

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 1

Fall 2015

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

Women building better communities®

#### **INSIDE**

President's Perspective	2
Super Saturday	3
Meet the Executive Board	4
Sustainer Spotlight	9
ODI Conference	10
CODE Day	12
Junior Leaders Service Grant	18

## reminders

- Regular office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 am until 12 pm and 12 pm until 2 pm, by appointment only.
- Office closed the following dates:
   November 25-30
   December 23-January 1
   January 18
   February 15
   March 21-25
- In the event that any schools in the Canton, Jackson Township, or North Canton School District are closed on any day due to inclement weather, then it is understood the League office will be closed, and any Junior League meetings or events scheduled for that day will be cancelled, rescheduled and announced at a later date.

## Community Impact

The Junior League of Stark County, Ohio, Inc. (JLSC) and the Community Impact Committee, formerly Major Project Committee, have spent the last few months researching and getting acquainted with The Martin Center (TMC). Our first endeavor was a DIAD this past May in which JLSC members planned, designed and implemented a community garden to provide fresh vegetables to the surrounding community, as well as, the kids who are active at TMC. JLSC members also had the opportunity to tour TMC and The Clifford House. It was a fantastic opportunity to get a glimpse into the potential impact JLSC can have on TMC and vice versa.

Meagan Piegols, Community Impact Co-Chair Elect, has been dedicated to organizing, scheduling and assisting committees with providing a fabulous meal each month to the kids who attend TMC. It has been such a great experience to interact with the teens and middle schoolers. Providing and serving a monthly meal appears so simple, however, this by far is one of the most important DIAD opportunities members can participate in. The need is so great!

The Clifford House is a single family home that has previously been purchased by TMC with the intention of providing safe and secure housing for at-risk young adults who are either homeless or transitioning out of foster care. A group of members from JLSC Executive Board, Community Impact Committee, and the Grant Writing Committee had an amazing opportunity to do a walk through at The Clifford House with Jodi Wayble, Community Outreach Coordinator with

Hammer & Nails. Jodi's passion for renovating and seeing the potential in a home was inspiring and provided the vision needed to move forward. Stephanie Harding, Community Impact Co-Chair Elect, is The Clifford House point person and is currently organizing a round table of community resources to begin the renovations with the hopes of being able to house young adults within the next 6 months. There will be many "hands on" opportunities once this project gets underway...get ready to swing a sledge hammer!

In addition to all of the above activities, the Community Impact Committee is actively planning

DIAD opportunities. These opportunities may look different than they have in the past. With the exciting projects being organized, developed and eventually implemented at TMC, the committee is focusing on DIAD opportunities that allow JLSC to partner with other community organizations and provide volunteer woman power, as well as monetary resources as needed.

Check upcoming Eblasts for opportunities to get involved and acquire volunteer hours. The members who volunteered for the Early Childhood Resource Center's Big, Big, Really Big Toy Box event had a great time... it was truly an amazing event and one that JLSC needs to mark on our calendars for next year.



## 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.



Teresa Fout President

## President's Perspective

"The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity." – Amelia Earhart

The decision to partner for three years with The Martin Center (TMC) was in many ways an easy one for our members to make. We came together as one mind, wanting to use our time and resources to make an impact on the needlest part of our community. We wanted to help disadvantaged children, and we wanted to be a contributor to real and lasting change. We wanted to do something big.

I am so proud of our members, and so grateful for their tenacity as we are now in this together. We are feeding approximately forty teens twice a month, with a lot of help from Sustainers who have re-engaged with great enthusiasm. We have stepped in to lead and fund a construction project with P.A.L. Mission, Hammer & Nails, and The Martin Center. Together, we will open The Clifford House – a temporary shelter for homeless teens in southeast Canton. We have planted a community garden next to TMC. We are starting a backpack program to feed the kids over the weekends, and we are developing a plan to build a high capacity kitchen at TMC, so volunteers can cook for the teens on site. Our grant writing committee is actively researching and writing grant proposals in support of these projects, and we are networking with other agencies to bring as many resources to TMC as we can. Our fundraising committee is working hard to bring people and resources together, because we cannot continue to do this important work without funding.

I am astounded by the incredible progress we have already made with these projects, over just the first few months! I cannot wait to see what we are able to accomplish together over three years. The fact is, our members are so capable, and they are so generous with their time and talents. We all have a lot of demands on us: families, work, school, to name a few. None of us can make this kind of impact on our community alone. That is why we work together, lean on each other, build each other up, and celebrate the impact we are able to make collectively.

