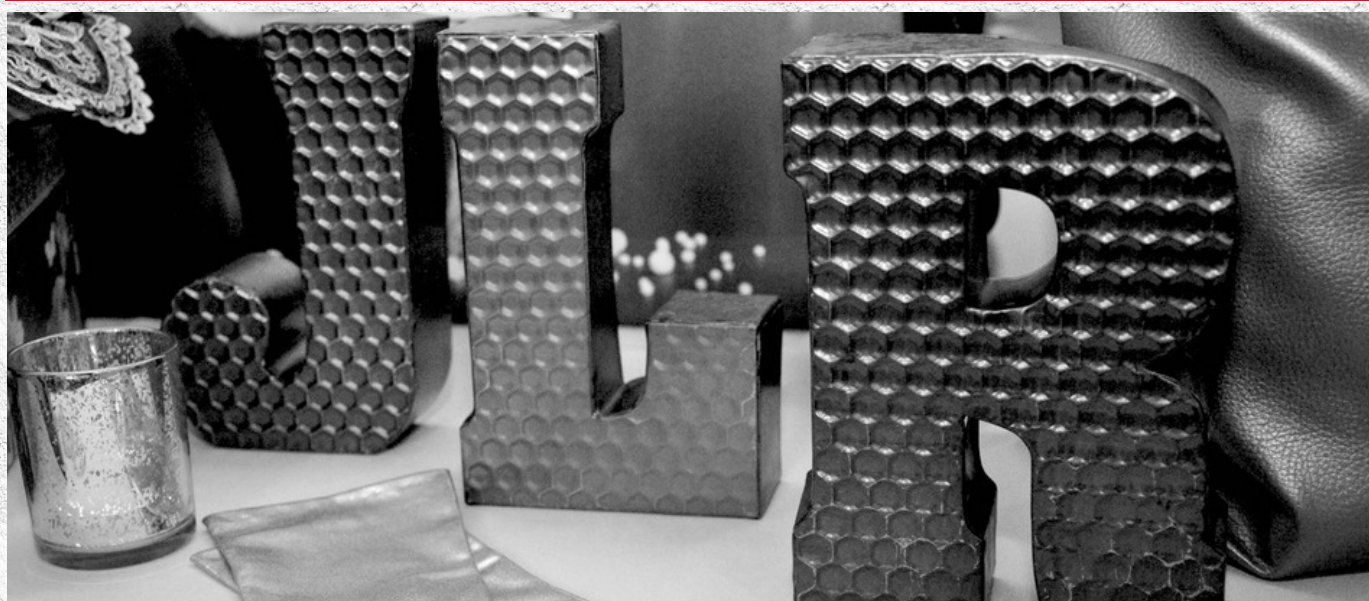




JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
RACINE

RAPPORT

FALL 2018



Why Junior League?

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF RACINE

The Junior League of Racine empowers civic-minded women through training and volunteer opportunities that address Racine County's most urgent needs, in order to create lasting and meaningful change.

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A Note From Our President

BY ANDREA BUKACEK



Six years ago I joined the Junior League of Racine. Thinking back on that time, my life was pretty full. I had just started a new job, I was active in a number of volunteer and networking organizations, and I had just bought my first house.

I thought to myself, "There is no way The Junior League is going to fit into my lifestyle right now. I cannot possibly fit another 'thing' into my schedule." Furthermore, being a Racine native, I was skeptical about an investment in League, as I assumed I already knew everything about our community. I mean, "I grew up here, what else do I need to know about our community?" Ultimately, I decided to join for professional reasons, and am I forever grateful that I made that decision. What I have received from League is so much more than I could have ever imagined.

Six years ago I wondered what League could do for me? I also wondered what my true reason was for joining? I remembered my grandmother, Bernice, had been a member, so, I felt a small connection through her. However, I really didn't know much about JLR, or what they did. How was a (then) young-professional going to relate to an organization my Grandmother had belonged to? No offense Grandma! But after joining, I began carving out a little time for Junior League, and then I carved out a little more, and then a little more. I'm not even sure I realized at the time just how much JLR was impacting my life. All the while, my life was getting more demanding, including the arrival of my daughter. That said, here I was adding more time to Junior League. Why?

There isn't a short answer to the question why I joined, but if I had to choose one, it's the people. I can't begin to express how much I've learned and grown as an individual through the people, colleagues, and friends, I have met through League. I have to admit; I didn't think this was going to be a result of joining JLR.



Every interaction, project, and organization I have encountered through League has been a professional or personal training opportunity. This training has turned women in Racine into empowered women - leading change, and creating opportunities for others.

