

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

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FY 2019



PRESIDENTS LETTER

Dear Valued Supporters,

Junior League of Cedar Rapids began its 85th year this year and staying true to our roots, we filled the year with hundreds of hours of community service, leadership and training opportunities for women, and advocating for youth aging out of the foster care system. I am so proud to be part of an organization that provides such a unique opportunity for women to build and develop skills to that help them progress in their careers and civic service while making a huge impact in the Cedar Rapids community.

This year, JLCR continued work on our Bridging the G.A.P. project, which provides services and support to teens in our community aging out of the foster care system. We also had our first three participants in the JLCR "Housing First" program. These young adults had their rent covered in full, for six months and then the rental support was tapered over the next six months. Because rent was provided during this program, young adults were able to focus on education and or their careers without worrying about whether or not they would be able to pay for rent.

The cherry on top of an amazing year for me was our league was accepting an award from the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) for our Bridging the G.A.P Project at our AJLI Winter Leadership Conference. (See more below!) The award reflected all of the work and love our members have put into making a difference in the lives of youth in foster care.

I'm excited for you to continue reading our Impact To The Community to see all of the amazing things our members have done in the 2018-2019 league year. We know that we could not be the organization we are without the help of our sponsors, donors, friends, and partners who believe in and support our mission. When we combine our time, talent, and treasure to better our community we truly become unstoppable!

Sam McGrane
President
2018-2019



OUR IMPACT

The JLCR Bridging the G.A.P. (Guide, Advocate, Provide) project supports foster youth and young adults who have recently aged out of the Iowa Foster Care system with basic needs through our Apartment in a Suitcase Program, The Scholarship Program, and our Housing First Project.

Our Apartment in a Suitcase which has approximately x number of items valued at close to \$1,000 were provided to x number of young people. These starter packs contain just what someone needs to get settled into their first apartment or house.

The Scholarship Program received over \$15,000 in requests this year. Some of the requests granted included: multiple laptops for students entering college, bikes for young adults to get to work each day, and rental assistance for a pregnant mother who missed work due to pregnancy complications. Providing this scholarship kept this her housed during an incredibly vulnerable time.

We also continue to provide meals for youth and young adults who attend Foundation 2's Achieving Maximum Potential (AMP) support group. This year over 400 meals were provided including home cooked traditional holiday meals during Thanksgiving and Christmas. During our May meeting we treated all attendees to Dairy Queen gift cards and an extra Casey's gift card was given to each young person who was graduating high school!



HOUSING FIRST PROJECT

Our Housing First Project provides 100% rent payment to participants in months 1-6, followed by 66% payment in months 7-9, and 33% payment in months 10-12. The expectations of participants include detailed budget tracking, continued engagement with their Foundation 2 Advocate (our community partner for the project) and saving 20% of their income each month.

Our favorite story comes from Josie who was in school, working and ran into a car issue which cost \$1,300 to fix. Josie followed the programs expectations and had an emergency fund saved up. When it came time to pay for the car repairs Josie was hesitant to use her emergency fund, her Advocate had to reexplain, this is an emergency! You have done a wonderful job saving and now you get to avoid an additional loan and the rest of your bills will still be paid on time! The program was working, she didn't want to spend her hard earned dollars and wanted to save them instead.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Top row: Erica Bergfeld-Reed (VP of Fund Development, Jenny Skogman (At-large),
Cara Joens (President Elect), Jodie Carlson (At-large), Crystal Hardinger (VP of Membership),
Bottom row: Angel Burns (VP Of Communications), Nicole Kintzle (VP of Operations),
Sam McGrane (President), Adriane Moline (VP of Community)

TRAINING IMPACT

Providing women with training opportunities is a critical part of the work we do. In the last year Junior League of Cedar Rapids sent women to Junior League International training including Winter Leadership and the Organization Development Institute.

Our new members hosted a self defense training. Members had the opportunity to participate in Strengths Finders, the Women Lead Change Conference, Gale Mote Leadership



COLGATE AWARD RECIPIENT



The purpose of the Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures Community Impact Award is to recognize Junior League projects that concretely illustrate the Junior League tradition of achieving significant community impact through collaboration. JLCR was awarded the Colgate Award for our Bridging the G.A.P (Guide. Advocate. Provide.) Project, which was established by JLCR in 2011. JLCR has partnered with other local nonprofits and governmental agencies including Foundation 2, Families Helping Families, and DHS to support the approximately 700 youth in foster care in the Cedar Rapids area, 40% of whom are teens.