



# Newsletter

Fall 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



JOIN  
US!

## SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming Opportunities to Support  
the Junior League of Pittsburgh

### Spring Tea

March 23, 2024



### Highmark Walk

May 11, 2024



[www.jlpggh.org](http://www.jlpggh.org)

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Embrace and Celebrate the Excitement of the Season with the Junior League of Pittsburgh

*As the leaves change color in the crisp autumn air, the Junior League eagerly embraces the beauty and transformation that this season brings.*



This time of renewal and excitement marks a period of new beginnings for our organization, as we welcome new members, embark on our 101st year, and continue to make a positive impact on our beloved Pittsburgh community.

Our fall has been filled with an abundance of activity and purpose. In addition to our ongoing commitment to serving others through volunteer activities – such as preparing and serving meals, distributing food and diapers, and volunteering at local events – we have also hosted engaging social gatherings, including our book club, monthly brunches and dinners, two General Membership Meetings, and a networking luncheon celebrating our 101st anniversary with guest speaker Sloane Davidson, President and CEO of Hello Neighbor.

And, to top it all off, the League held its first Purses and Power Tools Bingo! This highly successful event, attended by nearly 100 enthusiastic participants, featured bingo games, raffles, and a silent auction. Prizes included stunning purses from Kate Spade, Michael Kors, Brahmin, and Coach, as well as an array of power tools that would have made any DIY fanatic's heart race.

As we transition into the winter season, we look forward to continuing our mission of empowering women and improving our community. In December, we will gather together to celebrate the season – and the JLP – at our annual holiday party, where I'm eagerly anticipating seeing everyone enjoying our ugly sweater-themed celebration!

As we approach the new year, we are filled with anticipation for the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. We are committed to expanding our reach, deepening our impact, and making an even greater difference in the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for your unwavering support of the Junior League of Pittsburgh. Your generosity and dedication are essential to our success. We are incredibly grateful for your belief in our mission and your commitment to making our community a better place.

With gratitude and anticipation,



PRESIDENT OF THE  
JUNIOR LEAGUE OF PITTSBURGH



# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## Members of the Junior League Work to Provide a More Food-Secure Future for All Pittsburghers

*“Without access to healthy foods, a nutritious diet and good health are out of reach.”*

*- The Food Trust*



Since 2016, the Junior League of Pittsburgh has worked to address food insecurity in our community. We work with a variety of partners to provide food and other resources to those in need, and we advocate for policies that will help to create a more food-secure future for all Pittsburghers.

Food insecurity, which means not knowing where your next meal is coming from, is a serious problem in the Pittsburgh community, with nearly 1 in 7 people facing this challenge. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, food insecurity is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways. There are many factors that can contribute to food insecurity, including: low income, lack of access to healthy food (e.g. food deserts), job loss or other financial setbacks, transportation challenges, etc.

There are many ways that Junior Leaguers are currently helping address food insecurity in our community. Here are a few examples:



- **Capacity Building:** Junior Leaguers volunteer their time and skills to help our community partners build their capacity to serve those in need.
- **Funding:** The Junior League of Pittsburgh also provides funding to non-profit organizations that are working to address food insecurity in our community. Our annual grants support a variety of programs and initiatives, including food banks, meal delivery programs, and nutrition education programs.
- **Raising Awareness:** Junior Leaguers also help to raise awareness of food insecurity in our community by educating ourselves and others about the issue and advocating for change.



# JLP ADDS WOMAN-POWER TO LOCAL NONPROFITS

## Done in a Day (DIAD) Projects Exemplify the League's Commitment to Making a Difference in the Community

*Through DIAD projects, Junior League members provide much-needed support to a variety of organizations, demonstrating the power of volunteerism to create a more just and equitable society.*

The Junior League collaborates regularly with local organizations on diverse projects, each designed to support the work our community partners are doing throughout the region. This autumn, dedicated Leaguers undertook a range of impactful initiatives. They skillfully prepared and served dinners at East End Cooperative Ministry, contributed to cancer research and treatment at Stand Up to Cancer's Upper Deck Golf event at PNC Park, commemorated the 50th anniversary of Vintage—an organization founded by JLP members, extended a caring hand by preparing meals for those in need with 412 Food Rescue (our new-

est community partner!), supported Civically at the Free Store in Wilkinsburg, provided assistance at Hilltop Urban Farm, and meticulously organized surplus medical supplies at Global Links.

