



**JUNIOR LEAGUE**  
CLEVELAND

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2023-2024

# ANNUAL REPORT



## Board of Directors

Barbara Kakiris, President

Valerie Schenk, Secretary

Abby Radcliffe, Treasurer

Aparna Pillay, Executive Vice President

Misty Sager, Chair of the Nominating Committee

Jen Bensi, Board Member (Active)

Susan White, Board Member (Sustainer)

Charity D'Amato Crawford, Board Member (Active/Sustainer)

## Management Team

Aparna Pillay, Executive Vice President

Lisa Mayhugh, Communications Vice President

Shanette Buford-Brazzell, Community Vice President

ChiChi Nkemere, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Vice President

Josephine Hesse, Finance Vice President

Alexis Brigeman, Fund Development Vice President

Hillary Bitounis, Membership Vice President

Chasity Betz, Sustainer Vice President

Chyra White, Training Vice President

## 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

The League hosted a wide variety of opportunities for our members to engage with one another during the 2023-2024 League year. Events included area meetings, a holiday party at the League Loft, 19 member engagement activities, and the Annual Meeting held at the Truss Cleveland event venue on May 20th.

The Membership Committee offered a number of information sessions in the fall to inspire Cleveland women to join the JLC as Provisional Members. Provisional Member events included four signature events (Welcome Party, Super Saturday, Sustainer Cocktail Party, and End of the Year Party) as well as two socials (Thanksgiving Potluck and Ice Cream Social). The 2023-2024 Provisional Member class was comprised of 26 women, 20 of whom have transitioned to active status.

## OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

As 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

Dear League Members and Supporters,

We've often referred to this past year as our research and development year, which I think is fitting because we learned and grew a lot as a League with the time and intention we devoted to figuring out what makes sense to invest in as a group and the ways in which we want to do so. Leadership set the tone with its commitment to the strategic plan and our impact area, public health. We welcomed the largest Provisional Member class since before the pandemic through a revitalized recruitment strategy and we created engaging retainment methods. We are forging allegiance with the community through the selection of a new partner, Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition. We aligned our strategy and execution by rightsizing our organizational structure and updating our bylaws. Our 3rd annual Spring Together event was the most successful yet and our members responded to our campaigns with such generosity by contributing greatly to our Annual Fund.

These foundational accomplishments have positioned us to once again be the impactful group we believe ourselves to be and I'm looking forward to how we implement things in the coming year. Through our hard work and soul searching, we discovered that we're still invested in our mission, our city, and each other. We exist to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training and now we have a renewed blueprint of purpose and execution to guide us going forward.

I hope that you're as proud as I am by reading our annual accomplishments. Here's to building upon our legacy and contributing to our future.

