



**THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
STARK COUNTY, OHIO, INC.**

*Women building better communities®*

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## HEADQUARTERS reminders

- Regular office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 am until 12 pm and 12 pm until 2 pm, by appointment only.
- Starting on June 1 through August 31 the summer office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am until 12 pm and 12 pm until 2 pm, by appointment only.
- Office will be closed the following days:

May 13, 2015  
May 25, 2015  
July 6-10, 2015

# etcetera

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 2 |

Spring 2015

## Major Projects/DIAD

The Junior League of Stark County, Ohio, Inc. has completed several Done In A Day (DIAD) projects throughout the 2014-2015 league year. The initial DIAD was held on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at Habitat for Humanity (1400 Raff Road SW, Canton).

Seventeen Junior League volunteers transformed a general space into a cozy, fun, and inviting reading room for children to enjoy while their parents attend Habitat for Humanity workshops. The room was designed in a Dr. Seuss theme with creative quotes and canvases painted by talented members. Junior League members donated numerous books and puzzles to complete the room. Habitat for Humanity

was so excited and impressed with our dedication and hard work, that they invited us back for an additional DIAD project at the Habitat ReStore on Cleveland Avenue. Junior League volunteers braved the blizzard conditions on Valentine's Day to paint a large area inside the ReStore.



Santa and Mrs. Claus joined us from the North Pole on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> for "Cookies and Cocoa" for area military members and their families. Each child received an age appropriate gift, crafted Christmas ornaments, sang carols with Mrs. Claus and sat on Santa's lap for one last chance to tell Santa their dreams of Christmas. Adults were treated to relaxing chair massages by Amy Whitman and paraffin wax treatments.

"A Night at the Museum" on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Canton Museum of Art, was a big hit with Girl Scouts who attended. The night consisted of a scavenger hunt throughout the museum, canvas painting, and making spring cards to donate to the Domestic Violence Shelter. It was fun to see each girl design and create their canvas.

The Major Project Committee is currently in the planning stages of Girls Empowered and Motivated (GEM), which will take place in May. We will keep you posted for further details and updates as plans are secured.



## mission

The Junior League of Stark County, Ohio, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

## vision

The Junior League: Women around the world as catalysts for lasting community change.



Cara Beisert  
President

## President's Perspective

Greetings!

As the end of this, our 78<sup>th</sup> year, approaches, I cannot help but reflect on what a year it has been. The initial feelings of unease I experienced when we began to deviate from "how we've always done it" have dissipated in to nothing more than pride for what we have accomplished, and sheer excitement for what is to come. All across League, enthusiasm and renewed interest is evident – from well-staffed and engaging Done In A Day projects, to robust General Membership Meetings, to increased Sustainer support and involvement, to a goal-exceeding Major Fundraiser, to much media coverage highlighting our grant initiative – members and the community at large have continued to show their support of the transformation we have made and continue to make.

With the selection of The Martin Center (TMC) as our partner for a multi-year project to start this summer, we have committed our resources to make an impact in a number of ways. The Martin Center is a community center servicing Canton teens by providing not only educational, recreational, and social opportunities after school, but also food for its patrons, and other basic needs for teens that may be transient. TMC, located in the former Martin Elementary, has plans to renovate the facility to include a commercial kitchen, as well as to bring certain areas of the building up to code in order to provide temporary housing for teens in need. In addition, the facility has needs related to its community garden, a separate home adjacent to the main building, and can always use help with cleaning/organizing and also one-on-one tutoring and mentoring with the children. There will be no shortage of ways we can help, and I am confident each and every member will be able to find a facet of the project that speaks to her. This project can be anything we make it, and it will undoubtedly be wildly successful, impactful, and fulfilling for all involved.

To close, I would like to say thank you for making my time as President an enjoyable one. Two years have flown by in the blink of an eye, and I am forever changed by the experience. While stepping back is certainly bittersweet, I am pleased to be handing the reigns to a group of smart, driven, capable women in the form of the incoming Executive Board and Leadership Team. I look forward to watching endeavors such as the Major Project and the Junior Leaders Community Service Grant Program grow, develop, and flourish. The best is yet to come!

