



FY23 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

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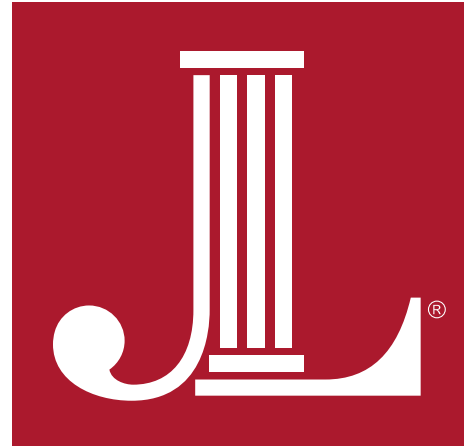
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OUR MISSION

The Junior League of Cedar Rapids (JLCR) is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to serve Cedar Rapids and the surrounding communities as catalysts for lasting community change and a prominent source of female leaders for public and private service, advocating for issues relating to women and children on a local, state, national and international level.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Supporters and Friends of the Junior League of Cedar Rapids,



I am thrilled to share with you the incredible accomplishments we achieved at the Junior League of Cedar Rapids (JLCR) this year. Throughout our 89-year history, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to advancing women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

This year, JLCR continued to uphold our mission, providing a platform for our 228 dedicated members to network, grow in their personal development, and give back to the Cedar Rapids community. We believe that empowering women is a catalyst for positive change in our community, and it's this ethos that has fueled our work.

One of our key accomplishments this year was aligning our strategic plan with the needs of our members. We introduced rolling recruitment, allowing prospective members to join us at any time throughout the year. This change makes it easier for women in our community to become part of our mission. We also voted to modernize membership requirements, enacted a new mission statement, re-familiarized ourselves with Robert's Rules of Order, and received training in effective outreach to elected officials -- all while dedicating over 1,200 hours to our flagship project, Bridging the G.A.P.

Our project, for the last twelve years, is focused on building resources for foster youth as they age out of the foster care system. This is accomplished through providing rental assistance in our Housing Program, delivering suitcases filled with over \$700 worth of household goods to 26 young people through Apartment in a Suitcase, preparing meals for members of Achieving Maximum Potential, and utilizing our scholarship fund to help when the unexpected happens. The tools we've created ensure these young adults have the support they need to thrive.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your unwavering support of the Junior League of Cedar Rapids. Your partnership, along with the contributions of local businesses and in-kind donations, allows us to continue our vital work in the community. As we move forward, we are excited to embark on another year of service, advocacy, and leadership development. We look forward to continuing our mission, empowering women, and making a lasting impact on the lives of foster youth. Together, we can bridge the gap and create a brighter future for the Linn County community.

We are excited to have you on this journey with us, and we invite you to join us in making a difference.

With warm regards,

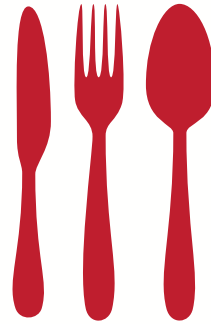
Rachel Rigdon
President 2022-2023

BRIDGING THE G.A.P.

Junior League of Cedar Rapids has made it our ongoing focus to support young people aging out of foster care through the Bridging the G.A.P. (Guide, Advocate, Provide) project. Through partnering with community agencies, we are able provide support to young people aging out of foster care with resources such as financial knowledge, housing, life skills, and more.

GUIDE.

The **Project Guide initiative** focuses on providing social-emotional and life skills support for youth currently in foster care or who have aged out of foster care. JLCR partners with Foundation 2 Crisis Services and the Achieving Maximum Potential (AMP) group in Cedar Rapids to provide meals and program support at their meetings.



1,000

meals were provided for youth at bi-monthly AMP meetings during the last fiscal year.

ADVOCATE.

The **Project Advocate initiative** focuses on supporting youth in foster care from a policy and advocacy standpoint. Advocacy efforts include hosting speakers and events, speaking with state lawmakers about challenges, and sharing resources with local partners.



\$10,000

was granted to foster youth for needs like car repairs, household needs, and other items of necessity.

PROVIDE.

The **Project Provide initiative** focuses on providing both funds and physical items youth need as they start to establish their independence. Apartment basics, housing deposits, and unplanned expenses are often items that young adults get from their support network that foster youth may not have access to.