With gratitude for all you do,



*President, 2023-2025*  
*Junior League of Cleveland*



# 2023-2024 BY THE NUMBERS

**337**

Total Members

**\$15K**

Raised for Annual  
Fund

**260**

Volunteer Hours

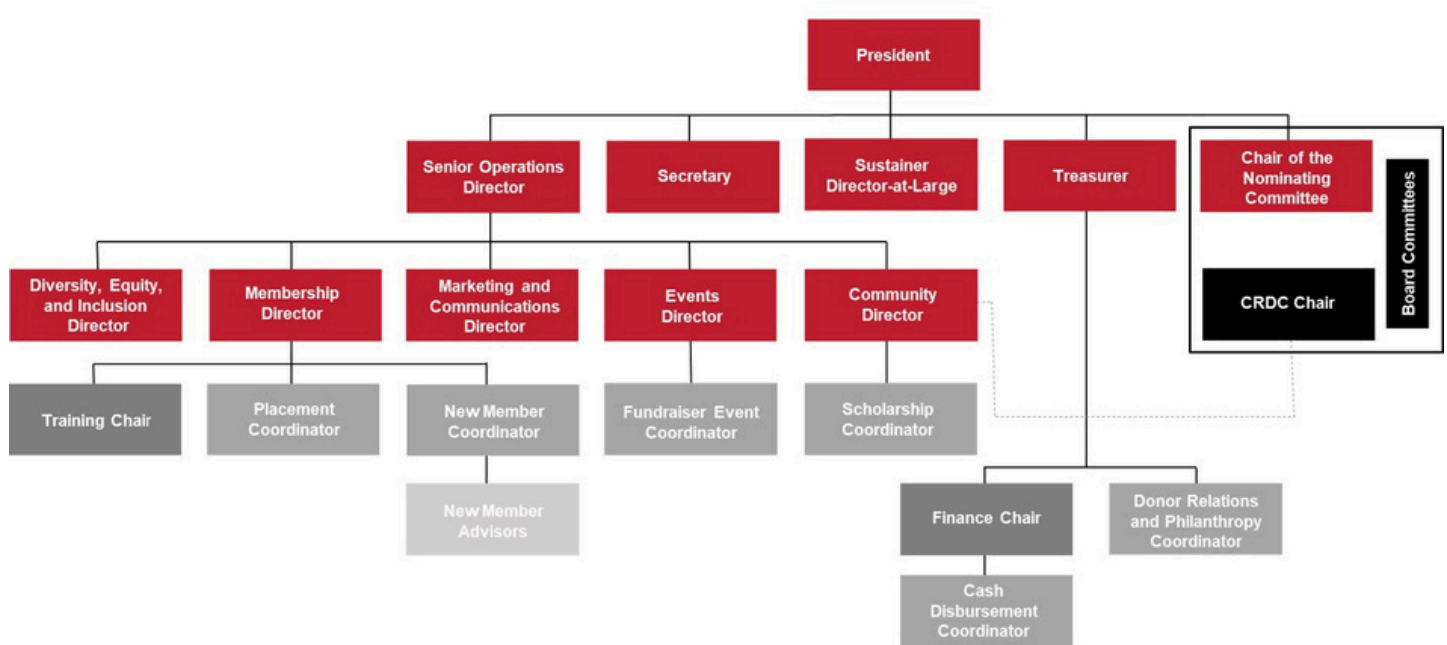
**85**

Hours of Member  
Training

**4**

Fund Development  
Events

# NEW GOVERNANCE MODEL



As part of the 2022-2023 strategic planning process, the Board of Directors determined that the JLC’s governance model should be modified in order to optimize the League’s ability to succeed. The Board strove to right-size the leadership structure with the League’s capacity and resources. The Board also sought to achieve alignment with the new strategic plan around the JLC’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and the four strategic objectives of recruitment and retention, operating model standardization, community engagement and partnerships, and organizational brand awareness.

During the 2023-2024 League year, the Board voted to reduce the number of leadership positions and move away from the dual governance structure that consisted of a Board of Directors and Management Team. In turn, we have implemented a single board governance model comprised of strategic and operational directors. The Board believes that the new structure will increase collaboration, streamline communication and decision making, and better align with the capacity of our League members while still allowing the Board to focus on strategic initiatives and the vision for the future of the JLC.

# AWARD HONOREES



*Charity D'Amato Crawford*

**Sustainer Service  
Award**

Charity's tireless efforts and unwavering passion for our community, and NE Ohio in general, have made a significant impact on the lives of countless individuals for nearly 20 years. In addition to her outstanding contributions to the JLC, she is active in other community organizations and initiatives. She has a talent for motivating others to join her in this work, and her infectious enthusiasm is truly inspiring.



