



# Newsletter

## Summer 2023

### Mission

We are an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. Our purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. We reach out to women of all races, religions, and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to volunteerism.

### Community Impact

The Junior League of Pittsburgh is working toward securing food access for households living below the poverty line in the East End of Pittsburgh.

READ MORE



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US!

## Women building better communities

For over 100 years, the Junior League of Pittsburgh has been the driving force behind the kinds of initiatives and institutions that make our community a healthier, more vital place to live.

Our dedicated members come from a wide variety of backgrounds and interests and share a commitment to volunteering. We work together to identify unmet needs, forge effective coalitions and implement change. Time and time again, the Junior League is one of the first to step up and tackle our community's biggest challenges.

**The Junior League of Pittsburgh welcomes all women who value our mission. We are committed to fostering an inclusive environment for individuals, organizations and communities.**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Bidding a Fond Farewell to Our 100th Year, and Looking Forward Together to the Year Ahead

*The start of a new century is a time for reflection and celebration. It is also a time to look forward to the future and to imagine all that we can accomplish together.*



Over the past 100 years, the Junior League of Pittsburgh (JLP) has touched the lives of countless people in the Pittsburgh area. We've helped build stronger communities, provide essential services to those in need, and make the world a better place.

The 2022-2023 League Year – our **Centennial Celebration** – was simply extraordinary! Through collaborations with other nonprofits, the JLP provided the Pittsburgh community with 565 hours of volunteer service; generated over \$20,000 of community impact; and, awarded two community grants. Throughout the year, our members participated in 120 training and membership engagement activities, intentionally designed to meet the diverse interests of all JLP members: new, active, and sustainer.

Our 101st League Year – a new year and a new century for our organization – is also the start of a new chapter of the Junior League of Pittsburgh. Being the first to do something can sometimes be scary, but it's also exciting and empowering to say, "Yes!" to new opportunities.

Personally, I am looking forward to a new League Year, a new century, a new experience as President, and new ways to help the JLP grow as it continues to serve our community. Thank you in advance for your support; I can't wait for the journey ahead of us.



PRESIDENT OF THE  
JUNIOR LEAGUE OF PITTSBURGH

# thank you 2022-2023 LEAGUE LEADERS

Erin Singh-Watzman  
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**Executive Vice President**  
Interim Community VP

Paula Reese  
**Fund Development VP**

Angela Broussard  
**President-Elect**  
Interim Communications VP

Kate DiStefano  
**DEIB Director**

Caitlin Wampler  
**Membership VP**

Carmen Reyes-Wolfe  
**DIAD Chair**

Sandra Matoushaya  
**Secretary**

Betsy Amato  
**Sustainer Director**

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**Growth & Development VP**

Megan Lehman  
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Brandi Nichols  
**Treasurer**

Madison Clark  
**Nominating Director**

Sarah Ewin  
**Treasurer-Elect**

Cassie Shayne  
**New Member Co-Chair**



# NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

## Junior League of Pittsburgh and Partners Support Drive-Up Diaper Distribution

*In addition to its ongoing community projects and grants, the Junior League of Pittsburgh undertakes 2-4 service activities every month called "Done in a Day" (DIAD). For each DIAD project, a group of Junior League members directly assist a nonprofit organization or social service agency.*



On Saturday, June 17, 2023, members of the Junior League of Pittsburgh volunteered at a drive-up diaper distribution event supported by our partners [Altar'd State](#), [Global Links](#), and the [Western PA Diaper Bank](#). The event served 448 area families in just two hours and distributed 91,920 diapers to families from 67 unique zip codes.

Each family received about a month's worth of diapers, which has a value of \$80-100. According to the National Diaper Bank Network, one in two families in the United States struggles to afford diapers. This event helped to take one big expense off the plates of these families and allowed them to focus on other essential needs.

"Volunteering with the Junior League is a fun way to meet new people, learn about the greatest needs facing our community, and do something to have a positive impact," said Cari Goss Quinn, Community Vice President. "Through distributing diapers, we helped families have one less expense to worry about which will allow them to have a little more room in their budget for food and other needs."