26

Apartments in a Suitcase were distributed to individuals aging out of the foster care system.

MEMBERSHIP IN ACTION

After multiple years of uncertainty due to the ongoing pandemic, JLCR is looking to the future and implementing ways to recruit new members, diversify community experiences, and build a strong connection with sustainers. One of the biggest projects during FY23 came from JLCR's adoption of the One Membership model. This model allows for rolling recruitment, making it easier for new members to join JLCR, dive into projects and placements, and increase their engagement with the greater community.

During the last fiscal year, JLCR also accomplished the following:

- Increased membership by 13 new members.
- Completed another year of JLCR's mentorship program.
- Trained members locally and afar at AJLI conferences.
- Supported membership training through community training opportunities such as Women Lead Change and United Way of East Central Iowa's BOLD program.
- Bonded with sustainers through sustainer talks, where past active members shared JLCR history, past projects, and tips and advice for the future.
- Partnered with de Novo Marketing to create a recruitment and promotional video for JLCR.



EVENTS & ENGAGEMENT

STUFF THE TRUCK

JLCR's second annual **Stuff the Truck** event brought awareness and visibility to the community and its project while raising in-kind and monetary donation. Alongside Foundation 2 Crisis Services, members gathered at Craft'd on Giving Tuesday to stuff a box truck with supplies for the Apartment in a Suitcase program. In-kind donations, combined with matching sponsor donations from ESCO Group and Transamerica, helped create incredible impact in our community to support foster youth.



\$9,917

was raised for Stuff the Truck between in-kind and monetary donations

FOSTERING STRENGTH

JLCR rounded out the fiscal year with **Fostering Strength**, an annual fundraiser and advocacy luncheon, on May 2. The annual luncheon brings together hundreds of Cedar Rapids-area community partners, foster care and adoption professionals, JLCR donors, members, and more for an afternoon of impactful stories of hope and perseverance through difficult times. This year's program featured a panel discussion of key stakeholders in the community, which informed attendees of the challenges facing foster youth and families, and gave tangible takeaways as to how individuals can make an impact in the lives of foster youth.



\$31,820

was raised for Fostering Strength between day-of donations and ticket sales

STANDING OVATION AWARDS

In May 2023, JLCR hosted its annual meeting to close the FY23 2 Junior League year and celebrate the year's accomplishments. The following members and community partners received awards thanks to their great impact on JLCR in the last year.

Unsung Hero Award - Erica Bellach

Erica was not originally slated to take the full lead on Fostering Strength at the beginning of this league year, but here she is absolutely CRUSHING it. Unless you've been there, it's hard to know how much time, effort and coordination goes into it. She was organized, kept calm, and got it -- all while preparing to be a first time mom. We are so lucky to have her and thanks to her for the amazing work this year. She is a true testament to what women can do and we are all so proud of her for pushing through this hurdle in full-force!

Spirit Award - Ashley Osborn

Ashley is the true can-do spirit of JLCR: she is extremely eager to help, learn, and step up to any task she senses is falling behind. A positive attitude literally BEAMS from her and she brings a light and a energy driven towards serving others to every task. We are so lucky to have her!

Wheels in Motion Award - Ashley Burns

Ashley did an outstanding job leading the efforts around Stuff the Truck, without background and experience with it in the past. She jumped right in and exemplifies the opportunities to learn and grow through league by doing. I am excited to see what's next for Ashley and how she continues to lead by example!

Leadership Award - Mandy Ferrante

Mandy is an alum of past successful Fostering Strength events - and her ability and eagerness to help out with this years event proved invaluable! Mandy is driven, organized and most importantly... not afraid to shy away from having fun. She strikes a beautiful balance between leadership and advocacy and we love her continued dedication to all things JLCR!

Rising Star Award - Allison Ackerman & Kristin Kuettel Johnson

Both Allison & Kristin stepped up BIG TIME as new members to help fill in the gaps with planning Fostering Strength this year. Having never been to the event before... it is even more impressive that they stepped up and made things happen! Thank you, ladies, for your bravery and dedication to the cause.

Honorary Members Award - Liz Mathis

Liz was one of our very excellent Fostering Strength panelists- doing this on her own time for the sake of our project means the world to JLCR and our community at large! Thank you, Liz, for being part of our cause and helping us spread awareness to the rest of Cedar Rapids.