As we eagerly anticipate the opportunities that winter will bring, we remain steadfast in our commitment to expanding our impact. The JLP is always on the lookout for new avenues to contribute meaningfully to the well-being of our community.





# JLP Joins Training Collaborative

## Interactive Seminars Offer Opportunities for Skill Development, Networking, and Professional Growth

*The Junior League of Pittsburgh joined the 2023-2024 Training Collaborative of Junior Leagues, a newly formed collection of 26 Junior Leagues from all over the world.*



The objective of the Training Collaborative is to provide engaging and meaningful training opportunities for its 8,600 individual participants, and the theme this year is “Advancing Nonprofit Leadership.” In December, the JLP will be co-hosting an online training event with the Junior League of Omaha presented by JLP Sustainer Member, Jeanne Berdik, titled, “What a Tangled Web: Leadership, Connections and The Big Idea.”

“We are incredibly honored and excited to have former JLP President, Jeanne Berdik, present this training to the Training Collaborative,” said Growth and Development Vice President, Tori Marra. “Her extensive experience in non-profit leadership, coalition building, and workforce development will be invaluable to our participants. We are confident that her insights will help all of us to improve our training programs and better serve communities all across the nation.”

Throughout the late summer and fall, the Training Collaborative offered League members interactive online trainings on a diverse range of topics. These engaging and informative seminars provided opportunities for skill development, networking, and professional growth, empowering JLP members to become more effective leaders and make a greater impact in their communities.

The JLP is committed to fostering a culture of continuous learning and development, and its participation in the Training Collaborative is a testament to this commitment. By collaborating with other Junior Leagues, the JLP is able to share its expertise, gain valuable insights from others, and ultimately enhance its training programs to better serve its members, and the communities it strives to improve.

## Three JLP Members Attend Association of Junior Leagues International Training in Washington, DC

### AJLI Organizational Development Institute Connects, Educates, and Empowers League Members from Across the Country

*Sam Bretz, Katherine Dillman, and Katie Frazier were among hundreds of Junior League members who gathered for three days of workshops, mainstage sessions, and networking opportunities.*

In early November, three Junior League members from Pittsburgh had the opportunity to attend the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) Organizational Development Institute (ODI) in Washington, DC. This ODI focused on a variety of topics, including member expectations, public speaking, advocacy, and more.

In addition to the workshops and mainstage sessions, ODI attendees also had the opportunity to network with other Junior League members from across the country. "It was great to meet other Junior League members who are facing the same challenges that we are," said Katie Frazier. "We were able to share ideas and solutions, and we also learned about some innovative programs that other leagues are implementing."



The JLP members who attended the ODI are feeling empowered and energized to put what they have learned to work. The AJLI ODI is a valuable resource for Junior League members who are looking to develop their leadership skills and make a difference in their communities.



# JLP Welcomes New Members

## Our 2023-2024 New Members Hit the Ground Running

*This fall, New Members attended orientation, received committee assignments, and so much more!*

Our New Member class has embraced JLP's mission with unwavering enthusiasm, eagerly diving into community impact projects, actively participating in training collaboratives, and fostering meaningful connections through social events.

Eager to gain a deeper understanding of the League's operations, New Members have received their committee placements, and immersed themselves in their respective areas. Throughout their first months in the League, they have forged strong bonds with fellow New Members and experienced Active Members, who have served as invaluable mentors and guides.



Looking ahead to the 2023-2024 League year, New Members are gearing up for an impactful collaboration with the East End Community Ministry, slated to commence in early 2024. We eagerly anticipate sharing their accomplishments in the spring, showcasing their unwavering commitment to making a positive difference in our community.