Thank you for another great year!

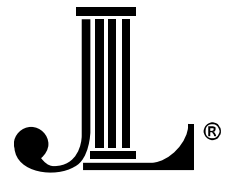
*Cara*



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## ***Junior League of Stark County's Leadership Team 2014-2015***

President  
President Elect  
Secretary

Cara Beisert\*  
Teresa Fout\*  
Megan Seeley\*

**Community Council:**  
Community Council VP  
Major Project Chair  
Strategic Planning Chair

Stephanie Helline\*  
Jen Barone  
Amanda Clark

**Sustainer Council:**  
Sustainer Council VP  
Women of the Year Chair  
Women of the Year Chair Elect

Megan Pellegrino (s)\*  
Nichole Cardinale (s)  
Sandy Turner

**Finance Council:**  
Finance Council VP  
Fundraising Chair  
Fundraising Chair Elect  
Treasurer  
Treasurer Elect

Melissa Lombardi\*  
Lora Harley  
Megan Seeley  
Tara Beachy\*  
Deanna Parks\*

**Training and Development Council:**  
Training and Development Council VP  
Admissions / Provisional Chair  
Admissions / Provisional Chair Elect  
Leadership Placement Chair  
Membership Meetings & Training Chair

Jenn Campbell\*  
Sarah Lambos  
Elyse Ramirez  
Kari Willoughby  
Lisa Lynch

\* Executive Board Member

JLSC Administrative Assistant

Cindy Fisher

## **JLSC Awards First Junior Leaders Community Service Grants**

We have a winner...actually, we have two winners! In its very first year, the Junior Leaders Community Service Grant has taken off and been a success beyond all expectations. Twenty-two (22) well-conceived and well-written applications were submitted by the January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. The selection team, lead by Grant Coordinator Megan Pellegrino, included the following members: Meagan Sayre-Piegols, Faith Barbato, Stephanie Helline, Teresa Fout, and Cara Beisert who had the difficult job of selecting a winner from each age category.

JLSC is pleased to share that our K-5<sup>th</sup> grade winner was Kayveona Atkins, a 4<sup>th</sup> grader from Madge Youtz Elementary School in Canton. Our 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade winner was Anna Moeglin, a junior at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Louisville. League has committed \$2,500 to each project and both will benefit the YWCA of Canton. Kayveona and a group of "grant girls" will be making 300 care bags for women and children living in the shelter at the YWCA, and Anna will be building and planting a garden, from which children in the Y's daycare program will be able to collect produce. The intention of this grant is to encourage young women to get involved in volunteer projects that benefit the community while at the same time developing their leadership skills. The projects are currently underway and will be completed by the end of May.



**Junior Leaders Community Service Grant recipients Kayveona Atkins and Anna Moeglin in attendance at JLSC's recent Gala**

# etcetera

## Sustainers Enjoy Lunch and a Play

A wonderful time was had by all in attendance at the December gathering of Sustainers. The afternoon began with a delicious lunch at Basil Asian Bistro in downtown Canton where Sustainers enjoyed catching up with old friends and making new ones. Given the holiday season, members enjoyed sharing their favorite holiday traditions with one another.

Following lunch, members had the pleasure of attending a matinee performance of A Christmas Carol: The Musical by the Canton Player's Guild. It was a truly magical performance, even bringing several members to tears! As is always the case, time spent with one another was time well spent.

Thank you to all who attended and we hope to see many more familiar faces at our next gathering!



Front row: Susan Bowling, Wendy Lichtenwalter, Suzie Thomas, and Anne Coen. Back row: Megan Pellegrino, Sandy Turner, Mary Elizabeth Kennedy, Cheryl Stewart, Sally Effremoff, and Susie Steiner

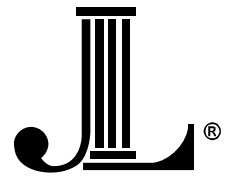
## **New Project Announcement**

At the March GMM, members voted on a Major Project for the 2015-2018 League calendar. Under the "Adopt-a-School" theme, three potential project locations were reviewed and The Martin Center was chosen. Pastor Terry Hunka bought the Martin Elementary School building from the city of Canton three years ago for \$1. Since that time, he has created a gang safe zone for approximately 50-80 middle and high school students on Monday through Thursday evenings. Students come to the Martin Center to play basketball, receive a hot meal, get assistance with their homework, learn to play a musical instrument or take dance lessons.