As I think about League, I am grateful for how much I learn every day: about leadership, about teamwork, about organizing volunteers, and about our community. That's the unexpected thing about this organization: by working together to improve our community, we also improve ourselves.

Thank you for everything that you do,

Teresa Fout

President 2015 - 2016







## Super Saturday

The Recruiting and Admissions Committee would like to welcome sixteen amazing new women to the Junior League Stark County. With the help of our active members and our community reputation, we are proud to welcome this diverse group of women to our league. Our new members are all from different backgrounds, talents, and cultures. We welcome in business owners, nurses, entrepreneurs, and realtors, just to name a few!

We kicked off our year with Super Saturday on October 3, 2015 held at Stark County Main Library. New members received a tour of The Martin Center to see first person what it looks like currently and how we are going to be a part of the bigger picture. Meg Seeley did an energizing and empowering presentation on fundraising, gala, and personally invited each member to be a part of her committee. Stacey Leath gave an enthusiastic training on personalities and different color types. We are excited to engage a wonderful group of women with a variety of colors!

Thank you so much to our Recruiting and Admissions Committee: Ashley Monroe, Stephanie Jackson, Stephanie

Hand-Cannane, Tara Beachy, and Lynn Kelley. We've been led by amazing leaders who have gone above and beyond, Amanda Clark, Jenifer Hill, Stephanie Helline, and Teresa Fout. Of course, we couldn't have done it all without the inspiring and engaging women who have helped us recruit.

We appreciate your support and inviting spirit as we welcome and invest in our new friends and members.



We are excited to welcome the 15-16 Provisional Class to The Junior League of Stark County. The Provisionals were kind enough to share some fun facts about themselves.

- ♦ Deanna Campos: sings and plays piano
- ♦ Alida Marie Fausnight: Is a sales director at Mary Kay and is on her way to earning the pink Cadillac
- ♦ Katy Fedeli: has visited Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. And enjoyed it
- ♦ Cassie Foster: has ran 2 full marathons, rode her bicycle 467 miles down the west coast of Florida, and is training for the Columbus half ironman this coming August
- Lyndsey Hanzlik: is a proud graduate of Ohio State and loves going to the games
- ♦ Ashley Ikeler: Attended 4 different high schools
- ♦ Ericka Johnson: nothing provided
- ♦ Jade Kelly: cuts her own hair
- ♦ Leah Lowdermilk: her husband is 16 inches taller than her
- ♦ Amber Ollis: has a new baby hedgehog
- Ellie Opperman: has been to 15 different countries
- ♦ Geanina Sanpetru: works out five days a week and loves to dance for fun
- Rochelle Smith: has lived and traveled in Europe for 6 months in college. Went all over London, France, Italy, Ireland and Scotland
- ♦ Kim Wells: has not cooked the same meal in the last three years
- Barbara Jean Winston: loves the arts and recently attended an independent film festival in Canada
- Beth Yoak: loves animals and riding horses