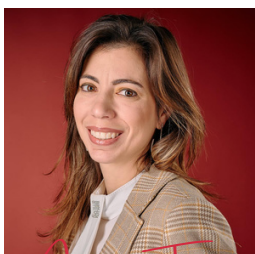
*Shreya Bhatnagar*  
**Rising Star Award**

Shreya has exceeded her requirements since the time she was a Provisional Member. In her first year as an Active Member, she took the lead on planning many events and supported committee members by attending many more. She was always thoughtful and intentional in planning events that resonated with membership and appealed to varying interests. As Member Engagement Chair, her approach to working with and listening to members to ensure that events planned would elicit and secure participation was key in advancing our engagement with members. She has demonstrated a consistency in her efforts to the League, is always willing to step up to serve the community, and has an unwavering commitment to the organization.



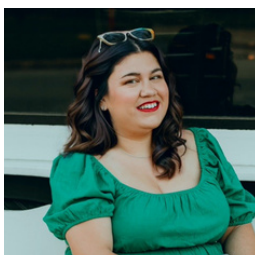
*Misty Sager*  
**Carolyn Oakes Award**

Misty embodies the true essence of the JLC. An effective leader, she is kind in her approach, team-oriented, member-centric, and always thinking about what is best for the League. She is an adept communicator with skill for creating training and educational materials that are easy to understand and informative. Her dedication to ensuring that the League has a strong legacy of women who are trained and engaged was evident during her tenure as Nominating Committee Chair.



*Anna Tzinis*  
**Frances Payne Bolton  
Award**

Anna became one of the youngest Executive Directors at the National Kidney Foundation in 2013. For 11 years, Anna has worked to accelerate innovation in support of a patient's dignity and has strived to dismantle structural inequities in kidney care. Her changemaking work is rooted in passion for challenging the status quo, deconstructing and rebuilding infrastructures, motivating those who have a commitment to the public sphere through a culture of equity and inclusion, and amplifying the voice of the human experience.



*Pamela Tyll Radisek*  
**Ruth T. Lucas Award**

Pamela has been an integral part of the JLC, consistently demonstrating exceptional leadership, dedication, and a genuine passion for service. As the Scholarship Chair, she not only executed her responsibilities with utmost professionalism, but also went above and beyond to ensure the success of the scholarship programs. Her efforts have significantly impacted the lives of many scholarship recipients, providing them with opportunities for growth, education, and a brighter future. Her ability to inspire and motivate others is evident in the way she collaborates with fellow League members and engages with community partners.

# FUND DEVELOPMENT

The Fund Development Committee hosted several successful fundraising events and conducted two League-wide appeals. The Committee raised nearly \$1,000 through a variety of fundraising efforts including a Giving Tuesday mailing campaign, a Masthead Brewery Dine and Donate fundraiser, a Kendra Scott shopping event, and secured donations by volunteering at Cleveland Beerfest and at the Cleveland St. Patrick's Day race.

In addition to the events held throughout the year, the League had the highest number of individuals and families donate directly to the Annual Fund in JLC history. More than 80 League members (26% of our membership) donated, in addition to receiving donations from businesses and friends of the League.

The League is incredibly grateful to the donors who contributed to the Annual Fund this year, especially those in our Magnolia Society. The donors that make up the Magnolia Society designation, by making a donation of \$250 or more, have generously committed to ensuring the JLC's future of voluntarism and community work. This year, 23 donors reached Magnolia Society status.



## 2023-2024 Magnolia Society Members:

Betty Kemper (Platinum Level)

Barbara Mixon (Platinum Level)

Aparna Pillay (Platinum Level)

Gregory and Denise Reiser, in honor of their daughter, Laura Bentley (Platinum Level)

Ann Bowdish (Gold Level)

Jeannie Citerman-Kraeger (Gold Level)

Susan Larson (Gold Level)

Jill Mahar (Gold Level)

Carolyn Oakes (Gold Level)

Sally Schulze (Gold Level)

Katherine Beder (Silver Level)

Jen Bensi (Silver Level)

Amy Boyd-Kirksey (Silver Level)

Heather Curtis (Silver Level)

Stephanie Dorsey (Silver Level)

