices for children. The committee offers a comprehensive education, awareness, and advocacy project to the community.

HEARTLAND LITERACY COALITION PROJECT

Committee Members: 5
 Funds Utilized: \$0*
 Volunteer Man Hours: 25

Purpose: To discover literacy services offered across age and cultural spectrums, to nurture collaborations and referral networks and to increase public awareness of all literacy services. The goal of the JLO's three-year project is to create a volunteer network model that can be used by the HLC to recruit, retain and reward volunteers.

*Pending Unaudited Financials as of May 31, 2005

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF OMAHA CONTRIBUTORS

FOUNDATION

Marian Andersen
 Rita Bartlett
 Barbara Berger
 Joanne Berkshire
 Kathleen Best
 Ann Bonham
 Ann Marie Bothe
 Natalie Brown
 Pamela Brown
 Sandra Bruns
 Karen Burkley
 Linda Chloupek
 Judy Clark
 Mary Daub
 Caitlin Davis
 Jean Day
 Mary DeSouza
 Mary Dobleman
 Lucy Dogger
 Carolyn Dynek
 Jane Ellsworth
 Janis Enenbach
 Donna Ennis
 Nancy Estabrook
 Kim Falk
 Barbara Fitzgerald
 Kathy Gerber
 Jane Gilbert
 Mary Gjerde-Lemke
 Ann Goldstein
 Wanda Gottschalk
 Laura Hale
 Elinor Hansen
 Kellie Harry
 Cyndi Hartman
 Julie Hefflinger
 Pam Hoelsing
 Nancy Holloran
 Annette Huff
 Nancy Jacobson
 Sally Kampfe
 Ruth Keene
 Carol Keller
 Tracy Kempkes
 Myrna Krohn
 Diny Landen
 Mary Landen
 Mary Larsen
 Jodie Mackintosh
 Umbreen Majeed
 Barbara Marcotte
 Debra McMahon
 Suzanne McNamara
 Barbara McNeal
 Sue Meusey
 Susan Moyer
 Darlene Mueller
 Sheila Nelson
 Christine Nikunen

Kathleen O'Konski
 Mary Ochsner
 Judith Olson
 Patricia Peterson
 Nancy Prauner
 Sara Radil
 Mary Lynn Reiser
 Jeanne Salerno
 Nola Schettler
 Deb Schmadeke
 Kathleen Seidel
 Shelly Siemers
 Julie Skradski
 Jeanne Skutt
 Martha Stalnaker
 Ann Stinson
 Kelley Stuckey
 Mary Sutton
 Karen Thompson
 Jean Thurmond
 Winifred Wells
 Nancy Whitted
 Stacy Wilson
 Deborah Wyatt
 Muriel Young

ANNUAL FUND

Rita Bartlett
 Kathleen Best
 Renee Black
 Sandra Bruns
 Karen Burkley
 Susan Chenoweth
 Linda Chloupek
 Mary DeSouza
 Yvette Eike
 Kim Falk
 Lisa Frey
 Wanda Gottschalk
 Kate Grabill
 Gail Graeve
 Laura Hale
 Diane Hamsa
 Cindy Heider
 Sam Hohman
 Kathleen Jeffries

Theresa Jehlik
 Mary Johnson
 Jeanie Jones
 Tracy Kempkes
 Diny Landen
 Mary Landen
 Audrey Lewis
 Kristin Lewis
 Julie Linquata
 Laura Lococo
 Marietta Luellen
 Umbreen Majeed
 Barbara Marcotte
 Susan Moyer
 Darlene Mueller
 Karen Nelsen
 Christine Nikunen
 Kathleen Owen
 Beth Pederson
 Elizabeth Roth
 Amy Rouse
 Deb Schmadeke
 Erin Shonsey
 Julie Skradski
 Lynn Smola
 Christine Stevens
 Ann Stinson
 Christine Stokes
 Kelley Stuckey
 Mary Kay Tighe
 Gail Veitzer
 Christine Webster
 Laurie Webb
 Nancy Whitted

FUNDRAISER

Signature Sponsor - \$5,000+
 Champions Run
 Alan Friedman Designs
 Tender Heart Treasures

Benefactor - \$3,000+
 Susan Johnston
 MDP Photography
 Piccolo's Florist
 Z. Gallerie

Patron - \$1,000+
 California Closets
 Credit Advisors
 Tina Marie Cernick
 Estee Lauder
 Fedora Lounge
 Fleming's
 Gallup Organization
 The Charles and Mary Heider
 Family Foundation
 Johnston Photography
 Umbreen Khalidi-Majeed
 Lawless Distributing
 Kristin & Chuck Lewis
 Omaha Community Foundation
 Youth in Philanthropy
 Cathy Proctor
 Quality Litho
 Ann and Ken Stinson

Supporter - \$500+
 Pam Bourne
 Ron Bourne
 Marge and Charles Durham
 Foundation
 Heafey, Hoffman, Dworak and
 Cutler Mortuaries
 The Interior Design Firm
 Locher, Cellilli, Pavelka & Dostal,
 LLC Lawfirm
 Nobbies
 Ole's Big Game
 Union Pacific Matching Gifts Program
 US Bank

Friend - \$250+
 American National Bank
 Anderson Roofing
 Borsheim's
 Jodie and Bill Mackintosh
 Mutual 1st Federal
 Christine and David Nikunen
 Security National Bank
 Valley Boys Roofing

FINANCIAL STANDING

	2004-2005 Budget	Actual (unaudited as of May 31, 2005)
Revenue:	\$309,920.00	\$344,408.00
Expenses:	\$339,353.00	\$421,790.00*
Net:	\$(29,433.00)	\$(77,382.00)

*Includes a \$100,000 donation to the JLO Foundation that was not previously budgeted.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

These women are recognized for their JLO contributions and their continued dedication to the Omaha Community.