Pastor Hunka has realized this progress solely through the help of a volunteer network. We look forward to many opportunities in the next three years to expand the potential of The Martin Center and have an impact on the kids being served. Possible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Installing an elevator that meets Americans with Disability Act (ADA) standards
- Enhancing the community garden and incorporating "Kids in the Kitchen" events
- Updating the onsite computer lab
- Remodeling housing for homeless teens and teens aging out of foster care
- DIAD activities such as cleaning, painting, and small remodeling jobs
- Providing training and resources for fundraising efforts and grant writing
- Developing and implementing leadership and character building programming
- Building a commercial kitchen





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## Provisional Project

This year's Provisional class is looking forward to collaborating with The Alliance for Children & Families, Inc. (ACF) on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015. ACF is dedicated to helping children, individuals, and families lead lives of stability, self-sufficiency, and enhancement. The Provisional members will provide a hot meal and drawstring backpack of food to approximately 30 children at the shelter. Additionally, the Provisional class will engage in healthy eating activities with the children in an effort to teach them healthy eating habits and the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Provisional members will also provide the parents of these children with an informational resource folder in an effort to provide parents with helpful tips on grocery shopping, bus routes, inexpensive and healthy recipes, as well as a placemat. The Provisional members are very excited about this opportunity and are looking forward to serving the children and families at ACF!

## Winter Leadership

*Teresa Fout, President Elect*

This January, I had the great privilege of attending JLI's Winter Leadership Conference in sunny Orlando, Florida. Three Hundred Sixty-Five (365) total delegates attended, representing 200 Leagues from around the world. I was so impressed by how thoughtfully the conference was organized, and how AJLI lead by example. Leagues were grouped according to size for trainings, so I was nearly always in a room full of delegates from similarly-sized Leagues. I quickly discovered that many of the challenges we face in Stark County are challenges faced by leagues all around the nation. Like us, many Leagues are going through a renaissance period of reinventing themselves to better meet the needs of their members and communities. It is an exciting time to be in League!

Some interesting trainings included: virtual meetings, different ways to track membership requirements, recruitment strategies, useful apps, fundraising ideas, and other Leagues' experiences with multi-year projects.



From left to right: Future presidents Teresa Fout, Rebecca Taylor, Harrisburg, PA, Eileen Carter, Reno, NV, Jenica Jacobi, Albuquerque, NM

Perhaps the most valuable part of the conference was networking with other leaders, and sharing ideas. I met so many amazing women, and picked their brains every chance I got: over lunch, over dinner, and during breaks. AJLI did a wonderful job of instantly creating a feeling of community, even though many of us did not know one another, and we were all from different places. There was such a positive, collaborative vibe throughout the conference, and I felt like my experience there was extremely valuable. I look forward to sharing the insights I learned with the 2015-2016 Leadership Team, and all of our members.

**2015-2016**  
**Leadership**  
**Team**

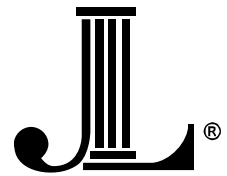
**President-** Teresa Fout  
**President Elect-** Stephanie Helline  
**Secretary-** Whitney Gonidakis  
**Community Council Vice President-** Amanda Clark  
**Finance Council Vice President-** Lora Harley  
**Treasurer-** Deanna Parks  
**Treasurer Elect-** Jenn Campbell  
**Training & Development Vice President-** Jenifer Hill  
**Sustainer Council Vice President-** Cathy Williams

# etcetera

## Red Carpet Gala

A Red Carpet Gala held on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 was certainly a night to remember! Over 150 people enjoyed great food, numerous silent auction items, and an exciting live auction; after which they were entertained by casino style gambling. Our members and community came together and raised over \$36,000 to support The Junior League of Stark County's mission and to kick off our multi-year Adopt-a-School project at the Martin Center. We would like to extend a special thank you to our donors for their generous support.