Robyn Forney (Silver Level)

Gretchen Hickok (Silver Level)

Xuan Huang (Silver Level)

Barbara Kakiris (Silver Level)

Judith Kamm (Silver Level)

Valerie Luna (Silver Level)

Rachael Paskvan (Silver Level)

Danielle Sobel (Silver Level)

# SPRING TOGETHER

The League hosted its 3rd annual Spring Together fundraiser on April 12, 2024 at the Union Club of Cleveland. The League raised more than \$8,400 from 30 silent auction baskets that contained items and experiences donated from over 100 local Northeast Ohio businesses. Donations included overnight stays at several local hotels including the Crowne Plaza, Hilton, and Hyatt, autographed Cavs and Browns gear, a private tour of the WOLFS Gallery, experiences at Playhouse Square, Tennis in the Land, and the Cleveland Orchestra, 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 Benesch, Third Federal Bank, Wells Fargo, Clinic for Cosmetic & Maxillofacial Surgery-Dr. Jaclyn Tomsic and Dr. Ashoo Khanuja, and Foundations Health Solutions.

The League raised nearly \$27,000 at this year's event. The League has continued to increase profits on this annual fundraising event, netting \$6,385 for the Annual Fund at the 2024 fundraiser.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The 2023-2024 League Year was a transitional year during which the Junior League of Cleveland did not have a specific community partner. As a result, the Community Committee took a strategic approach guided by the 2023-2028 JLC Strategic Plan to define, research, and cultivate relationships and community projects within the League's new impact focus area of public health. The committee narrowed its focus to the following areas: families/youth/women, women's health (infant mortality, maternal health, mental health), food insecurity, and education. The committee identified local nonprofit organizations whose mission and vision fell into one of the focus areas and cultivated relationships through projects and partnerships.

The League impacted the Greater Cleveland community in many ways. Community outreach activities included: participating in the annual Giving Fence at Trinity Lutheran Church which provides seasonal essentials to those in need, a variety of DIAD (Done In A Day) projects such as writing seasonal holiday cards for senior citizens, preparing meals at the Ronald McDonald House of Northeast Ohio, volunteering at MedWish International sorting medical supplies to be donated to countries in need, volunteering at the Kids' Book Bank sorting books for children in need in the Cleveland area, serving meals at the Lutheran Men's Shelter, and collection drives for the Cuyahoga County Department of Children & Family Services.



## NEW COMMUNITY PARTNER

After a successful request for proposal process that took place during the 2023-2024 League year, the Junior League of Cleveland is excited to welcome a new community partner, Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition (NEO Black Health Coalition). During the 2024-2025 League year, the JLC Community Committee will be working closely with the organization to identify opportunities for all JLC members to engage in their work within the community.



NORTHEAST OHIO  
**Black Health Coalition**  
*Educate, Advocate, Empower*

### Mission

To create equity in the African American community addressing the cumulative health impact of racial, economic, environmental and social justice inequities in education, employment, housing and health by working to educate, advocate for and empower the community.

### Proposal

The funds will support the African American Women's Wellness Walk and other community initiatives to address current community issues.

### Investment

\$5,000

# SCHOLARSHIP

The Junior League of Cleveland awarded \$13,000 in scholarships to four outstanding young women. The JLC Scholarship Program is dedicated to empowering the next generation of female leaders by providing financial assistance to those who have experienced an interruption in their education and are now ready to complete their degrees. Special consideration is given to women who have experienced the child welfare system.



## Hannah Sankan

Hannah earned her GED in 2023 and is now working toward a dual degree in Human Services and Nonprofit Management. She plans to pursue a master's degree in Counseling to further her ability to pursue her calling to serve the homeless community.

## Heaven Young

Heaven is a mother of twins. She is pursuing a dual degree in Finance and Entrepreneurship at John Carroll University. She has had an impressive journey, from starting as an intern at her current job and progressing up the ranks, all due to her dedication and outstanding work ethic.

