



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF DULUTH

Women building better communities®

ANNUAL REPORT

2023–2024





Mission:

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

Our Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

The Junior League welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations and communities.

Vision:

The Junior League: Women Around the World as Catalysts for Lasting Community Change

Junior League of Duluth, Inc.

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President's Letter

A Message from the President: Angela Engblom

It has been an honor to serve as President of Junior League of Duluth this past year. I am truly humbled to have had the opportunity to support Junior League and our community, as well as to follow in the footsteps of the incredible women that have led Junior League Duluth these past 100+ years.

I would like to thank the 2023.2024 JLD Board of Directors for their input and governance of our league. This year's board meetings were filled with in-depth discussions, great ideas, lots of laughter, support, and encouragement. Every single member of the board contributed to the success of this past year. I truly enjoyed watching the board members grow, learn, and connect with each other and the community. Junior League has a history of building strong women leaders that get things done, and boy did we ever get things done this year.



This year we had many successes. We held a successful Festival of Trees fundraising event with record attendance. We provided several educational opportunities for our membership as well as helping support educational needs in our community. We held several Done in a Day (DIAD) events as well as Done in a Meeting (DIAM) events to help community partners. We also had several non-profit organizations present at our General Membership Meetings to educate our members and help connect our members with the community. We held three successful potential/new member events and have had a few great additions to our membership. We are helping fund community needs by providing community grants to non-profits in our community. A lot of work has been done to start the process of updating our JLD bylaws to ensure that they are consistent with AJLI's bylaw recommendations and comply with MN non-profit laws. We were very present in the community this year with tabling events at UMD, Duluth Depot Holiday Market, Duluth Area Chamber Women's Leadership Conference, and Duluth Women's Expo. Junior League's survival depends on our members' engagement and drive to rebuild and sustain our membership and community connections. It is my hope that this year's focus on connections has planted the seeds for success in the upcoming years.

AJLI has made a commitment to help Junior Leagues with technology (Membership Essentials) as well as helping leagues recruit and retain new members. I'm excited to see what comes out of AJLI's upcoming commitments and investments.

As this year comes to an end, I challenge each member, active and sustainer, to really think about the impact Junior League has had in our community. Check out the history pages in our yearbook, think about why you joined Junior League, what you have learned and gained from this organization, and share your knowledge with others. Help us recruit new members by sharing our story. So many people in our community do not know what Junior League of Duluth is and our impact in the community. Let's all make an effort to make a difference and help Junior League grow and thrive.

What an amazing and fun journey this has been. Thank you for all the support and encouragement over the past 3 years. I have cherished this experience and will truly miss this chapter of my life. I hope you all have found value in your Junior League membership this year and are feeling connected to the other Junior League members as well as the community.

The end of this league year is bittersweet. I know Junior League of Duluth is in great hands with incoming President, Lauren Farden, and President-Elect, Addie Trettel, as well as a fabulous incoming Board. I wish you all the best and cannot wait to see what the 2024.2025 League year will bring.

With sincere gratitude to all of you for a wonderful year,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angela Engblom". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angela Engblom
JLD President 2023–2024

LEADERSHIP

President: Angela Engblom*

President-Elect: Lauren Farden*

President-Elect-Elect: Addie Trettel

Recording Secretary/Arrangements: Melissa LaTour*

Treasurer: Stephanie Forslund

Sustainer Reps: Sue Ellen Moore* and Suzanne Rauvola*



Community Council

Director: Gwendolyn Woerpel*/Patty Salo
Downs*

Community Project Lead: Liz Hanson

Community Funding Lead: Unfilled

Communications Council

Director: Kathy Jensen*

External Communications Lead: Natalie
Broberg

Internal Communications Lead: Kathy Jensen

Web Lead: Emily Andrews

Finance Council

Director: Nikki Staton*

Endowment Chair: Lisa Plachta

Membership Council

Director: Jenna Schmidt*

Nominating/Placement Lead: Sue Murphy

Nominating/Placement Lead Elect: Patty Salo
Downs

Nominating/Placement Advisors: Ann
Chouinard and Patricia Norman

Member Development Lead: Alexis Elder

Training/Ed Lead: Chelsea Loining

*** denotes Board of Directors member**



2023–24 JLD Board of Directors:

Sue Murphy, Jenna Schmidt, Nikki Staton, Angela Engblom, Addie Trettel, Gwendolyn Woerpel, Kathy Jensen, Suzanne Rauvola and Lauren Farden (not pictured: Sue Ellen Moore and Patty Salo Downs)

SUSTAINERS

Sustainers

Suzanne Rauvola and Sue Ellen Moore, Sustainer Advisors to the JLD Board 2023–2024