### Meet the Executive Board



Teresa Fout

- President



Stephanie Helline President Elect

Whitney Gondiakis Secretary

- Where are you from? Tucson, AZ
- Tell us about your family. I am married to Roger, and I have two children and a poodle.
- What makes you laugh? People who aren't afraid to act silly and let their inner child out!
- How do you recharge? Read a good book, go outside to breathe the fresh air, catch up with faraway friends and family on the phone.
- What is a memorable JLSC project/fundraiser you really enjoyed? Why? Planting the community garden at The Martin Center, because it is the very essence of helping others: providing fresh food when and where people need it. I am so grateful and inspired by the "can do" attitude of our wonderful members, and how they're willing to roll up their sleeves and make a difference.
- What is your advice to a new JLSC member? Sign up for work days. Working alongside people is the best way to get to know each other and feel plugged in to League. It's also a great way to learn how League works. Don't be scared! Just jump right in.
- Where are you from? I grew up in North Huntingdon, PA (east of Pittsburgh)
- Tell us about your family. My husband (Ryan) and I live in Massillon and love to travel. We have no kids or pets, but have 6 nieces and nephews.
- What makes you laugh? Comedy movies or shows, like Impractical Jokers.
- How do you recharge? Spending time with friends and family. Just getting away for a weekend to see a new city or exploring the hiking trails of Stark Parks.
- What is a memorable JLSC project/fundraiser you really enjoyed? Why? Our provisional project at Turnaround Community Outreach was a great project because our provisional class was able to work as a group to identify needs, we taught teen mom's about cooking and parenting, and each family was able to take home a crockpot to help prepare meals at home! I have also enjoyed many of our Done in a Day events, like painting at the Crisis Intervention Recovery Center, Habitat Restore, and the Heritage Christian School. It's amazing to see the transformation of the room after a few hours of work by many Junior League members.
- What is your advice to a new JLSC member? To understand what you want to get out of league and don't be afraid to get involved and ask guestions. There are a lot of great women that come from different backgrounds that have great expertise to add to a project. Getting to know other women in League, while making an impact in the community is my favorite part of League.
- Where are you from? North Canton, OH
- Tell us about your family. My husband Zak and I have been married for five and a half years. We just expanded our family with the addition of our little girl Harper Mae born July 10th 2015. Harper also has two fur brothers Melo and Blu.
- What makes you laugh? I would have to say my husband makes me laugh the most our sarcastic sense of humor really plays off of each other, there is not a day we don't laugh together!
- How do you recharge? Running gets me recharged, after a rough day lacing up my shoes and heading outside always clears my head, allows me to reflect on my day and appreciate all of nature's beauty.
- What is a memorable JLSC project/fundraiser you really enjoyed? Why? I enjoyed our provisional project. Making blankets with the kids allowed us to interact with them and gave them something tangible they could hold on to and remember a fun evening together. I also had the sweetest girl cuddle with me while watching the movie and it just melted my
- What is your advice to a new JLSC member? Get involved! It is easy to sit back and just come to the meetings but diving in allows you to extend your reach and really get to know so many amazing women who have a remarkable impact on the community.





Amanda Clark Community Council VP

- Where are you from? Williamstown, WV
- Tell us about your family. I am married, I have four step-kids, one son, one dog, and two cats. I also have over 50 first cousins! (No WV jokes, Iol!)
- What makes you laugh? My 11 year old son tells some good stories. I also love to watch pretty much any Will Ferrell movie.
- How do you recharge? I like to organize, whether it be my closet, my bills, my computer files, whatever. I like a good spinning class. A fun night out with friends (and wine) also works wonders.
- What is a memorable JLSC project/fundraiser you really enjoyed? Why? I really liked
  painting the indoor play space at Heritage Christian School. I am a terrible artist, but with
  the help of another talented woman, I painted a palm tree that looked like an actual palm
  tree! It was a fun day with everyone and Cara's old school play list.
- What is your advice to a new JLSC member? Don't be afraid to speak up and step up. We are a small League and no one is going to turn down an offer to help. Talk to someone new and share your experiences with everyone.



Lora L. Harley Finance Council VP

- Where are you from? Canton, Ohio
- Tell us about your family. I have been married to my husband Tony for 17 years, and we have two kids – Hannah (8) and Luke (6) as well as our 13 year old dog Bogey and 2 year old toad Hershey.
- What makes you laugh? Anything...I am always a good audience!
- How do you recharge? I try to recharge by doing something for myself like reading a book, catching my favorite exercise class or simply spending time with my friends chatting over a cup of coffee.
- What is a memorable JLSC project/fundraiser you really enjoyed? Why? The G.E.M. (Girls Empowered and Motivated) is hands down my favorite service project. This was the project executed by my Provisional Class. We spent President's Day with middle school girls from an inner city middle school with organized activities focused on anti-risky behaviors. This was one of the most impactful days I have experienced with the Junior League of Stark County. My favorite fundraiser was last year's A Red Carpet Gala because executing a fundraiser of this magnitude is a year-long process. The event planning process is really enjoyable, but especially when surrounded by a group of ladies that grow to be a close team during the league year!
- What is your advice to a new JLSC member? Enjoy your provisional year! Learn as much as you can during this first year with our organization, but always make sure you have fun while doing it!