415 Group  
4 Cookie Divas  
77 Colonial Lanes  
91 Wood Fired Restaurants  
African Safari Wildlife Park  
Akron Art Museum  
Akron Racers  
Akron RubberDucks  
Akron Zoo  
All Sports Camp  
Ambiance. The Store for Lovers!  
Amy and Mike Mast  
Angry Barbeque  
Anthony Rossi Photography  
A Quality Facility Services/Chris and Cheryle Paxos  
Arby's  
Ashley Monroe-Independent Scentsy Consultant  
Auto Zone  
Aveda  
Baja Pizzafish  
Belden Village Mall  
BJ Wholesale Club  
Bluegrass Design/Build Landscapes, Irrigation  
and Lighting  
Bonefish Grill  
Books-A-Million  
Boulder Brands  
Brett, Jan--Children's Author  
Bridget Graham, Avon  
Brinker International  
Brookside Country Club  
Buckeye Travel Biz  
Buffalo Wild Wings (BW3) Belden Village location  
Buffalo Wild Wings (BW3) Massillon location  
Cain BMW  
Canton Ballet  
Canton Chair Rental  
Canton Charge  
Canton Food Tours  
Canton Palace Theatre  
Canton Symphony Orchestra  
Cedar Point  
Center Ice Sports Complex  
Chick-Fil-A  
Christine Allensworth  
Cici's Pizza  
Cincinnati Reds  
Cinemark Tinseltown USA  
Clay's Park Resort  
Cleaver & Sokolowski, LLC  
Cleveland Botanical Garden  
Cleveland Browns  
Cleveland Cavaliers  
Cleveland Gladiators  
Cleveland Indians  
Cleveland Metroparks  
Cleveland Orchestra  
Cleveland Zoo  
Columbus Blue Jackets  
Columbus Crew  
Columbus Museum of Art  
COSI  
Cottage Draperies & Interiors  
Country Fest  
Covelli Enterprises aka Panera Bread  
Craig and Paula Robinson  
Creation Museum  
CVS Pharmacy  
Dean and Grace Olivieri  
DeHoff Realtors/Linda DeHoff  
Desert Inn  
Diana Boggia  
Dickenson Stained Glass Studio  
Dillard's/Estee Lauder, Belden Village Mall  
Dillard's/Estee Lauder, Summit Mall  
Diva Gymnastics Academy  
Dollywood  
Domino's Pizza  
Don and Barb Cockroft  
Drs. Babics and Ash, DDS  
Drs. Danielle Kiko and Steven Willard, Obstetrics  
and Gynecology  
Dumonts Sporting Goods  
Dutchman Hospitality Group, Walnut Creek, Ohio  
East Coast Martial Arts  
Edgewood Community Center  
Ellsworth Auto Body  
Emily and Brian Klink  
Face Up Aesthetics Institute  
Farm at Walnut Creek  
Fisher's Adventure Gear/Fisher's ATV World  
Flower Factory  
Fout Law Office  
Fox & Hound  
Friend of the Junior League  
Friend of the Pro Football Hall of Fame  
Enshrinement Festival  
Frig & Fraq, Inc.  
Gasser Fine Jewelers  
Giant Eagle, Raff Road  
Glenmoor Country Club