- Coordinated the Sustainer Tea held on October 19 at the Duluth Woman’s Club with 34 sustainers from many different eras of JLD enjoying appetizers and conversation
- Ordered 500+ pounds of toffee from Canelakes and organized breaking, weighing, and bagging with 24 women volunteers
 - Added a sticker describing the projects and organizations toffee purchases and FOT admission support
- Encouraged numerous sustainers to work at Festival of Trees filling crucial volunteer hours over the weekend
- Celebrated three sustainers who changed their status from Sustainer to Active in order to fill significant roles in JLD leadership
 - Thank you to Melissa LaTour, Sue Murphy, and Patty Salo Downs
- Attended an informative and interactive training with JLD and community members sponsored by JLD on Compassionate Communication led by Ann Harrington
- Enjoyed the Holiday Social at the Kitchi Gammi Club on December 12
- Hosted a Sustainer Spring Luncheon on April 18 at the Kitchi Gammi Club with 20 women in attendance
- Sustainers continued to meet monthly for “First Wednesday” lunch at Blackwoods, Tavern on the Hill, and Chilly Billy’s



As your Sustainer Representatives, we would like to thank each sustainer for your continued commitment to the Junior League of Duluth. Your involvement both personally and financially keeps the foundation and tradition of JLD growing so we can keep giving back to our community.



COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Community Council

JLD received 29 grant applications and nine organizations were selected to receive a total of \$16,000:

- 3D Robotics Duluth (tool storage cabinet): \$700
- Boys & Girls Club (healthy meals program): \$2,000
- Club Hunters Junior Volleyball (scholarships): \$850
- Divine Konnections (emergency food and supplies for young BIPOC mothers): \$2,500
- Duluth Community Garden Program-Hillside (water hydrant connection fee and tool shed): \$730
- ISD 709 Early Childhood Family Education (books for parents on brain development and emotions): \$720
- Lincoln Park Children and Families Collaborative (commercial grade refrigerator): \$4,500
- Mentor North (support services for unmatched youth): \$2,500
- PAVSA (three months of yoga): \$1,500

During the 2023–24 league year the following community outreach events occurred:

- JLD, along with First Witness and Duluth Thrives, co-sponsored a community-wide training workshop, Nonviolent Compassionate Communication
- Done in a Day (DIAD)
 - September: JLD volunteers participated in a one-day landscaping event at First Witness
 - April: JLD volunteers participated at Lincoln Park Children and Families Collaborative monthly Sunday Grocery Event
- Done in a Meeting (DIAM): items were collected for the following organizations:
 - October: Northern Expressions Arts Collaborative candy drive
 - March: First Witness gift card drive
 - April: Lincoln Park Children and Families Collaborative books and art supplies
- March 8: Angela Engblom and Patty Salo Downs participated in a live interview on Fox21 to promote JLD grant applications and interest in joining the organization; it was serendipitous that this event also happened to be on International Women's Day!

The Committee revised the rubric for evaluating grant applications, selected PAVSA to receive the 2024 Community Award, and also identified the following DIAM or DIAD projects for next year:

- ISD 709 Early Childhood Family Education: diaper drive
- First Witness: healing garden planting
- Duluth Bethel: gym equipment drive (exercise balls, yoga mats)
- CHUM: designated as the recipient of the 2024 Festival of Trees food drive



Council members: Alexis Elder, Amanda Sutton, Patty Salo Downs, Gwen Woerpel, Breanna Guthmiller, Liz Hanson, Vickie Meyers and Jennifer Maki (not pictured: Charley Langowski)

COMMUNICATIONS/PLANNING COUNCILS

Communication Council

- Completed AJLI's Find the Good Day (FTGD) campaign; registered JLD as a League participant, updated website with FTGD content and graphics, modified AJLI social media content for relevance to JLD and posted on social media and website
- Publicized important information and updates to members through Take a Minute Mondays, E-Lights and other email communications
- Developed process for sharing Duluth Thrives workshop content with members; posted video links and handouts on the member portal resources page
- Produced the Junior League of Duluth newsletter, League Lights, and arranged both electronic and hard copy delivery
- Compiled and formatted content for Annual Report and arranged for printing
- Updated the Junior League of Duluth public- and member-facing websites to provide event information and facilitate registration for all events including Festival of Trees (vendor applications and volunteers), Holiday Social, Duluth Thrives workshops, Annual Dinner, and New Member events
- Additional promotions included DIADs, DIAMs, New Member events and AJLI social media campaigns
- Facilitated Community grant opportunity; set up application portal, revised Community pages and distributed press release announcing opening of grant funding opportunity
- Revised membership status and placements for 2023–24, updated member directory, and set up 2024–2025 dues/donation payment in the member portal



