

# ANNUAL REPORT

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**2022-2023**  
LEAGUE YEAR

## Board of Directors

Jill Mahar, President

Amy Oliver, Secretary

Abby Radcliffe, Treasurer

Aparna Pillay, Executive Vice President

Misty Sager, Chair of the Nominating Committee

Marie Escobar, Board Member

Kesha Owens, Board Member

Barbara Kakiris, Board Member (June-Dec 2022)

Ashley Jenkins, Board Member (Jan-June 2023)

## Management Team

Valerie Schenk, Communications Vice President

Jen Bensi, Community Vice President

ChiChi Nkemere, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Vice President

Josephine Hesse, Finance Vice President

Heather Curtis, Fund Development Vice President

Hillary Bitounis, Membership Vice President

Michelle Felder, Sustainer Vice President

Chyra White, Training Vice President

Emma Kopp, Placement Chair

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Junior League of Cleveland is an organization of women whose Mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

## MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Following a couple years of reduced events due to the pandemic, the League was excited to return to in-person events in 2022-2023 to foster connection amongst our members. The League hosted a wide variety of opportunities for our members to engage with one another including a holiday party at the League Loft, the return of Area Meetings, a wide variety of social activities across the Cleveland area, and the much anticipated return of the Annual Meeting at the Music Box Supper Club.

The Membership Committee offered a number of information sessions in the fall to inspire Cleveland women to join the JLC as provisional members. The League was thrilled to welcome 15 new active members at the end of the 2022-2023 League year.

## OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

At the Junior League of Cleveland, we wholeheartedly embrace the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion. We stand committed to promoting gender and racial centered justice and cultivating an environment where every member's voice is valued and influential. As mission-driven members of our community, we recognize our responsibility to champion these ideals — ensuring that our actions align with our dedication to positive and progressive change. By fostering a culture of responsiveness and active volunteerism, we work collectively to create a more equitable and inclusive future for all.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 2022-2023 League Year brought us the ability to fully resume activities for the first time since March of 2020. We celebrated our 110th year and used that as the anchor for many of our events. Two of our trainings and one of our GMMs focused on the history of the League, and this was strategic. The events dually celebrated our 110th year, as well as served as education for members who may not have had the opportunity to learn about our rich history. We are responsible to that history – to honor it and to continue it.

We held a second annual Spring Together: An Evening with the JLC, which raised more money than projected, as well as gave us a wonderful celebratory night together. We awarded four scholarships totaling \$12,000 and were able to gather at the Annual Meeting to meet and celebrate the recipients. We sponsored a tree at the Festival of Trees at Playhouse Square, which was an event that JLC started in Cleveland in the late 1990's. We also hosted service days, trainings, fundraisers, and social events – trying to find our footing for in-person events again.