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Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company  
Gordon Food Services (GFS)  
Gourmet Gift Baskets.com  
Great Lakes Brewing Co.  
Hall of Fame Fitness Center, Inc.  
Hilton Garden Inn - Akron/Canton Airport  
Holiday Valley Mountain Resort & Conference  
Center  
Impulse Personal and Sports Training  
Hampton Inn & Suites Columbus/Easton  
Harry London/Fannie May  
Hartville Hardware  
Heggy's Nut Shop  
Henry B. Ball Jewelers  
Highlights Magazine  
Hosner Carpet One  
lanazone's Pizza  
Janet Diamond  
Jennifer Jackson  
Jenn Sebrell, Pampered Chef  
Jim and Vicki Conley  
J&K Subway  
John and Nancy Baker  
Joyce Farrell  
Judge Dixie Park  
K-9 Hairstyles  
Kari's Kitchen  
Kate Owen, Thirty-One Representative  
Kennedy's BBQ  
Kings Island  
Kozmo's Grille  
Lainey Bee Boutique  
Lake Erie Monsters  
La Pizzeria  
Laura and Ryan Kuchmaner  
Lazer Tag Group  
Lifeway Christian Bookstore  
Linda Alford  
Lindsey's Pizza  
Little White Feather Shop  
LOC Fishing Derby  
LoDano's Footwear  
Longhorn Steakhouse  
Louise and Ed Mahoney  
Lucia and Joseph Pileggi  
Magic Mountain Fun Center  
Maid Brigade  
Main Street Gourmet  
Mallory & Justin Photographers  
Malone University  
Maps Air Museum  
Massillon Museum  
Max & Erma's  
Maximilian Group - Dairy Queen, Jackson Twp.  
McKinley Grand Hotel  
Megan Seeley  
Mellion Orthodontics  
Michael and Faith Barbato  
Michael and Melissa Lombardi

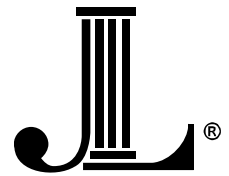
Mid's Pasta Sauce  
Morgan, Bernard & Associates Orthodontics  
Nancy Hoover  
Nancy Platek  
Natalie Weinsz  
Nathan's Patio Bar & Grill  
Nicole Spain, MS, RD/Advocare  
North Canton Racquet Club  
North Canton Skate Center  
North Canton YMCA  
NY Skyride  
Ohio Light Opera  
Ohio Pools and Spas  
Ohio State University, Athletic Dept.  
OH Wow! The Roger & Gloria Jones  
Children's Center for Science & Technology  
Old Carolina Barbeque  
Origami Owl Jewelry  
Outback Steakhouse  
Outerwall aka Redbox  
Pancho's Southwestern Grille  
Papa Gyros  
Patricia and Richard Seiple  
Patricia Miller  
Pellegrino Music Center  
Petunia Pickle Bottom  
P. Graham Dunn Factory Store  
Pittsburgh Pirates  
Pittsburgh Steelers  
Pizza Oven/Papa Bears  
Plain Township  
Plain Township Fire Department  
Planet Fitness  
Players Guild Theatre  
Portrait Innovations  
Premier Bank & Trust  
Pro Football Hall of Fame  
Progressive Foam Technologies, Inc.  
Rack Room Shoes  
Rae Ellen Smedley  
Raintree Country Club  
Red Carpet Car Wash  
Rick and Kerri Salvino  
Robert Mayone  
Roger W. Hair  
Rosanna Fierro  
Salon Mystique  
Salt Fort Lodge aka Xanterra Parks & Resort  
Salvino Dolce Bakery  
Schauer Group, Inc.  
Second Sole  
Shady Hollow Country Club  
Shannon English Marketing  
Sheetz  
Shelly L. Boss, DDS  
Sheraton Suites Cuyahoga Falls  
Signature Services/Stephanie Jackson  
Silpada Designs  
Skyland Pines

# etcetera

Sliman's Printery/Judi Humphries  
Sluggers & Putters Family Fun Park  
Snow Trails  
Solmet Technologies  
Spread Eagle Tavern & Inn  
Stahlheber's  
Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens  
Starbucks, Strip location  
State Representative and Mrs. Kirk and Darlene Schuring  
Susan E. Jenkins  
Table 6  
Taggarts Ice Cream  
Tapas 218  
The Belden Brick Company  
The Canal Fulton Glassworks Glass Studio & Art Gallery  
The Cheesecake Factory, Westlake location  
The Cleveland Improv Comedy Club  
The Deuble Foundation  
The District Boutique  
The Hair Shoppe & Spa  
The J.M. Smucker Co.  
The Junior League of Stark County Admission/Provisional Committee  
The Junior League of Stark County Executive Board Committee  
The Junior League of Stark County Leadership Placement Committee  
The Junior League of Stark County Major Fundraiser Committee  
The Junior League of Stark County Major Project Committee  
The Junior League of Stark County Membership Meeting & Training Committee  
The Junior League of Stark County Strategic Planning Committee  
The Laurie Berkner Band  
The Lodge at Geneva-on-the-Lake  
The Mark Angelus Salon  
The Melting Pot  
The Party Place  
The Q Arena  
The Sangria Stand  
The Skin Affair Spa  
The Spa at Atrium  
The Step 2 Company, LLC  
The University of Akron, Athletic Dept.  
The University of Akron, E.J. Thomas Performing Arts  
Tony and Lora Harley  
Top of the Rock Observation Deck at Rockefeller Center  
Trademark Entertainment  
Trumpet in the Land  
Umbr  
Valvoline Instant Oil Change  
Vista Psychological & Counseling Centre, LLC  
Vito Corleone's  
Walsh University  
Walt Disney World  
WHBC Radio  
Wilderness Center  
Wildlife Education, Ltd.  
William Eaglowski  
World Champion Taekwondo  
Wyland Worldwide LLC  
Zeppes Pizzeria

