



FROM THE PRESIDENT



-Kim Crane
97th President of the Junior League of Grand Rapids

“It is an honor to be leading and learning alongside 300 women seeking to create sustainable change in our community and an environment of inclusivity and belonging. Through the pandemic, the Junior League of Grand Rapids has cultivated new community partnerships, built our fourth urban play space, addressed food scarcity for families escaping domestic violence and identified innovative ways to support our focus on children’s physical health in a virtual environment. I look forward to another great year together!”



2020-2021

MISSION-DRIVEN PROGRAMMING

\$30,000 Raised for Our Programming

27 Leadership Trainings

Key Community Partners include Be A Rose, YWCA, A.Y.A Youth Collective, Family Promise, East Leonard Elementary, Hand 2 Hand, Mel Trotter Ministries, Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation, and Access of West Michigan’s Good Food Systems Initiative

100% of funds raised go to mission-driven programming

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION (DEI)

In Spring 2021, JLGR initiated a DEI Steering Committee to develop a DEI Plan in alignment with our three-year strategic goals and program objectives.

The goals for JLGR’s DEI Plan focus on four pillars, aligned with specific, tangible actions:

- **Branding:** Execute inclusive, accessible and consistent internal and external communications which align with our DEI mission and vision.
- **Recruitment & Membership:** Attract and retain a diverse membership which is reflective of greater Grand Rapids communities.
- **Policies, Processes, Programs & Training:** Exemplify policies, process, programs and trainings which educate on unconscious bias, cultural competency, accessibility and inclusivity.
- **Community Impact:** Ensure community programming and partnerships implement equitable and inclusive solutions and outcomes.

We believe that diverse ideas, perspectives and backgrounds lead to more productive, inclusive and intentional projects, engagement, leadership, and impact within JLGR and for the communities with whom we partner.

As a catalyst for change, we seek to better reflect the Grand Rapids community through diverse and united voices and members that represent women of all races, ages, religions, identities, and experiences. The Junior League of Grand Rapids is striving for continuous improvement to demonstrate our commitment to develop and empower our women leaders.

WELLNESS ADVENTURE YARD



We awarded a Deb Bailey Community Catalyst Grant last year to Mel Trotter Ministries to support their Kaboom! grant to update their current playground. They were in jeopardy of losing the grant because of COVID and their portion of the funding had to be diverted to other more urgent needs. Fortunately, we were able to step in and ensure they would not lose the grant. The community build was August 11-13 with a ribbon cutting ceremony on August 13.

FROM MEL TROTTER

“Working with the Junior League on the KABOOM project was a fantastic experience! I was impressed by their hard work, digging holes and moving dirt in the hot, August heat. Their commitment to our community and improving it was so evident.”

- Heather Osterink
Mel Trotter Ministries

CONGRATULATIONS!



Mary Harriman Active Member Award:
Julie Conley



Edith Blodgett New Member Award:
Erin Brown



Betty Ford Sustainer Award:
Amanda Miscisin



Lifetime Active Achievement Award:
Kate McCarthy

 JUNIOR LEAGUE OF GRAND RAPIDS
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ISSUE-BASED COMMUNITY IMPACT

The Junior League Grand Rapids is dedicated to improving our local community through funding and volunteer hours. While we have focused on children's physical health over the past years, we are re-strategizing on developing a system to more effectively engage with the community to create sustained community impact. This includes shifting from project-focused to issue-based programming, enabling us to create longer-term sustainable impact. In the next few months, we will hear from members, donors and community partners on how we can best serve our community. More details to come.

Beneath the Wreath 2021

October 1  **November 14**

Beneath the Wreath is one of the largest fundraisers for the Junior League of Grand Rapids. This charitable holiday shopping event has supported our focus of improving children's physical health within our community.

- For the 2021 event, we have decided to move to an online event!
- October 1- November 9: Poinsettia, Wreath and Personalized Ornament Sale
 - November 8-14: Online Basket and Designer Wreath Auction
 - December 2 from 4-7pm at the Cultural Center: Poinsettia and Wreath Pick up Day
 - Please visit our website for information on ordering!
<https://www.juniorleaguegr.com/beneath-the-wreath/>