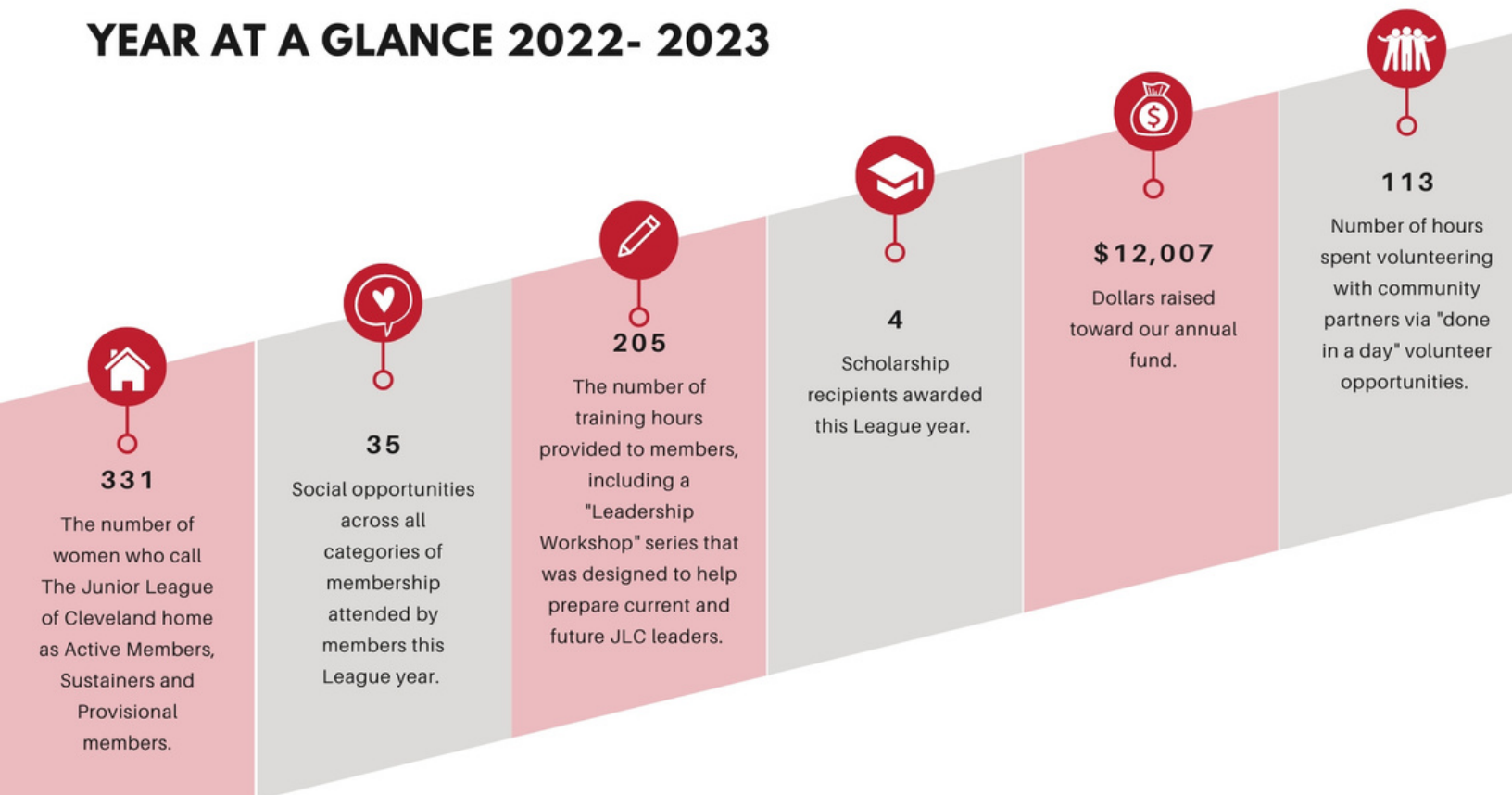
What we found very quickly is that the world has changed and so have we. Many of our active members have only known a virtual and hybrid membership experience. This past year the Board's largest task was to develop a new strategic plan, where we were challenged to thoughtfully consider the changes we have gone through as a League, as well as the changes the Cleveland community has gone through in the past three years. You can find a snapshot of the strategic plan in this document and the full plan can be found on the JLC website.

Thank you to all the women who say "yes" to leadership roles – your hard work does not go unnoticed! Thank you to every member for your time and service to our League. Finally thank you to our donors that support our mission through the Annual Fund. I look forward to the next League Year, and hope you will join me in supporting the new leadership by doing our part through committee work and projects. By all of us doing our part, this is how we will see progress in our League and more importantly, our community.

Cheers!

Jill Mahar, President 2021-2023

## YEAR AT A GLANCE 2022- 2023



# 2023-2028 STRATEGIC PLAN

During the 2022-2023 League year the Board of Directors worked with an external consultant on the creation of a new strategic plan. Data collected through a membership survey, area meetings, and at Board retreats was used to perform a SWOT analysis and deep dive into the League's identity, value propositions, and intent. The board voted to adopt the new strategic plan on Monday, May 1, 2023.