It was an incredible night filled with fun, support, and enthusiasm for our community. We hope to see you there next year!





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# Volunteering Counts!

The most important hour of your week may be the one you give away.

## Sustainers Make a Difference at the Stark County Hunger Task Force

On three separate occasions in November and December 2014, Sustainers took their time to help the community at the Stark County Hunger Task Force. Through their efforts, volunteer databases were updated, food was sorted for the Backpack Program, donations were delivered to affiliate pantries and community members in need of food were served. Sustainers experience in fundraising was also utilized by the Stark County Hunger Task Force as their input was gathered for an upcoming fundraising campaign, Hunger at Home, that is set to kick-off this summer. In fact, several Sustaining members have volunteered to be a part of the planning committee for this effort. Those members are: Denise Mulqueen, Barb Paulus, and Megan Pellegrino. Amy Weisbrod, Director of the Stark County Task Force, was very thankful for the efforts of our members and the continued support of The Junior League of Stark County throughout the years.



Barb Paulus and Suzie Thomas



Nancy Bond-Bundy



Elaine Harris, Candy Wallace, and Theresa Golden McClellan



Cheryl Stewart and Sandy Turner



Connie Rubin and Megan Pellegrino

## Shining Stars



### **October Shining Star: Faith Barbato**

October's Shining Star is definitely a go-getter! She is organized, enthusiastic, and always gets the job done. She used her background in fundraising to take full responsibility for the successful execution of the Reverse Raffle, going BIGGER AND BETTER with this fundraising event! She perfected every last detail, while delegating to committee members when necessary. Great job Faith Barbato!



### **November Shining Star: Stacey Leath**

November's Shining Star was awarded to Stacey Leath, who is always willing to take on tasks for the Major Project Committee including making contact phone calls and writing AMPs. She has been a great inspiration and an example of a team player. She has gone above and beyond to provide ideas for quality DIADs. Stacey stepped up and took ownership of the October Habitat for Humanity DIAD, showing strong leadership and passion for the project by researching decorating ideas for the room and serving as the point person for communication with Habitat. Kudos Stacey!



### **December Shining Star: Stephanie Jackson**

It was only fitting to award December's Shining Star to the member who has, for the last several years, coordinated JLSC's "Santa Project". Since becoming an Active member in 2007, she has served on many committees, including chairing Major Project. This year, in addition to once again coordinating the Santa Project, she is serving as an indispensable member of the Strategic Planning Committee, bringing her experience in League and out to the process of revisiting our project selection process, and conceptualizing a multi-year project that will address our community's most pressing needs. On top of all of that, she has spent a few years (this one included), utilizing her sales and marketing experience to benefit League via a placement on the Fundraising Committee. A true workhorse, December's Shining Star is Stephanie Jackson!



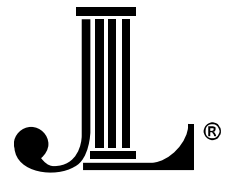
### **January Shining Star: Meagan Piegols**

Meagan Piegols has been an impassioned leader and a huge asset to the Major Project Committee. She has great ideas and does a fantastic job carrying out those ideas and having a true vision for the League's mission. She is very hard working and dedicated. Meagan offers great ideas and is willing to see them through to create a memorable experience. She has been a huge support to the MP committee by writing AMPs, taking an active role in the Cookies & Cocoa decorations, and most recently, she has taken the lead on the Night at the Museum DIAD. Cheers to January's Shining Star, Meagan Sayre-Piegols!