Deanna Parks Treasurer

- Where are you from? I was born in Cleveland, Ohio but have lived in 8 different cities since I was born.
- Tell us about your family. I am the youngest of six children. I have a husband named Jim. We have been married for almost 19 years. We have a 13 year old named Jacob and 10 year old identical twin boys named Caleb and Christian.
- What makes you laugh? My children make me laugh and I laugh at myself a lot.
- How do you recharge? I recharge by playing the piano or reading.
- What is a memorable JLSC project/fundraiser you really enjoyed? Why? My first year
  active I was on the provisional committee. I really enjoyed the ladies I got to work with
  that year and the provisional class included some wonderful women. It was great to see
  them have such a success with the G.E.M. program.
- What is your advice to a new JLSC member? My advice to new members is to not be shy. At meetings, introduce yourselves, mingle, ask questions, and get to know as many people as possible. Also, it is very important to get involved as soon as you can. You can only make a difference if you are involved in a project.



Jenn Campbell Treasurer Elect

- Where are you from? Youngstown, Ohio
- Tell us about your family. I have been married to Greg for 14 years and have 2 children. Greg is 10 and Victoria is 9.
- What makes you laugh? Spending time with my family and our jokes that only we think are funny
- How do you recharge? Spending time at Lake Mohawk.
- What is a memorable JLSC project/fundraiser you really enjoyed? My favorite project was our provisional project (GEM) when we partnered with Allen Elementary. My favorite fundraiser was A Night in the Big Apple.
- What is your advice to a new JLSC member? My advice is to get to keep an open mind
  when working with other members. TMC is an incredible project and JL will make a
  significant impact over the next few years. Take the time to see the strengths of the
  women surrounding you. You will meet exceptional leaders because some women will
  show that in their work and some will show that from their hearts.



Jenifer (Haller) Hill Training and Development Council VP

- I was born in Cleveland Ohio and raised in Canton! I am thankful to call Stark County home and look forward to seeing what is in store for our County!
- Family- My husband Darin and I have been married for 4 years and have known each
  another since we were kids. We have two dogs, Perscilla, a min pin and Bender (named
  after Benders downtown) a labradoodle. No kiddos, yet!:) However, we enjoy time with
  both of our large families on weekends and holidays.
- Laugh- Everyday I look for something to make me laugh! They say it's the best form of
  medicine, so I try to take a daily dose by listening to others, giving space for someone to
  share a funny story or simply laughing at myself!
- To recharge, I like to be around others. Specifically, I enjoy having a cup of coffee with a friend, being outside walking my dogs or riding my bike and the best is a hot yoga session!
- The most memorable JLSC project for me was my provisional class project at the Alliance Family Shelter. Seeing the faces of the kids as they made their own blankets and listening to them laugh with one another, despite their current situation, was an experience I will never forget!
- Advice- JL is what you make it! We need feedback, both strengths and opportunities for next steps... so please, share your thoughts, be yourself and give to this community, it needs you!



Suzie Thomas Sustainer Council VP

- Where are you from? Canton, Ohio
- Tell us about your family. My husband Jim is a retired teacher, and now serves as a recruiter for adult studies at Malone. Our son Seth and his family recently relocated to Stark County, where he serves at the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board in marketing & communications. His wife Heather (a nurse) stays home to care for our almost 3-year-old granddaughter Maggie. Our son Jake works for Warner Brothers in Burbank, CA. He and his wife Erin, a director, work on all kinds of fun film projects together. I've even occasionally gotten to be an extra!
- What makes you laugh? Every member of my family makes me laugh OFTEN!
- How do you recharge? I need to start each day with a little quiet time and my Bible.
- What is a memorable JLSC project/fundraiser you really enjoyed? Why? Too many to mention, but I especially loved the year we renovated Mother Gooseland. My own home may have gone a little neglected that summer, but The Three Bears' house looked awesome!
- What is your advice to a new JLSC member? Have fun you are about to make lifelong friendships!



## <u>Upcoming Fundraisers</u>

The Major Fundraiser committee has been busy planning our first fundraiser! Back by popular demand, we will once again hold a tailgate-themed Reverse Raffle at the Lake Cable Club House on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Casual or favorite football team attire is encouraged. The evening will be filled with lots of fun, food and prize money. The Grand Prize is \$1,500!

In addition to the main event of the reverse raffle, we will offer side board betting and a sure bet tree. The sure bet tree will be filled with many gift cards from local businesses...everyone is a winner! We hope to see everyone there! Call Junior League headquarters today to purchase your \$30 ticket. Only 200 tickets will be sold!!!