Junior League of Cleveland Strategy Framework				
<b>Mission</b>	The Junior League of Cleveland is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.			
<b>Vision</b>	Women Around the World as Catalysts for Lasting Community Change			
<b>Our DEI Commitment</b>	The Junior League of Cleveland welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations, and communities.			
<b>Strategic Objectives</b>	<b>Recruitment &amp; Retention</b>	<b>Operating Model Standardization</b>	<b>Community Engagement and Partnerships</b>	<b>Organizational Brand Awareness</b>
<b>Goals</b>	Create a new membership strategy program and processes to attract, engage, recruit, retain, and invest in members	Align and link the JLC strategy and execution	Build trust and allegiance with the community through a new community impact focus area and partnerships	Position the JLC as a destination for volunteers, a preferred partner and a community resource
<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased membership</li> <li>Varied recruitment sources</li> <li>Diversified membership</li> <li>Engaged members</li> <li>Increased cultural competency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Right sized structure</li> <li>Financial sustainability</li> <li>Sustainable processes</li> <li>Established career tracks</li> <li>Established performance tracking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Initiative and Programming</li> <li>Sponsorships/co-funding initiatives</li> <li>Community advisory council</li> <li>JLC board appointments</li> <li>Accountability metrics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brand recognition</li> <li>Preferred partner</li> <li>Known value proposition</li> <li>Community impact</li> </ul>

## High Level Multi-Year Plan

Immediate Needs 2023 - 2024	Near Term 2024 - 2025	Medium Term 2025 - 2026	Long Term 2026+
<b>Enhance Infrastructure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a 5-year strategy and cascade to connect members to the strategy</li> <li>Create a plan for right sizing organization structure and governance</li> <li>Develop recruitment and retention strategies</li> <li>Confirm and communicate redefined membership and leadership requirements</li> <li>Research and establish community impact focus area, signature initiative, and community advisory board</li> <li>Develop and implement branding strategy, cascade communication and engagement plan</li> <li>Continue to build upon the Spring Together annual fundraiser to diversify revenue</li> <li>Establish baseline assessment for key metrics</li> </ul>	<b>Build Outreach Foundation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement recruitment and retention strategy</li> <li>Develop partnership and outreach strategy</li> <li>Operationalize membership and leadership requirements</li> <li>Establish a community advisory board</li> <li>Implement a signature program</li> <li>Create metric reporting capabilities to track strategy progress and impact</li> <li>Develop a League Mentor-like program</li> </ul>	<b>Transform</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build upon recruitment and retention strategy</li> <li>Build upon signature program</li> <li>Implement partnership strategy</li> <li>Develop a revenue diversification strategy</li> <li>Continue to develop strategic partnerships to co-brand and build brand equity</li> </ul>	<b>Sustained impact</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full impact measurements</li> <li>Continue program models to support community</li> <li>Explore the need for advocacy to support signature program efforts</li> </ul>

# AWARD HONOREES



**Jena Olsen**  
**Sustainer Service**  
**Award**

Jena was described by her nominator as an extremely organized and self-motivated individual who has excellent communication skills. She can perform well within deadlines even under pressure and has the skills to lead skillfully. She can critically analyze the issues to foresee upcoming problems and has the capability to work out solutions by going beyond the call of duty if required. She likes to challenge herself and has a unique ability to motivate others and to deliver her best.



**DaLisa Delk Cann**  
**Rising Star Award**

DaLisa was recognized for her strong desire to make an impact on the JLC and in our community. She is dedicated to ensuring a meaningful experience for our members and is quick to lend her talents to the cause. As part of her leadership on Training Committee, she created and executed various courses that were well-attended and received by attendees and set the bar for what to expect from JLC educational offerings. DaLisa is committed to ensuring that our League lives up to its promise of being 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.



**Alexis Brigeman**  
**Carolyn Oakes Award**

Alexis' nominator stated, "This member has always stepped up when asked to take on leadership roles within the League going above and beyond as a leader. In her first role as New Member Coordinator, she made sure expectations were clearly stated and kept Active and Provisional members aware of key dates and events. When asked to serve as Fundraising Chair of the JLC's second annual "Spring Together" fundraiser, she executed this event with grace, transparency and care. She empowered her committee and stayed organized, ensuring this event was a success."