Sustainer of the Year Award - Jenny Bosking

Jenny has done a wonderful job encouraging the participation of our long-time sustainers this year. She has been mindful to provide physical mailers to those who are not on the interwebs. In addition, Jenny has been working tirelessly to re-engage sustainers who have lapsed in membership

Robert O. Daniel Community Service Award - Van Meter, Inc.

It wouldn't be "Stuff the Truck" without the truck! Van Meter has proven to be an excellent community partner- beyond just providing the vehicle, the people behind the vehicle really show what an amazing company who hires amazing people can do for our community.

Up for Whatever Award - Carly Henderson

Carly is always there to help with the things that need doing! Beside her double placement, she's actively involved in our project and volunteers to help out whenever the situation presents itself.

Kicking Assets and Taking Names Award- Natalie Garin & Danielle Monthei

Natalie stepped up and filled the Treasury position mid-year. She did a great job jumping in and learning as she went. She got a lot accomplished with not know what she got herself into.

Danielle did a great job stepping into the VP of Operations role. It was fun to see her excitement about financials. She has spent countless hours trying to get her arms wrapped around our finances this year, which is what makes league function. It's not always glamorous and so much happens behind the scenes without people seeing and appreciating the impact.

Inspiration Award - Rachel Rigdon

If there's one individual that never fails to inspire me, it's Rachel. She embodies what it means to be caring and enthusiastic, and always goes the extra mile to reach out and check in with other members. I am consistently amazed at how she utilized her skills, talents, and connections to further JLCR's mission in our community - we are so lucky to have her bright spirit!

Absolutely Radiant Award - Allison Witters

Allison is the perfect recipient for the Absolutely Radiant Award! She is a delight both in and out of league and never fails to make people laugh and smile. She truly lights up any room she enters and I always enjoy having conversations and spending time with her.

Communications Queen Award - Nicole Ridge

Nicole has worked tirelessly on the Communications committee to not only keep membership updated with news and events, but has gone above and beyond to prepare items for Fostering Strength this year. Her creativity and dedication to JLCR and our mission is absolutely wonderful! She is always up to help out wherever she is needed, no matter what else may be going on, and has kept us moving steadily this year.



FY23 LEADERSHIP & SPONSORS

Junior League of Cedar Rapids is able to impact our community with the generous support of sponsors, community partners, and our board and management teams. Thank you to those that have supported us this past year!

FY23 Board of Directors

President: Rachel Rigdon
President-Elect: Heidi Goettsch
Treasurer: Natalie Garin
Secretary: Carrie Kellogg
Nominating Chair: Jess Netolicky
Executive Vice President of Management:
Elyse Garlock

FY23 Management Team

Executive Vice President of Management, Assistant:
Allison Witters
VP of Communications: Kelsey Veldhuizen
VP of Community: Jena Schoenhofer
VP of Fund Development: Jess Van Erdewyk
VP of Membership: Melissa Miller
VP of Operations: Danielle Monthei
At-Large Management Member: Carly Henderson

FY23 Gold Sponsors

Cargill
Diamond V
F&M Bank

FY23 Silver Sponsors

Alliant Energy
UFG Insurance

FY23 Bronze Sponsors

Bankers Trust
CarePro Health Services
Cedar Rapids Area Association of Realtors
Farmers State Bank
Hills Bank
Pactiv Evergreen
TrueNorth Companies, L.C.

FY23 Additional & In-Kind Sponsors

AP Film & Photo
deNovo
Greg's Lawn & Landscaping
Hanna Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
Hawkeye Communication
HyVee
Pierson's Flower Shop
Rapids Reproductions
Willow Sweet Treats



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSTION

ASSETS

Cash	\$150,121.73
Accounts Receivable	\$4,376.20
Certificate of Deposit	\$28,731.70
Fixed Assets	\$25,675.02
Endowment	\$248,279.22
Total Assets	\$457,183.87

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	\$8,161.08
Deferred Revenue - Dues	\$20,091.44
Long-Term Liabilities	\$18,738.53
Total Liabilities	\$46,991.05
Total Equity	\$410,192.82
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$457,183.87

STAY CONNECTED, SHARE OUR IMPACT

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Junior League of Cedar Rapids



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