DISTINGUISHED SUSTAINER

Connie Spellman



"I owe a lot to the JLO," remarked Connie Spellman, the 2005 JLO Distinguished Sustainer award winner. "I really loved all my placements...I was on the advocacy committee and traveled and was able to meet other women from other parts of the country." She currently serves on the Omaha Community Foundation

and is a Director of Omaha By Design. Additionally, she is a member of UNL's Cather Circle, on the advisory committee for the Women's Fund of Greater Omaha, on the University of Nebraska Presidents Advisory Council and is Co-chair of the NCCJ's Humanitarian Dinner. In the past, Connie has served on many different boards and councils throughout the area. She has also received many awards and honors for her service to the community. Just a few of her accolades include: the Prevent Blindness Nebraska, People of Vision award in 2001, the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben Ike Friedman Community Leader award in 2001, the naming of Connie Spellman OMAHA 2000 Early Childhood Education Center and the Urban League Welcom T. Bryant Memorial Award in 1999 along with many other distinguished recognitions.

SUSTAINER HALL OF FAME WINNERS

Nancy Prauner



Nancy Prauner joined the JLO as a provisional member in 1987. She was selected to be part of the financial team at JLO. Nancy commented, "When I was the finance council director that was the year we went from doing all the accounting manually to putting it on Quickbooks. It was very rewarding to be a part of that process. Nancy believes "Being part of the JLO is great training for young women. It's useful when you're involved in other volunteer organizations and it's useful in a professional capacity as well." Nancy is currently involved with the Nebraska Children's Home Society Guild Board, Town Hall Board, Aksarben Friends Board, the Omaha Performing Arts Leadership Committee and serving as the chairman of the Arthritis Gala.

Jodie Mackintosh



Jodie Mackintosh has served the league in many capacities, while as an active and a sustaining member. She said "By being in the JLO, you learn leadership..., how an organization is run, how to read a financial statement and how to work in non-profit organizations. Jodie has taken her JLO experience and training and has given greatly to the Omaha area. She currently is involved with the Arthritis Foundation, Camp Fire Boys and Girls, Habitat For Humanity, Norwest Foundation, Inc., and the Omaha Community Playhouse. Jodie has also served as the sustainer advisor to many JLO committees.

Deb Schmadeke



Deb Schmadeke is a past president of the JLO. One of her favorite placements was serving on the Wellspring project. "It was a project that was developed to help women get out of prostitution," she explained. "It was kind of pushing the edge for what the JLO normally did." Deb went on to serve on the Wellspring board and it's now a part of the Salvation Army. She stated, "I was able to see the process of the project from its inception, it was very rewarding." Deb currently serves these organizations: Children's Respite Care Center, the YMCA, Arthritis Women of the Year Gala, Juvenile Diabetes Gala and Girls Incorporated of Omaha.

The JLO is proud to have these women as members of our association. They have all taken the JLO experience and continued to improve the Omaha community with the training and skills the league provided.

JLO Members are routinely recognized for outstanding achievement by many distinguished organizations. Some notable awards received in 2004-2005 by Junior League Members are:

AJLI's Organizational Development Institute

Tawanna Black

Danielle Bunz

Lisa Gravelle

Lisa Russell

WOMEN TO WATCH



Lisa Gravelle

Provisional Year 2001-2002



Beth Greiner

Provisional Year 1998-1999



Kristin Lewis

Provisional Year 2001-2002

"Honors league members who encourage, lead, invigorate and inspire fellow members through dedication to the mission of the JLO."

2004 - 2005 COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANT AWARD WINNERS

- ◆ Voices for Children in Nebraska received a \$1,000 grant for printing five thousand copies of the 'Taking Care of Your Family' resource guide. The guide provides struggling local families information in both Spanish and English on state aid programs.
- ◆ Children's Respite Care Center received a \$982.43 grant that will go towards the children's computer lab equipment including a printer, education software and adaptive equipment. They care for special needs children in a way that enables growth and recognizes and preserves the dignity of each child.
- ◆ Tsunami Victims received a \$1,000 donation. The Junior League of Omaha was one of 29 Junior Leagues that contributed to the Tsunami Relief effort through UNICEF and the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI), totaling \$22,513.48.
- ◆ Precious Memories Daycare received \$959.57 for repairs caused by a burglary. This facility cares for children whose parents are in low-income levels and specializes in children with issues resulting from fetal alcohol syndrome.

"I don't fear failure. I fear being successful at that which doesn't really matter."

- Anonymous

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Beth Harrington:

Beth is a volunteer supervisor at Methodist Hospital where she has put in over 270 hours helping patients and faculty and is extremely involved in the Great Plains Girl Scout program in Omaha. Additionally, Beth has put in over 1,000 volunteer hours as an assistant camp counselor, camp lifeguard, and Girl Scout/Brownie "overnight" supervisor. Beth is currently a senior at Westside High School.

Derek Hester:

Derek attends Fremont High School. An excerpt from his application reads "My high school career has been inspiring because it has offered me the opportunity to make a difference, to not be satisfied with the way things are, but to motion for change." Derek's passion has led him to organize clubs and activities at his school which aim to break down racial prejudices between students, teach tolerance and celebrate differences.

Benjamin Obradovich:

Ben began volunteering at the age of seven as a Tiger Cub Scout. He continues to be active in the Boy Scouts of America program and holds their highest honor of Eagle Scout. In addition to the many community service projects Ben has completed through the Boy Scouts, he has taken a leadership role in his school in promoting the acceptance of diversity and the celebration of differences.



The Junior League of Omaha
608 North 108th Court
Omaha, Nebraska 68154

Address Service Requested