



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF GRAND RAPIDS

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2018

FROM THE PRESIDENT



"I am proud to lead this entirely volunteer-run non-profit organization dedicated to improving the Grand Rapids community by training and empowering women as community leaders. For 93 years, we have improved the lives of women and children, investing in their physical health and well-being through our volunteer projects, fundraising, advocacy, and leadership."

- Kate McCarthy,
93rd President of the Junior League of Grand Rapids

2017-18 BY THE NUMBERS

\$110,756 NET FUNDRAISING TOTAL
54 VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
585 FAMILIES AND KIDS PARTICIPATED IN JLGR'S KIDS IN THE KITCHEN TO LEARN ABOUT HEALTHY EATING AND NUTRITION
240 LUNCHES PROVIDED FOR HOGR RUNAWAY & HOMELESS YOUTH DROP-IN CENTER
50 WINTER COATS PROVIDED FOR HOGR RUNAWAY & HOMELESS YOUTH DROP-IN CENTER
118 ACTIVE MEMBERS
TEN JLGR MEMBERS SENT TO LEADERSHIP TRAININGS NATIONWIDE
TWO JUNIOR LEAGUE WELLNESS ADVENTURE YARDS BUILT IN GR TO IMPROVE ACCESS FOR CHILDREN'S SAFE OUTDOOR PLAY
100% OF DONATIONS GO DIRECTLY TO PROGRAMS SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY, WITH MEMBER DUES COVERING ALL OVERHEAD AND OPERATING COSTS



The May General Membership Meeting

For our May General Membership Meeting, we had our second annual Junior League of Grand Rapids volunteering blitz. We sent our entire membership out to volunteer at organizations around the city that support children's physical and emotional health, including Ele's Place, Alpha Women's Center, Closet of Hope, and the original JL Wellness Adventure Yard at the Wege Sojourner House for survivors of domestic violence.



a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing. During this hearing, we saw the committee unanimously pass a package of bills geared toward protecting children from perpetrators of sexual assault by: extending the statutes of limitation, increasing penalties for possessing child pornography, increasing the scope of mandated reporters, and increasing the penalties for failure to report abuse.

This year, the Junior League of Grand Rapids sent 12 representatives to Lansing for our annual Day at the Capitol. Events included a presentation on childhood sexual assault by Tashmica Torok from The Firecracker Foundation, a panel discussion of former foster youth on how best to support those who have experienced foster care, a legislative open house luncheon where we met with representatives from Kent and Ottawa counties, a presentation on human trafficking by Jessica Glynn from the Kalamazoo YWCA, and



"We're not talking about politics. We're talking about problems in our communities, and Junior Leagues across the State of Michigan are coming together to give their time to their communities to solve problems. Over the years, no one client has taught me as much as the Junior Leagues."

- Jean Doss, Michigan Legislative Advocate at Capitol Services, Inc.



2018 GALA

Our 2018 Gala honored Sustaining Member Pat Waring for her extraordinary community work as the Junior League of Grand Rapids President from 1979-1980, when she testified at the annual conference in Kansas City as a spokesperson for the Equal Rights Amendment, and her continued leadership in numerous Grand Rapids organizations including the YWCA and Children's Healing Center. This year, we are proud to share that Gala raised a net \$31,420 for our community programs. Thank you to all who made this elegant evening a wonderful success.

The Junior League of Grand Rapids is always looking for dynamic, motivated women to join us! We are an organization of women committed to promoting the spirit of voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and at www.juniorleagueGR.com.



**EMPOWERING
WOMEN
TO LEAD**
IN OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

**Gilda's Night
of Gratitude**



**November 2017
Service Award Winner**

This award is given to a group of any size that takes the word "service" to the next level through ongoing support of the Gilda's Club mission, programs, events, and, most of all, Gilda's Club members.



Sustainers Christina Rosloniec, Kristy Stites, Punky Edison, and JLGR President Kate McCarthy



Junior League of Grand Rapids
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FIND US! @ JuniorLeagueGR



President Elect Lauren Jacoby and soon-to-be President Elect Tessa Hessmiller joined 329 other Junior League leaders in Long Beach, California, for the 2018 Winter Leadership Conference



Members Mallory Buth, Kiran Patel, Kelly Toland, and Brigitte Merk took Orlando, Florida, by storm at the February 2018 Organizational Development Institute, joining 102 other Junior Leagues for organizational leadership training.



Member Jessica Bernhardt, President Kate McCarthy, Wellness Adventure Yard Chair Jessica Hessler, and President-Elect Lauren Jacoby attended the Association of Junior Leagues International Annual Conference AND an Organizational Development Institute training in Memphis, Tennessee. Good job, ladies!