*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.jlpgh.org), or email us at [joinus@jlpgh.org](mailto:joinus@jlpgh.org).*



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE AND MAKING MEMORIES

## The Power of Shared Purpose; the Joy of Lifelong Friendship

*Throughout the late summer and fall, JLP members gathered for brunches, happy hours, book club discussions, and more... creating lasting memories and enjoying plenty of laughter along the way.*



The Junior League of Pittsburgh is a warm and welcoming community united by a passion for making a positive impact here in western Pennsylvania and around the world. At the heart of the Junior League experience lies the profound joy of serving others. Beyond the act of giving back, the Junior League fosters a nurturing environment where women can forge lasting, lifelong connections with one another. Through shared experiences, members develop a deep sense of camaraderie and support, becoming a network of friends who inspire and uplift one another while making a difference, one act of kindness at a time.



# ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

## Celebrating 101 Years of the JLP

*The League's fall-themed networking event and luncheon featured guest speaker Sloane Davidson, Founder & CEO of Hello Neighbor.*

The Junior League of Pittsburgh celebrated 101 years at our Anniversary Luncheon on Saturday, October 7, 2023, at McCormick & Schmick's in downtown Pittsburgh.

The event, which was organized and hosted by Sustainer Director, Betsy Amato, was attended by 45 Active, Sustainer, and New JLP Members.

After enjoying fall cocktails and being seated for a delicious lunch and decadent dessert, the JLP welcomed our guest speaker Sloane Davidson, Founder & CEO of Hello Neighbor.

"It was such an honor to celebrate the Junior League of Pittsburgh's 101st anniversary and to hear from Sloane," said Betsy Amato, Sustainer Director and event organizer. "Her insights on the challenges that newcomers face when arriving in a new country were truly inspiring, and we are all so grateful for her work to make Pittsburgh a more welcoming and inclusive city."







## **PURSES, POWER TOOLS, AND A LOT OF FUN!**

### **Successful Inaugural Bingo Event**

*The Junior League of Pittsburgh held its first Purses and Power Tools Bingo on Saturday, November 11, 2023, at the Heidelberg Volunteer Fire Department, much to the delight of nearly 100 attendees.*

This exciting fundraiser featured an array of engaging activities, including thrilling bingo games, delicious food and drinks, and enticing raffles.

The event's prizes were equally captivating, with gorgeous purses from Kate Spade, Michael Kors, Brahmin, and Coach, as well as a selection of impressive power tools. The atmosphere was electric as participants eagerly awaited the chance to win these coveted prizes.

Laura Sesak, Fund Development Vice President and event organizer, expressed her elation at the event's success: "Our first Purses and Power Tools Bingo was an absolute blast!" she exclaimed. "It was so heartwarming to see so many people come together to support the Junior League of Pittsburgh. The event was a huge success, not only in terms of fundraising but also in terms of creating a fun and engaging atmosphere. We are so grateful to all of our supporters who made this event possible."



The Junior League is thrilled with the positive feedback received for its inaugural bingo and is already planning to host more events like it in the future. These gatherings not only provide opportunities for community engagement and fundraising, but also support our mission of empowering women and improving communities.





# WOMEN BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES

## Serving and Strengthening Pittsburgh

For over 101 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.

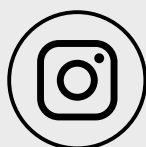


## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Every Click Counts: Like Early, Share Often!



[@JuniorLeague  
ofPittsburgh](https://www.facebook.com/JuniorLeagueofPittsburgh)



[@jlpgh](https://www.instagram.com/jlpgh)



[@JuniorLeague  
ofPittsburgh](https://www.linkedin.com/company/JuniorLeagueofPittsburgh)

## SUBSCRIBE!

Email [newsletter@jlpgh.org](mailto:newsletter@jlpgh.org)  
to subscribe to our newsletter!



## Board of Directors

Angela Broussard  
**President**

Caitlin Wampler  
**President-Elect**

Sandra Matoushaya  
**Secretary**

Sarah Ewin  
**Treasurer**

Brandi Nichols  
**Executive Vice President**

Betsy Amato  
**Sustainer Director**

Madison Clark  
**Nominating Director**

## Management Team

Cari Goss Quinn  
**Community  
Vice President**

Tori Marra  
**Growth & Development  
Vice President**

Laura Sesack  
**Fund Development  
Vice President**

Megan Lehman  
**Membership  
Vice President**

Lila Rose  
**Communications  
Vice President**

Amanda Cuddy  
**Executive  
Vice President-Elect**

Sam Bretz  
**Treasurer-Elect**