### **February Shining Star: Stephanie Harding**

February's Shining Star is serving a double placement on two of the most busy and involved committees within League. After being initially slated on the Fundraising Committee, she saw a need and volunteered to also become an active participant on the Major Project Committee. She has been a great asset to the Major Project committee by leading the parent pampering station at the Cookies & Cocoa DIAD and contributing new ideas for each of this year's projects. Her dedication to League is evident. Hats off to February's Shining Star, Stephanie Harding!



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### March Shining Star: Megan Seeley

March's Shining Star was awarded to a member who has shown her dedication to League many times over. She has been described as a true partner in every sense of the word; a positive role model who leads by example and a wonderful sounding board for ideas. She has been a valuable member of not only the Fundraising Committee, but also of the Executive Board. She consistently goes above and beyond with enthusiasm in her role as a Junior League volunteer. Congrats to Megan Seeley!



### April Shining Star: Elyse Ramirez

April's Shining Star was awarded to Elyse Ramirez. As Chair Elect of the Admissions/ Provisional Committee, she shared many great recruiting ideas and has facilitated several trainings for the Provisional class. She is always available when new members have questions and has helped to make this year a success. She is a wonderful leader and a great member of League, using compassion and kindness in all she does. Thank you Elyse!

## GMM Update

This year, one of the goals we set for our committee was to add more opportunities to give back to our community at each meeting. In November, we made ornaments to be displayed at the Hoover Family Christmas and for the fifth year the ornaments and a Christmas tree were donated to a local family.

Our December social was held at Shady Hollow Country Club where we "wrapped up" our Santa Project. Membership gathered for some delicious snacks and wrapped all of the gifts to be given to some wonderful young adults who are aging out of the foster care system in Stark County.

"February was one of our best meetings yet," to quote one member. The residents at Canton Christian Home were delighted to receive and make Valentines with our Little Leaguers!

In March, we had our annual food drive for the Stark County Hunger Task Force. We will finish up in April making blankets that will be donated to the children staying at the Domestic Violence Shelter.

All in all, we had a worthwhile and productive year!



# etcetera

## **68th Annual Women of the Year Award**

For 68 years, the Junior League has honored women who have excelled in their service to others. The Junior League Women of the Year Awards are annually given to those women who have gone that extra mile, usually quietly and without fanfare. On Wednesday May 13, at Brookside Country Club, two women will receive their fanfare.

### Community Award Honoree– Dyanna Myers

Nominated for her volunteer work, The Honorable Andrew Zumber describes Dyanna in this way, “With a lively voice and infectious smile, Ms. Myers quickly introduces herself to any audience or group. Absolutely selfless, she not only gives of herself and her own means to help others, but will solicit her acquaintances to provide assistance when her own resources are exhausted. Candidly, she is one of the forgotten heroines of our community – due in large part to her very nature of quiet perseverance in service to others”. Dyanna is Founder and Curator of the Alliance Historical Black History Museum. She orchestrated community assemblies held with the Alliance students and the Alliance Police, Mayor, Judge, Prosecutor and local pastors in the wake of the recent national tragedies. She has been the volunteer Executive Director of the Alliance Neighborhood Center. She has been involved in the After School Tutorial Program and Summer Enrichment programs/camps for at risk children and youth. In addition she participated with the Summer Meal Program in collaboration with Alliance City Schools and the University of Mount Union plus breakfast on Sunday for local hungry and needy children. For the past two years she has organized the Mother Child Annual Brunch and has helped to orchestrate free haircuts for children as they enter a new school year.

Dyanna is and has volunteered actively with the following: President of the Maple Beach Neighborhood Association, Organizer of Community Focus, President for Women of Worship, Apple Seed Program, co-organizer for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration, Board Member for the Alliance Carnation Festival, Board Member of the Urban Pastors Association and past board member of the following – Alliance Habitat for Humanity, Alliance Study Circle on Race Relation, Stark County Hunger Task Force, and Alliance of Churches Youth Council.