The Major Fundraiser committee is also planning our major fundraiser...the annual Gala! This year's silent and live auction gala will be held in early March. Look for more details coming soon in your Save the Date!

### 2015-2016 Advisors/Advisees

Every year each Active member is assigned to an Advisor who is a member of the Leadership Placement Committee. The Leadership Placement Committee's main objective is to assist members in meeting their personal League goals and membership requirements. They also shall assist in the maintenance of records on all Active members and serve as mentors to Active members.

Following please find the Advisor-Advisee assignments for this League year. Your Advisors will be in contact with you several times throughout the year to help you realize your aspirations as a member of The Junior League and consequently, your feedback and input from these communications are key to helping us make your League experience the greatest possible. If we inadvertently missed your assignment to an Advisor, please contact Kim Hinderegger at mkhindy@sbcglobal.net as soon as possible.

<b>Kim</b>	Hind	ereg	ger

Amanda Clark Jen Barone Sarah Lambos Chrissy Rice Stacey Leath Tara Beachy Lora Harley Jenifer Hill Deanna Parks

#### Tara Beachy

Elyse Ramirez Ashley Monroe Stacie Stearn Stephanie Jackson Lynn Kelley Megan Seeley Jenn Campbell Stephanie Helline Kim Hinderegger

#### Sarah Lambos

Whitney Gonidakis Sarah Chilson Stephanie Miller Ashley Rich Katie Wernow Melissa Lombardi

#### Jen Barone

Stephanie Harding
Meagan Piegols
Faith Barbato
Mihaela Ciupitu
Laura Kuchmaner
Nicole Miller
Manndy Williams
Teresa Fout
Stephanie Hand-Cannane
Sara Ehret

#### Stacey Leath

Melinda Willard Abby Schock Kathryn Siegfried April Criss Zakiya Harris Stephanie Dominick Kara Williams Rosanna Fierro

## Junior League of Stark County's Leadership Team 2015-2016

President President Elect Secretary

#### **Community Council:**

Community Council VP Community Impact Chair Community Impact Co-Chair Elect

Recruiting & Admissions Chair Recruiting & Admissions Chair Elect

#### **Sustainer Council:**

Sustainer Council VP Women of the Year Chair Stephanie Harding and Meagan Piegols Elyse Ramirez Ashley Monroe

Teresa Fout\*

Stephanie Helline\*

Jenn Campbell\*

Amanda Clark\*

Jen Barone

Suzie Thomas (s)\* Sandy Turner (s)

#### Finance Council:

Finance Council VP
Fundraising Chair
Fundraising Chair Elect
Treasurer
Treasurer Elect

#### **Training and Development Council:**

Training and Development Council VP Leadership Placement Chair Membership Meetings & Training Chair

JLSC Administrative Assistant

Lora Harley\* Megan Seeley Melinda Willard Deanna Parks\* Jenn Campbell\*

Jenifer Hill\* Kim Hinderegger Stacey Leath

Cindy Fisher

<sup>\*</sup> Executive Board Member

## Congratulations to the 2014 – 2015 annual award recipients



<u>Leader of the Year</u> - Jen Barone, who led the Major Project committee through a year of fun and innovative Done in a Day projects: A Night at the Museum, Cookies & Cocoa with Santa for Military Families, Tie Blankets for Domestic Violence Victims, and planting a community garden at TMC.



Active Member of the Year - Stephanie Jackson, who served as a dedicated member of the Strategic Planning committee, and who also helped a great deal with the Major Fundraiser, and the Santa Project for kids aging out of foster care. Stephanie loves to be a "worker bee," and we are so grateful for her consistently excellent work.



<u>Provisional of the Year</u> - Stephanie Hand-Cannane, who served as Provisional Class President, leading her class in a wonderful project at Alliance for Families. Provisionals provided meals for the children in the shelter, and planned fun, interactive crafts and games for the children and their families.

### Welcome new Community Advisory Council members

For many years, The Junior League of Stark County, Ohio, Inc. (JLSC), has convened a group of invested individuals who represent interests from across the county for its Community Advisory Council (CAC). The Junior League calls upon this group to provide valuable input on pressing community needs, fund development tactics, member recruitment and retention, and selection of League's annual Women of the Year honorees. Members of the CAC serve 3 year rolling terms, and the group consists of 6 (six) Sustaining Members of the organization, and 6 community leaders.