"Transforming leagues. Transforming communities."

- Andrea Bukacek

In the six short years since I've joined League, we have seen both big and small changes. Racine has changed, and the Junior League has evolved along with it in every aspect. Our growth as an organization can be seen both externally and internally. We hit our 100th year celebration in 2016, and with the marking of our 100th year we decided it was time to change our local brand to better align with the Junior League's international organization - Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI). This means that we said goodbye to our iconic lighthouse logo and adopted our current red and white logo, which affiliates with the Junior Leagues across the country. In addition, we gave our Rapport a facelift with a quarterly and public release. As Racine and our League began to change, we realized our membership was changing as well and we needed to take on a new and improved management system, utilizing the technology we had at our fingertips. This new system has provided additional training opportunities and professional branding for our League. The Junior League of Racine is filled with professional women, mothers, and community leaders - we had to find a way to continue to provide invaluable training but do so in a way that understands the time constraints of our membership. We decided that this would be the year we revamp our structure to better meet the needs of our members.



We have come to realize that our growth has caused a transformation in League. We are building off our rich history and further evolving into an organization that empowers women in a way that utilizes everyone's most precious resource - TIME. Our transformation allows us as an organization to lead our ever-changing community. Through our increased efficiency we are better equipped to make long-lasting impacts in our communities. We look forward to our continued growth over the next 100 years.

TIK Talks

A WORD FROM OUR SUSTAINERS



Friendships for a Lifetime

On May 31, 2003, I looked out at four tables of Junior Leaguers among the 20 at my wedding reception. I had been in Racine for only two years, and yet some of my most cherished friends were spending one of the most important days of my life with me.

Seventeen years ago, I learned about Junior League during my second month in Racine -- and have been involved ever since. Junior Leaguers have been involved in every aspect of our lives: our health care, our legal affairs, our investments, our real estate transfers, and in our child's care and schooling. Honestly, my social backbone became the wonderful women friends who became my sisters and my village.

I'll never forget when League women helped me pack up my house when we were selling. Or when they threw me a baby shower. The Racine Junior League is truly unique; it's never been about politics or money or social standing to be in League here. It's about heart, soul, and the honest to goodness willingness to give of yourself.

I had friends who had known me for ages and balked when I told them I was in Junior League. They said I was so far from a League type of woman; they couldn't imagine it. They were thinking mostly of the East coast or Southern stereotypes. Not only was I in League, but I became Racine's second African-American president of Junior League. My theme was "Engagement" and we went back to basics to recharge the ladies my year as president.

As a woman who was in a town and knew no one except my fiancé, the women of League surrounded me with care, conscientiousness and nurturing. They taught me how to be a strong volunteer and advocate. When my only child was born, my Junior League friends were there. When I dealt with miscarriages, my Junior League friends were there. When my mother passed away, Junior League was there. Through good and bad career choices, Junior Leaguers have supported me in ways a woman can only dream.

If you've not given League a true chance in your life, I encourage you to reach out and across and make friends for a lifetime through League. (Photo by Variety Studios)

~Autumn Latimore
President, 2009-2010



Value Beyond League

As active members gear up for another great year in league, the planning for projects, fundraisers and meetings begin. It may seem tedious to make all the decisions as to how to accomplish the goals for the year, but I'm here, like the voice of League Years Past, to tell you that you are gaining more than you think. All of the tasks, meetings and agendas helped prepare me for roles beyond JLR. Of course, I didn't realize at the time, but now I can look back and appreciate that there is value in rolling up your sleeves and digging into your committee work!

As a sustainer, I've found many needs and opportunities that require me to use my skills learned in Junior League. Whether it be presenting suggestions at work or helping on other non-profits in the Racine community, the skills of running a meeting, organizing volunteers, soliciting sponsors, forming partnerships, and communicating for a cause have all given me a great advantage.

I have benefited greatly from the trainings at GMM's and from going to various AJLI conferences. The experiences and connections with other leagues, allowed me to gain new ideas. The content of the trainings expanded my foundation of knowledge about leadership. The friendships and relationships I have built in League are treasured and their support goes beyond League.

So, next time you are stressing about a meeting or making arrangements for a fundraiser, take pride in your work and be assured that the skills and networks you are building, are lasting and will bring you value beyond League! [Photo by Sarah Greening Photography]

~ Jessica Lynott
President, 2014-2015

Fundraising Initiatives

#GIVING TUESDAY™

First Black Friday. Then Cyber Monday. After 2 days of shopping, it's time to start Giving! Giving Tuesday is a national movement for reflection and an opportunity to give back to your favorite charities. Please take a moment to reflect on the impact the Junior League of Racine has made to the Racine community over the past 100 years. Help support our mission and make a tax-deductible donation on Giving Tuesday.