*To propose a DIAD project benefiting your nonprofit organization or social service agency, email the Junior League's Done In A Day committee chair at [DIAD@jlpgh.org](mailto:DIAD@jlpgh.org).*

## 2022-2023 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

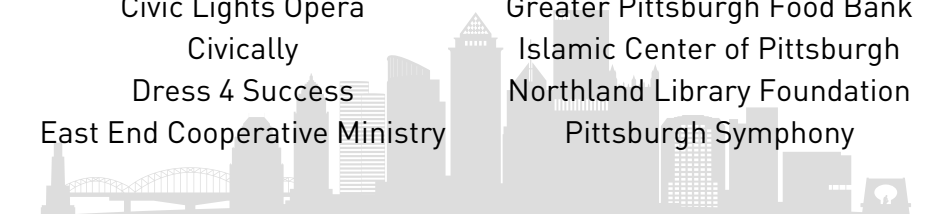
### JLP Members Volunteer with Organizations Serving Our Community

*The JLP is interested in partnering with nonprofit organizations or social service agencies in the Pittsburgh area that align with our mission. For more information, please email [community@jlpgh.org](mailto:community@jlpgh.org).*

Beverly's Birthday  
Children's Museum  
Civic Lights Opera  
Civically  
Dress 4 Success  
East End Cooperative Ministry

Gilfillan Farm  
Global Links  
Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank  
Islamic Center of Pittsburgh  
Northland Library Foundation  
Pittsburgh Symphony

Point Park University Pioneer Pantry  
Ronald McDonald House  
Salvation Army  
Sojourner House  
Squirrel Hill Pantry  
Vintage





# PITTSBURGH CELEBRATES MAJOR MILESTONES

## The 40th Anniversary of the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and the 20th Anniversary of ARCS

*The city of Pittsburgh celebrated two major milestones on Thursday, June 8, 2023: the 40th anniversary of the Pittsburgh Children's Museum and the 20th anniversary of ARCS. Both organizations were founded by members of the Junior League of Pittsburgh.*

In 1983, Jeanne Berdik cut the ribbon on opening day of the [Pittsburgh Children's Museum](#) as her first act as President of the Junior League.



Twenty years later, she had lunch with friends Vicki Griffin and Dr. John Anderson, then Dean of Carnegie Mellon University's Carnegie Institute of Technology, and said, "I want to bring [ARCS](#) to Pittsburgh." Following that lunch, Jeanne shared the vision with 10 other Junior League members and 10 outside friends. Without hesitation, they began collaborating and taking the first steps in establishing the ARCS chapter. As one speaker at the ARCS anniversary event said, these league women used to mention they were the "ladies who lunched," but should be known as "the ladies who launch."

To celebrate the occasion, the Pittsburgh Children's Museum thoughtfully hosted a luncheon on Friday, June 9, to celebrate the founding women of both the Pittsburgh Children's Museum and ARCS. About 15 women were in attendance, including the first director of the Children's Museum, David Crosson, and the first board chair of ARCS, David Payne. Some of the others in attendance included Ali McCrossin, the Junior League representative on the Children's Museum board; Jeanne Berdik, the founding president of ARCS; Thea Stover, Lou Gailliot, Ann Wertz, DJ Hammerschmidt, Ann Gabler, and Becky Torbin.

"The 101st year of the Junior League of Pittsburgh is themed 'New Beginnings, Fresh Starts, and Trying New Things,'" said the League's President, Angela Broussard. "These founding women showed this courage by taking an idea and making it come true through determination, hard work, and collaboration. The Junior League of Pittsburgh is proud to have been a part of these two important milestones in Pittsburgh's history. The founding women of both organizations have made a lasting impact on our city and on the lives of countless children."



## NEW MEMBERS TAKE THE LEAD

### New Member Class Hosts Successful Fundraiser at Threadbare Cider House

*The 2022-2023 New Member year began in September and continued through May. New Member meetings were held each month, with additional training sessions and social events throughout the League Year.*

The Junior League of Pittsburgh's New Member class hosted a Social Night at Threadbare Cider House on Friday, April 28, 2023. The event was a great success, raising \$1,208 for the League's community impact initiatives.

Members and guests enjoyed an evening of drinks, food, conversation, and community. Threadbare Cider House donated 9.99% of purchases, and additional funds were raised from the "Made in Pittsburgh" raffle baskets.

"The Junior League of Pittsburgh is proud of its New Member class for organizing such a wonderful event," said Megan Lehman, Membership Vice President and former Co-Chair of the New Member Committee. "We are grateful to everyone who supported the event and acknowledged the hard work and dedication of our New Member class throughout the 2022-2023 League Year."

*Interested in joining the Junior League of Pittsburgh? New Member recruitment takes place in June, July and August. To learn more, visit our [website](https://www.jlppgh.org), or email us at [joinus@jlppgh.org](mailto:joinus@jlppgh.org).*

## SAYING HELLO AND GOODBYE!

### JLP Recognizes New Members, Gold Actives, and Transfers In/Out

*At its Annual Meeting, the League recognized new Active Members, new Gold Active Members, and Active or Sustaining Members who transferred in or out of the Junior League of Pittsburgh. One of the benefits of belonging to the Junior League is that if life takes you to a new city, your membership can move with you!*

#### New Active Members

Samantha Bretz  
Jeannie Burdsall  
Katherine Dillman  
Tori Marra  
Milena Novotny  
Brooke Waggoner  
Rachelle Young