#### New Sustainer Members:

Stephanie Bradford is a JLSC Sustaining member who has a background in clinical social work and therapist in both public and private settings. Her experience in the public and private setting has included foster care, adoption, and mental health. She has worked with individuals, families and couples through various organizations in Stark County and we are excited to have her on board!

Connie Rubin is a JLSC Sustaining member beginning her term on the Community Advisory Council. She has retired from Stark Parks and is bringing her public relations and grant writing experience that will be advantageous in our endeavors with seeking for and obtaining grants for The Martin Center. Connie is active in the community and will be a great asset to the Community Advisory Council.

#### **New Community Member:**

Harold "Ben" Carter, is the Parent and Community Coordinator of the Canton City School District. He was hired in 2014 to help guide the district on how to prepare students for college. Carter, a Canton native, previously served as the program administrator of the Canton Young Scholars Program at the Ohio State University. His knowledge and experience with the students in the Canton City School District will be invaluable to the Junior League as we embark on our multi-year project with The Martin Center.

They join fellow members Suzanne Halm (JLSC), Judy Scheurer (JLSC), Nancy Platek (JLSC), Cynthia Lazor (JLSC), Sarah Buell – Stark Parks (Community), Sandra Watkins Cleaver – Cleaver & Sokolowski, LLC (Community), Eric Smer – ystark! (Community), Lada Gibson-Shreve, Ph.D. – Stark State College (Community) and Kathy Yaros – North Canton YMCA (Community).



## Sustainer Spotlight - Lucia Pileggi

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF STARK COUNTY, OHIO, INC.

Congratulations to JLSC Sustainer Lucia Pileggi, recently named KeyBank president for the Akron-Canton-Mahoning Valley region.

In her new role, Lucia is responsible, in part, for leading her team at 38 branches and building strong community relationships. Neither are new to Lucia.

She has served in leadership roles throughout our community as a way of life for years. In addition to the JLSC, Lucia has served as a board member with the Stark/Wayne American Heart Association,

Greater Akron Musical Association, Mahoning Valley Economic Development Committee and Stark County Italian American Festival Foundation. She is a member of Leadership Stark County's 26th Class and the Women's Board of Aultman Hospital. In 2014, she was inducted into the YWCA Women's Hall of Fame, and has been a past board member or member of the About Magazine Advisory Board, Arts in Stark Board, Mercy Medical Center Fund Development Committee and Junior Achievement.

She and her husband, Joseph, are the proud parents of the 2015 Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival Queen Sofia Pileggi, a teacher at Barr Elementary School; and Andrew, who attends the University of Akron.

### New Sustainer Spotlight—Kari Willoughby



Kari Willoughby became a sustaining member of the Junior League in May of this year, and we are so grateful for the gifts of her time and talent these past ten years. She is a shining example of a dedicated, quiet leader, and has consistently been an exemplary member of League. Kari's advice to new members is to "step out of your comfort zone and try something new. There is always someone who will support you and give you a helping hand. Ask questions, take the help – remember you get out of it what you put into it."

Kari joined Junior League in 2005, having just moved to Canton with her husband Patrick, and their one-year-old daughter Anna Grace. She wanted to learn more about the area, serve her community, and be an example to their daughter. Kari served on the Executive Board for six years. During her ten active years in League, she accepted leadership positions several times: as a member of the major fundraiser committee, community council VP (twice), training and development VP, finance council VP, membership meetings and training chair (twice), and leadership placement chair.

Her favorite memories from League are the hands on projects, where she could see an immediate impact: the all women's Habitat Build her provisional year, teaching cookie baking and decorating and redesigning the rooms for the mothers at Quest Recovery and Prevention, helping to construct the adaptive riding course at Pegasus Farm, and being part of the dedication of that riding course.

Kari has not only been an example to her daughters (since joining League, she now has two: Anna Grace and Charlotte), but she's been an example to all of the active members in League. She is always willing to pitch in, give her honest opinion, consider questions carefully, and give sound advice. If you get out of League what you put in, then Kari's cup must be overflowing, because she has been a pillar of League. It's not surprising that Kari plans to continue serving her community as a board member with the Aultman Women's Board and Hammer and Nails. We wish her all the best as she continues her legacy of service, and making sweet memories with her favorite people: Patrick, Anna Grace, and Charlotte.