Allan Andreani, Mayor of Alliance sums it up by stating, “As you can see she is an extremely active dedicated individual working for our community”.

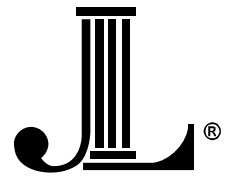
### President’s Award Honoree – Kathleen Prasnal

Nominated for her work with the Stark County Medical Society Auxiliary, Amy Smith and Diana McCulty stated, “Kathleen is an amazing woman and highly deserving of recognition for her many years of service to our organization and to the Stark County area in general.” As a volunteer with the Stark County Medical Society (SCMSA), she has been President three different years, was a member of the Executive Board as Vice President and Secretary, plus she has served on many committees over 22 years, including Program Chair, Nominating, Style Show Fundraiser and the Scholarship committee, plus Membership Chair for the Ohio State Medical Association Alliance (OSMAA). She was also instrumental in making the SCMSA a 501(C)3 charity. Kathleen was a volunteer for SAFE KIDS DAY and SAVE (Stop America’s Violence Everywhere), which was brought to Stark County Elementary Schools. As the SCMSA is a part of a larger alliance of Auxiliaries, Kathleen has served on the state level also. At the State level, Kathleen was the 6<sup>th</sup> District Director for the Ohio State Medical Association Alliance (OSMAA), served on their Executive Board, and was involved as a committee chair for various committees, including Communications Chair, Spirit and Marketing Chair, and Health Promotions Chair. She is also an active member of the Mercy Service League.

In Stark County, Kathleen has volunteered with Impact 100, Shared Blessings, JRC and St. Paul’s Women’s Guild, Access Health Stark County, P.A.L.S., North Canton City Schools, Relay for Life and the Alliance Community Hospital Charity Ball. Last year, she volunteered as a celebrity ballroom dancer for the Massillon Lincoln Theatre. She has mentored middle school girls for Quest, and mentored young women for the Domestic Violence Project.

Amy and Diana added “It is an extensive list... One thing we would like to add is that Kathleen does all of this without hesitation, with a bright smile on her face and a very positive attitude. She is the first to say yes when something needs done and she is a wonderful ambassador for our organization”.

The 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Women of the Year is chaired by Junior League Sustainer, Nichole Cardinale. The spring-themed event will start at 11:00 am. Attendees are invited to meet the winners during the gathering, which will be followed by a luncheon featuring Chicken Crepes or Thai Vegetable Stir Fry. The program to honor the Women of the Year will begin at 12:30 pm. We would like to extend a special thank you to this year’s judges: Sarah Buell, Lada Gibson, Eric Belden, Eric Smer, Kathy Yaros, Lisa Warburton-Gregory and Barbara Armitage.



THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
STARK COUNTY, OHIO, INC.

# Classifieds

## 15. HELP WANTED

Looking for civic-minded women willing to make a difference in Stark County. Must be 21 years or older and ready to dedicate their time and talents to projects with a focus on childhood development. Training (and friendships) will be provided. Please contact Elyse Ramirez with names of those who might be interested in filling this position. [Elyse.n.ramirez@gmail.com](mailto:Elyse.n.ramirez@gmail.com).



THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
STARK COUNTY, OHIO, INC.  
*Women building better communities®*

## Endowment Fund



In 2004, The Junior League of Stark County established an Endowment Fund with the Stark Community Foundation. This fund assists us in our commitment to service throughout the community by ensuring that our charitable activities continue to strengthen community involvement by providing a trained volunteer resource base. The fund has grown substantially over the years thanks to donations made by our members and friends of the League; it now totals over \$125,000.

The Junior League of Stark County also makes a donation to the Fund in memory of Junior League of Stark County members that have passed away.

If you are interested in making a donation, please contact headquarters.



**THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
STARK COUNTY, OHIO, INC.**

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## upcoming events

May 12	General Membership Meeting	6:00 pm	Social, 6:30 Meeting (Shady Hollow Country Club)
May 13	Women of the Year	11:00 am	Brookside Country Club