**Barbara Kakiris**  
**Frances Payne Bolton**  
**Award**

Barbara was recognized for her career accomplishments during her time at the NASA Glenn Research Center, Kenyon College, Cleveland State University, and The MetroHealth System. During the course of her career, she earned accolades including a U.S. Congressional Achievement Award, NASA Public Service Medal, Inside Business Magazine ATHENA recognition, and most recently was inducted into Lakewood High School's Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. Highlights include supporting the launch of the first female Mission Commander, Eileen Collins and leading the team that executed a stop on First Lady Michelle Obama's speaking engagements during the re-election campaign trail. She also ousted an incumbent candidate for Village Council and became an elected official responsible for managing the Village of Gambier in Knox County, Ohio. Barbara is incoming JLC President.

# FUND DEVELOPMENT

The Fund Development Committee hosted a number of successful fundraising events in 2022-2023. The League raised close to \$800 through a variety of fundraising efforts including 'Giving Tuesday' at Kendra Scott, a Masthead Brewery dine and donate fundraiser, Amazon Smile, Minted LLC fundraiser, and a Lago charity brunch.

Fund Development held their annual Magnolia Society recognition event at Stir in Ohio City on February 9, 2023.



# SPRING TOGETHER

The League hosted its second annual Spring Together fundraiser on April 14, 2023 at the Union Club of Cleveland. Nearly 170 tickets were purchased to support this year's event. The League raised more than \$6,500 from 24 silent auction baskets that contained items and experiences donated from over 100 local and regional Northeast Ohio businesses. Donations included an overnight stay at the Metropolitan at the 9, autographed Cavs gear, a private tour of the WOLFS Gallery, an interior design consultation from Sapphire Pear, a shopping party at Lilly Pulitzer, fitness memberships, a professional family photography session, gift cards to numerous spas, restaurants and boutiques, and much more.

Financial support was garnered through sponsorships from numerous organizations including Third Federal Bank, Wells Fargo, Foundations Health Solutions, Party411 Events, RightWorks, Malone Mediation & Legal, and the Clinic for Cosmetic & Maxillofacial Surgery - Dr. Jaclyn Tomsic and Dr. Ashoo Khanuja.

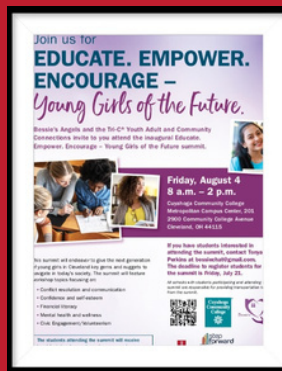
During the fundraiser, Tonya Perkins-Stoudermire, founder of JLC community partner Bessie's Angels, provided insight into how the League's support strengthens the work Bessie's Angels does to nurture, educate and empower young women in and out of the foster care system. In addition, several Junior League of Cleveland scholarship recipients attended this year's event and interacted with fundraiser guests.

The League raised \$22,700 at this year's event. After event expenses, JLC netted \$6,191 for the Annual Fund, a significant growth from the inaugural fundraiser held in 2022.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The 2022-2023 League Year was the final year of the League's three-year partnership with Bessie's Angels. This year JLC grant funding made a difference by supplying groceries to residents of the house to ensure that none of the residents of a Bessie's home go hungry. Funding also provided clothing, workshops, transportation, and rental assistance to those in need. JLC provisional members created menus, purchased groceries, and hosted cooking classes for the women in Bessie's care. Additionally, the Community Committee worked with Bessie's to plan and execute the EDUCATE. EMPOWER. ENCOURAGE. Summit held August 4, 2023 for young women impacted by foster care. At this year's Bessie's Angels annual fundraiser and walk they awarded JLC the 'Volunteer Organization of the Year' award and the award itself is currently on display at the League Loft.