Planning Council

- Planned Past President's Luncheon, Holiday Social and Annual Dinner
- Attended 2024 AJLI Annual Meeting and 2024 AJLI Winter Leadership and participated in the presidency track training sessions
- President-Elect Lauren Farden worked closely with current president, Angela Engblom, to learn the responsibilities at each level to ensure continuity and expansion of vision.
- At Winter Leadership, Lauren Farden and Addie Trettel met with The Junior League of Minneapolis president and continued the tradition of meeting with the Junior League of Roanoke
- Actively engaged with membership by attending events, such as New Member Socials and GMM at First Witness, etc.
- Filled President-Elect-Elect position with past president, Melissa LaTour
- Attended AJLI Growth Bootcamp for Small Leagues; developed ideas and strategies to find, retain, and recruit new members
- Updating Yearbook History section



MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

Membership Council

The council held three New and Potential Member events this year to focus on member recruitment. The first event of the 2023–2024 year took place on October 11, at Svalja Yoga in Duluth. We loved having three new and potential members join us for a calm, relaxing, yin yoga session after a quick review of the Junior League of Duluth. The second event of the league year took place on January 31, at Mix Cosmetiques in the Woodland neighborhood. This was a very successful event with about eight new and potential members joining the event. The third event was a social hour at Wild State Cider in Lincoln Park, Duluth, on April 24 with a mix of current members and potential members in attendance.

New Members



Breanna Guthmiller

After living in Florida, California, and Colorado, Breanna has come home to Minnesota and back to Duluth. She first connected with the ladies of the Junior League during a volunteer event at First Witness in September of 2023. Breanna was inspired by what she learned about JLD and the action she saw members taking that day – getting their hands dirty and shoes muddy to create a warm, welcoming space for families in a time of uncertainty. The commitment, dedication, and passion were incredible to witness and she wanted to get involved, connect with strong women, and find ways to give back to the community.

Breanna is a psychologist, hiker, animal lover, auntie, and outdoor enthusiast. She loves being outside as much as possible and is hoping to get back into rock climbing, give mountain biking a go, and explore everything the North Shore has to offer. Breanna has a 15-year-old pup who moves a little slowly these days, but still loves to get outside when the weather is nice.



Vickie Meyers

Vickie was born and raised in Duluth. She was a Denfeld Grad with 3.5 GPA even though she was raising her 11-month-old daughter at the time. She had two more sons by age 27. They are all grown now and she was upgraded to Meema because of her 8 grandchildren. Three by blood, five by love. Vickie has worked in the Human Service field the last 16 years. The greatest gig of all for her is the Gra" nanny" title. Vickie is grandma nanny to her almost 5-year-old granddaughter, Raya, who is also her Lil Bestie.

Vickie loves to volunteer her time when she has any so she chose to check out Junior League of Duluth, and is sure glad she did. Even though it's only been a few months, she's looking forward to many more years to come.

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

Nominating and Placement

- Three sustainers returned to active status – Melissa LaTour, Patty Salo Downs and Sue Murphy
- During the year we sent numerous members to leadership conferences:
 - Sent 10 members to the Creating Connection: Authentic Listening and Speaking workshop focused on nonviolent compassionate communication
 - Sent 10 members to Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce's Women in Leadership Conference
 - Sent Gwen Woerpel, Director of Community, and Alexis Elder, New Member Development Lead, to AJLI's SLBI (Small League Big Impact) conference in San Antonio, TX
 - Sent Lauren Farden, President-Elect, and Addie Trettel, President-Elect-Elect, to AJLI's Winter Leadership Conference in San Antonio, TX
 - Sent Angela Engblom, President, Lauren Farden, President-Elect, and Addie Trettel, President-Elect-Elect, to AJLI's Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA



We also recognized the accomplishment of members with different awards. The Volunteer of the Month award is given to members who have gone above and beyond in their contributions either to JLD or to the community. The Busy Bee award is presented to members who have been instrumental in accomplishing their council's goals.

Volunteer of the Month:

September: Emily Andrews
October: Alexis Elder
November: Gina Apodaca
January: Nikki Staton
March: Ann Chouinard

Busy Bee Award:

January: First Witness Procurement Committee
Emily Andrews, Melissa La Tour, LauraLee Raukar, Nikki Staton, and Addie Trettel

February: Community Council
Patty Salo Downs, Director, Breanna Guthmiller, Liz Hanson, Charley Langowski, Jennifer Maki, Vickie Meyers, Amanda Sutton and Gwen Woerpel

March: Jenna Schmidt and Nikki Staton



ENDOWMENT

DALE HEIMBACH WHEELER MEMORIAL FUND

The Dale Heimbach Wheeler Memorial Fund was established in 1983 in memory of Dale, who died while an active member of the Junior League of Duluth. The management of the Memorial Fund is the responsibility of the Endowment Fund Committee.