## Sydney Daston

Sydney is pursuing a career in social work, inspired by her own upbringing which was characterized by her parents' struggles. She has completed an associate's degree and is now pursuing a bachelor's degree at Cleveland State University.

## Naomi Kuran

After aging out of foster care, Naomi developed an interest in the law profession despite facing academic challenges. She'll be attending Cleveland State University this fall. Naomi embodies determination, demonstrating perseverance in her pursuits.

# FINANCIALS

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>
Direct Donations	\$ 103,008
Uncategorized Income	\$ 15,799
Membership Dues and Fees	\$ 45,733
Program Related Sales and Fees	\$ 1,355
Investments	\$ 27,078
Other Revenue	\$ 2,050
Special Events	\$ (269)
Realized Gain	\$ 93,252
Unrealized Gain	\$ 232,471
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b><u>\$ 520,477</u></b>

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>
Salary & Related Expense	\$ 21,780
Contract Service	\$ 42,869
Nonpersonnel	\$ 24,418
Facilities & Equipment	\$ 100,230
Travel & Meetings	\$ 4,173
Membership Expense	\$ 3,384
Other Expenses	\$ 18,951
Uncategorized Expenses	\$ 1,384
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b><u>\$ 217,189</u></b>

# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

## Founding Year Donations \$19.12

Cynthia Bassett	Pamela Radisek
Alexis Brigeman	Emily Redetzki
Victoria Clarke	Sara Reger
Helen Greenleaf	Jill Robinson
Mary Ellen Huesken	Valerie Schenk
Elisa King	Kimberly Snowden
Hope King	Christine Zavakos

## Supporter \$10-\$99

Janet Banks	Anne Fleming	Madison Stoneburner
Stephaine Barbee	Jean Heller	Susan Thorpe
Linda Bartel	Josephine Hesse	Jaclyn Tomsic
Jeanie Belhobek	Lisa Mayhugh	Susan White
Stacey Bernot	Daneel McDaniel	Diana Woodbridge
Denise Coats	Marjorie Moore	
Sally Conley	Therese Rivers	
Charity D'Amato	Diann Scaravilli	
Jennifer Dieringer	Heather Schloss	

## Friend \$100-\$249

Mary Anderson	Alicia Love	Jocelyn Ruf
Chasity Betz	Alan Lufkin*	Misty Sager
Hillary Bitounis	Susan Majka	Renee Snow
Carol Brown Lewellyn*	Marjorie Moyar	Jacqueline Taylor
Nancy Carpenter	Carolyn Newman	Jacci Tomsic
Denise Coats	Chinenye Nkemere	Susan White
William & Linda Forney*	Leslie O'Malley	Virginia Whilhelm
Scott & Susan Jamieson*	Susan Prior	
Liz Kantor	Abigail Radcliffe	*Non-Member Donor

# MAGNOLIA SOCIETY DONORS

## Silver Level Magnolia Society \$250-\$499

Katherine Beder  
Jen Bensi  
Heather Curtis  
Stephanie Dorsey  
Robyn Forney

Gretchen Hickok  
Barbara Kakiris  
Judith Kamm  
Valerie Luna  
Rachael Paskvan

## Gold Level Magnolia Society \$500-\$999

Ann Bowdish  
Jeannie Citerman-Kraeger  
Susan Larson

Jill Mahar  
Carolyn Oakes  
Sally Schulze

## Platinum Level Magnolia Society \$1000+

Betty Kemper  
Barbara Mixon  
Aparna Pillay  
Gregory & Denise Reiser

Donations to the JLC Annual Fund can be made at [Cleveland.jl.org/Support](http://Cleveland.jl.org/Support) or by mailing a check to:  
Junior League of Cleveland  
3615 Superior Avenue E.  
Building 44, Fourth Floor, Suite 4404C  
Cleveland, OH 44114