Other ways in which the League impacted the Cleveland community included working with the Giving Fence at Trinity Lutheran Church to provide winter clothing to those in need, writing over 100 cards for senior citizens to brighten their spirits, and volunteering at the Cleveland Food Bank, Cuyahoga County Department of Children & Family Services, and Cleveland Play House.



## SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee is supported by JLC members through fundraisers and donations. The money donated is invested in a specially designated scholarship fund and awarded scholarships are conveyed directly to the recipients' academic institutions.

Four scholarships were awarded this year for a total of \$12,000. After careful consideration, the following women were awarded funds from the Junior League of Cleveland:

- Patricia Graf - Cleveland State University
- Edith (Eddy) Cabrera - Cleveland State University
- Portia Nichols - Cleveland State University
- Tarryn Williams - Cleveland State University



## FINANCIALS

Revenue	2022-2023
Direct Donations	\$ 135,617.55
Indirect Donations	\$ 981.06
Membership Dues and Fees	\$ 7,312.50
Program Related Sales and Fees	\$ 4,190.23
Investments	\$ 26,531.72
Other Revenue	\$ 2,882.77
Special Events	\$ 4,913.89
Realized Gain	\$ (45,619.83)
Unrealized Gain	\$ (26,350.42)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 110,459.47</b>

Expenses	2022-2023
Grants, Contracts, Direct Assistance	\$ 27,473.89
Salary & Related Expense	\$ 53,630.96
Contract Service	\$ 41,947.36
Nonpersonnel	\$ 26,990.23
Facilities & Equipment	\$ 106,388.01
Travel & Meetings	\$ 13,088.42
Membership Expense	\$ 9,218.39
Other Expenses	\$ 20,450.20
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 299,187.46</b>



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## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS TO OUR 2022-2023 ANNUAL FUND, SCHOLARSHIP FUND, AND SUSAN LARSON SCHOLARSHIP

Colleen Abdalian	DaLisa Delk Cann	Judith Kamm	Marjorie and Bert Moyar	Valerie Schenk
Joan Ainsworth	Jenny Dieringer	Karri King	Stacey Neric	Heather Schloss
Mary Andrews Crowley	Kim DiMuzio	Hope King	Carolyn Newman	Sally Schultz
Lin Bartel	Stephanie Dorsey	Emma Kopp	Heather Nielsen	Nancy Sherwin
Katherine Beder	Marie Escobar	Sarah (Bonnie) Kurtzner	Chinenye Nkemere	Kathie Sizemore
Jennifer Bensi	Cindy Farina	Susan Larson	Leslie O'Malley	Julie Smerdel
Chasity Betz	Michelle Felder	Lee Larson	Carolyn Oakes	Kimberly Snowden
Shreya Bhatnagar	Robyn Forney	Alicia Love	Amy Oliver	Danielle Sobel
Hillary Bitounis	William Forney	Valerie Luna	Kesha Owens	Jaclyn Sumer
Suzanne Blaser	Stacey Foster	Ellen Lutjen	Aparna Pillay	Jackie Taylor
Ann Bowdish	Ashley Frantz	Lisa Maccora	Susan Prior	Beryl Tishkoff
Gretchen Bowman	Heather Gordon Schloss	Jill Mahar	Abigail Radcliffe	Christine Trucco
Amy Boyd-Kirksey	Jean Heller	Susan Majka	Becky Ralston	Lynn Voran Wood
Jean Bucchieri	Bettyann Helms	Bonnie Marcus	Kathleen Razi	Chyra White
Elisabeth Burger	Josephine Hesse	Lauren Martin	Sally Reger	Susan White
Nancy Carpenter	Carol Holder	Mary McLeod	Gregory and Denise Reiser	Ginny Wilhelm
Sandra Centa	Lacey Hood	Paula Merrill	Therese Rivers	Jennifer Boomer
Jeannie Citerman-Kraeger	Valissa Howard	Renee Meyers	Jocelyn Ruf	
Deborah Corbets	Ashley Jenkins	Marjorie Moore	Misty Sager	
Charity D'Amato-Crawford	Barbara Kakiris	Sally Mortimer	Diann Scaravilli	