#### New Gold Active Members

Erin Gunyan  
Susan Miller  
Erin Singh-Watzman

#### Transfers Out

Fran Aboushousha (Nashville, TN)  
Katherine Kennedy (Scranton, PA)  
Kayla Scott King (Atlanta, GA)

#### Transfers In

Melissa Aleksak (Scranton, PA)  
Elizabeth Brown (York, PA)  
Amanda Doran (Richmond, VA)  
Hilary Ake (Gainesville, FL)  
Halee Veltri\* (Charlotte, NC)

## 2022-2023 JLP AWARDS WINNERS

### Anne D. Johnston Award: Thelma Lovette Morris

*The Anne D. Johnston Award, named after one of the Junior League of Pittsburgh's most esteemed and beloved members, is presented to an individual or group that has made an outstanding contribution to the League and the community.*

In 1984, Thelma Lovette Morris joined the Junior League of Pittsburgh where she held various offices and served on many committees. The daughter of civil rights leaders and a trailblazer, Thelma was the first African American to serve as President of the Junior League of Pittsburgh from 1990 to 1991, and she is the living embodiment of the motto, "women building better communities."

Under Thelma's leadership, the Junior League sponsored a community awareness program called, "Don't Wait to Vaccinate," and co-sponsored the creation of the North Hills Affordable Housing program, which helps homeless women and children transition to housing. The program, now known as HEARTH, is one with which the League is still involved from time to time. For the Association of Junior Leagues International, she served as both a Child Health and a Public Policy consultant, and, as a Sustainer, she continues to bring Leaguers together to share information.

Currently, Thelma serves on the Board of The McAuley Ministries Foundation, and she has previously served on the National Philanthropy Committee for The Links Incorporated, the Board of Directors of the FISA Foundation, the Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation, Urban League of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh NAACP, YMCA of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Children's Museum, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh, Carlow College Alumnae Association, and many more. We are so pleased to honor Thelma and highlight the impact she has made in the JLP and Pittsburgh community.





## **Leaguer of the Year: Kate DiStefano**

*Kate DiStefano served as the Junior League of Pittsburgh's first-ever Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Director for two years.*

As part of her groundbreaking efforts as the Junior League of Pittsburgh's first Diversity Equity, Including, and Belonging (DEIB) Director, Kate DiStefano helped shape the position and personally developed and presented "The More You Know with Kate DiStefano," a beloved and recurring part of the League's General Membership Meetings.

True to her DEIB focus, Kate also identified a new nonprofit partner for the Junior League to support that is actively engaged in addressing food insecurity: the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh.

Kate not only excelled as DEIB Director, she truly embodied what it means to be an inclusive leader. She is, by nature, a very kind and welcoming person that was always willing to lend a helping hand.



## **New Members of the Year: Katherine Dillman & Tori Marra**

*In their first year as Active Members, Tori Marra will serve as the Growth and Development Vice President and Katherine Dillman will serve on the Membership Council.*

During her New Member year, Katherine was an active and enthusiastic part of the Junior League, exceeding all of her credit requirements and truly taking a piece of advice we give our New Members to heart: "You get out of the League what you put into it!"

Tori Marra's consistent leadership and collaborative approach were integral to the success of this year's New Member project, and, as part of the Communications Council, she spearheaded the "Membership Spotlight" featured on the League's social media channels.

## BECOME A MEMBER

### Grow With Us During Our 101st League Year

*The Junior League of Pittsburgh welcomes all women who value our mission to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. Interested in learning more about the Junior League of Pittsburgh? Attend one of the summer membership recruitment socials, visit our [website](http://www.jlpgh.org), or email us at [joinus@jlpgh.org](mailto:joinus@jlpgh.org).*

## MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT SOCIALS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2023 | 6:00 PM-9:00 PM

Lowkey Taco in Robinson Township

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2023 | 7:30 PM-9:00 PM

The Meadows Original Frozen Custard in Monroeville

## ANNUAL REPORT

### The 2022-2023 Annual Report is Available

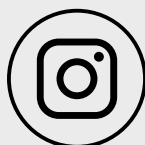
*Our annual report contains information about our programs, services, accomplishments, and how we are using our resources to make a difference in and around Pittsburgh. Read the report online at [www.jlpgh.org/news](http://www.jlpgh.org/news).*

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**President-Elect**

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**Secretary**

Sarah Ewin  
**Treasurer**

Brandi Nichols  
**Executive Vice President**

Betsy Amato  
**Sustainer Director**

Madison Clark  
**Nominating Director**

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**Communications  
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Cari Goss Quinn  
**Community  
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**Fund Development  
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Megan Lehman  
**Membership  
Vice President**

Tori Marra  
**Growth & Development  
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Sam Bretz  
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