Contributions Received April 20, 2023 to April 30, 2024

Emily Andrews
Delia Bujold
Denise Bussa
Ann Chouinard in honor of Sally Zelen

Betsy Harmon
Elaine Killen in memory of Jane Heimbach
Katie Kuettel
Thomas B. Wheeler Family Charitable Fund

ENDOWMENT FUND

The JLD Endowment Fund was initially funded by a devise of the estate of sustainer Margaret Mitchell. The Fund was established in 1992.

Contributions Received April 20, 2023 to April 30, 2024

Emily Andrews
Delia Bujold
Denise Bussa
Ann Chouinard
Connie Dinan
Angela Dougherty
Karis Boerner in memory of Barbara Boerner
Sally Buck in memory of Sally Tarnowski
Ang Engblom in memory of Marianne Patton
Mary Evans in honor of Mickey Ferguson
Mary Evans in honor of Kay Gower
Lynne Frigaard in honor of Nancy Fifield
Kay Gower in memory of Ellen Gower

Patty Salo Downs
Lauren Farden
Mickey Ferguson
Liz Hanson
Michelle Hargrave

Kathy Jensen
Correne Jenson
Katie Kuettel
Trish Norman
Lisa Plachta

Suzanne Rauvola
Amanda Sutton
Michelle Wallerstein
Anne Whitworth
Jennifer Webb

Betsy Harmon in honor of Dawn Kregness
Julie Johnson in memory of Judy Salyards
Lail Beste-Michelson in honor of Sue Voss
Kathryn Noble in memory of Katie Kelly
Barb Sheedy in memory of Michael Sienko
Amanda Sutton in honor of Katie Kuettel

RECIPIENTS OF ENDOWMENT FUNDING

The Endowment Fund Committee awarded \$3550 from the Dale Heimbach Wheeler Memorial Fund and \$10,700 from the Endowment Fund during the 2023–2024 year. The following organizations received funding: United Way of Northeastern Minnesota, YWCA Duluth Young Mother's Program, Duluth Children's Museum, Duluth Area Family YMCA Out-of-School-Time, Junior League of Duluth/Duluth Thrives/First Witness: Nonviolent Compassionate Communication Workshop, Lincoln Park Children and Families Collaborative, and Duluth Armory Music Resources Center. During the 2022–2023 year, the Endowment Fund Committee awarded \$16,000 to First Witness Child Advocacy Center.

KING'S DAUGHTERS BEQUEST SOCIETY

King's Daughters Bequest Society, established in 1999 by the Endowment Committee, honors those who have made a significant commitment to the future of JLD by remembering us in their will, trust, life insurance policy or other estate plan. The Society's members include: Sherry DeWulf, Angela Dougherty, Kay Gower, Katie Kuettel, Margaret Mitchell, Mary Olin, and Mollie Thibodeau.



FINANCE COUNCIL

Fiscal Year 2023–2024

	Actual	Annual Budget
<u>Year-to-Date Income*</u>		
Arrangements	\$555	
Interest and Dividend Revenue	\$3	
Membership Dues	\$110	\$9,640
Festival of Trees	\$76,258	\$105,150
Total Income	\$76,926	\$114,790
<u>Year-to-Date Expenses*</u>		
Operations	\$15,390	\$49,245
Planning Council Expenses	\$7,745	\$6,500
Community Council Expenses	\$18,553	\$16,150
Finance Council Expenses	\$6,889	\$13,320
Membership Council Expenses	\$4,687	\$7,850
Communications Council Expenses	\$2,491	\$1,450
Total Expenses	\$55,755	\$94,515
Change in Net Assets	\$21,171	\$20,275

*through May 12, 2024

	March-2024	March-2023
<u>Current Assets</u> (as of 3/31/24)		
Republic Bank Checking – General Fund	\$75,304	\$53,806
Republic Bank Savings – Let It Grow	\$10,982	\$10,944
U.S. Bank – Money Market /Mutual Funds	\$90,492	\$91,728
U.S. Bank Trust – Endowment/DHW	\$355,906	\$351,847
	\$532,684	\$508,325



	2023	2022
Income		
Sponsorship Revenue	\$5,483	\$2,050
Toffee Revenue	\$9,352	\$11,619
Trees Revenue	\$1,654	\$2,136
Raffle Revenue	\$1,950	\$2,810
Gate Revenue	\$29,372	\$29,742
Vendor Revenue	\$64,712	\$45,686
Total Income	\$112,523	\$94,043
Expenses		
Toffee Expenses	\$6,325	\$5,249
Trees Expense	\$1,454	\$1,237
Vendor Expense		
FOT Admin Expense	\$19,199	\$19,498
Promotion Expense	\$300	\$804
Miscellaneous FOT Expense	\$8,987	\$320
Total Expenses	\$36,265	\$27,108
Net Income	\$76,258	\$66,935