You can donate at www.jlracine.org/donate/



The Junior League of Racine will be hosting our 2nd annual Grand Gala, Wines & Steins Around the World fundraiser on Friday, March 15, 2019. Last year's event was such a success, we are bringing it back! The event will include a wine and beer tasting, hors d'oeuvres, music, dancing, raffles and auctions. Look for more information to come in our next newsletter, on our website, and Facebook page.

Photographs from Wines and Steins Gala - 2018



Past Projects

Focus on Community

BY KATE GRUETTNER

FEATURING JASON MEEKMA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Project Background

In 1978, the Junior League of Racine conducted a needs assessment to appraise community problems, needs and resources. A plan to discourage youth alcohol and drug abuse was seen as a top issue in Racine County. After a great deal of research, study and planning, the Junior League decided to begin a county-wide council to increase public awareness, provide prevention education, advocate for quality treatment, and provide information and referral services. From this project, Focus on Community (Focus), formerly the Racine Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse, was established in 1980.

What are the main initiatives that Focus on Community is committed to?

Focus on Community (Focus) is a substance abuse prevention agency. This means we spend our time working with youth and families, helping them develop important skills and resources to reduce risky behavior and improve communication and decision making.

How has Focus grown over the years?

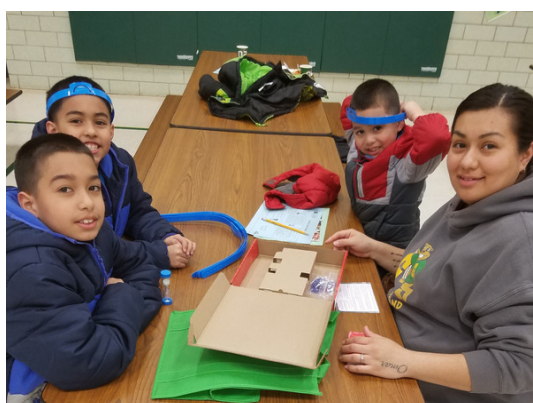
Focus has blossomed into a robust non-profit agency. We have gone from one simple program that served a few hundred youth to an agency that provides twelve different programs and serves over eight thousand people in our community annually.

What do you envision for the future of the agency?

Our big picture as an agency is to be “the best non-profit in Racine”. That is not to say we are better than everyone else, because every non-profit holds tremendous value. Our objective is to be a model agency that is widely known, innovative and a model for other non-profit organizations.

How can Junior League of Racine or others in our community help support the great work you and your team are doing?

In our growth we have developed several ways for people to get involved. Whether it is painting rocks, serving food, or helping at an event, there are many ways to help grow our mission and impact the lives of the people we serve. If time is not available, we could always use support either monetarily or in the form of new board games, new toys or new school supplies.



Calendar of Events 2018-2019

Monday, November 12th

Community Meal

Our members will be serving a hot meal to those in need. If you are interested in making a donation for the meal, volunteer your time, or learn more about our community impact opportunities, please send us an email.

Tuesday, November 27th

Giving Tuesday

After having fun on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, it's time to GIVE BACK! Please take a moment to reflect on the impact JLR has made and donate.

Donations can be made directly on our website.

Friday, March 15th

Wines & Steins Around the World Gala

Save the date for our annual fundraising event. Stay tuned and check out our website and Facebook for more details.

Our General Membership Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm. Check out our website for location updates.

A Blast From Our Past

Pictures from years past showing our commitment to the Racine community.



Become A Member

Interested in Joining JLR?

Contact us today!

On Facebook:

@Junior League of Racine

On the Web:

www.jlracine.org

By email:

info@jlracine.org

By Mail:

Junior League of Racine

P.O. Box 085744

Racine, WI 53408

By Phone:

262-770-5571

**CALLING ALL WOMEN WHO DO GOOD AND
WANT TO BE INSPIRED!**

**Interested in joining our dynamic group?
See our dates below and find an information
event that works for you.**

EVENT DATES

**Saturday, October 20th: 2pm-4pm
Pottery Painting at Alpaca Art in Kenosha**

**Saturday, November 10th: 10am-12pm
Baking and Donating Apple Pies**

A Special Thank You to our Local Sponsors!



If you or your business is interested in becoming a Sponsor, please email fd@jlracine.org.