### **Helping Hands**

There are countless benefits to being a member of the Junior League of Stark County Inc., but one that should be on the forefront is Helping Hands. Helping Hands was established to help members and their families during times of illness, the birth or arrival of a new child, or perhaps during a season of your life when you may need a little extra help! Kim Hinderegger, chair of Leadership Placement, organizes Helping Hands and is looking for members that can lend assistance by making a meal, running an errand, or perhaps offering child care. If you are willing to help, please email Kim at <a href="mailto:mkhindy@sbcglobal.net">mkhindy@sbcglobal.net</a>. You are not committed to help with each and every situation, only when it works with your schedule. Also, please contact Kim when you know of a need that arises with a member. Thank you!

#### **ODI** Conference

Four Junior League of Stark County (JLSC) members recently attended the Organizational Development Institute (ODI) leadership conference in May. Amanda Clark, Stephanie Harding, Stacey Leath and Elyse Ramirez travelled to Charlotte, NC along with 281 other JL members from 98 leagues across the nation. The ODI program included specific training programs for different League functions. Amanda and Stephanie attended the "Achieving Community Impact" sessions, while Stacey and Elyse attended the "Membership Development" training. Other training activities during the conference included diversity training, navigating the Association of Junior League International (AJLI) website, learning about the benefits of being a League member, and learning



Amanda Clark, Stacey Leath, Stephanie Harding and Elyse Ramirez

about how people accept change through their unique work styles. The ODI was a great experience for all four women. Not only was it a chance to meet other JL members from across the country, it was a great opportunity to get to know each other. There is no better bonding experience than running through the Atlanta airport from E concourse to B concourse in 20 minutes to make your flight home! The main takeaways from the training sessions follow.

#### **Achieving Community Impact**

"Motivating", "Inspiring", and "Challenging" were all words used to describe the 2015 ODI "Achieving Community Impact" track lead by Vicki Clark. Vicki's humorous stories, energetic attitude, and understanding of what "real life" League is like, helped delegates learn how to create an issue based community impact, how to form successful partnerships, and how to add member value.

Through worksheets and group discussions, delegates learned how to narrow down a broad generic topic into specific issues and then ultimately into "tactics" or projects. Our goal should be to focus on the broader issue, not just the project. These exercises exemplified how very lucky we are to have such a progressive and courageous Strategic Planning Committee. We are truly leading the way in developing an issue based community impact versus a project based community impact. Congrats to Stark County!

The discussions then moved towards developing community partnerships. Groups developed multiple lists of local organizations (such as law enforcement, farmers, restaurants etc) that we could collaborate with in order to achieve a greater community impact. Then, delegates discussed the intricacies of establishing partnerships including creating memorandums of agreement and conducting background checks. Discussions also included ways to sustain these partnerships and how to evaluate their effectiveness.

However, one of the strongest and most eye-opening statements that Vicki made was that you have to build community on the *inside* before you build community on the outside. Most delegates were in agreement, that we are constantly concerned with what we can provide for the community. As a training organization, we need to also focus on building value for our members. For example, what training opportunities exist for members with this project? What will members get out of this experience? Vicki also encouraged Leagues to stop working in committee silos. We are most impactful as one united League! For example, short training opportunities that relate directly to future volunteer experiences can be provided at meetings. This gives meetings value, educates members, and helps to enrich their volunteer experiences. The stronger we can make our internal community, the more equipped we are to affect change.



Overall, the ODI was a great way to network with other groups and find out what has been successful for them. It also inspired the delegates with numerous ideas on ways to improve our own League. Vicki best described the overall tone of the meeting when she said, "Every women has potential. You have to transform the women to transform the community." With this statement in mind, our League can be positioned to make great change.

#### **Membership Development**

If only there were a glass slipper that was one size fits all! Unfortunately, like many things in life, it's not that easy. As leaders, we need to allow members a voice and a choice. What does this mean? It means even as a small League, we need to offer a variety of opportunities in training, development and involvement. Palo Alto-Mid Peninsula sustainer, Naomi Chavez-Peters, presented sessions on membership. We discussed recruitment, onboarding best practices, talent development and placement, mentoring, training and retention of members. When it comes to finding new members, it's not about the venue or the food you offer, it's about your story. Yes, YOUR story! We all know the "Once upon a time in a land far, far away" stories. We remember them because they are magical and invoke an emotion in us. That is what you can offer in recruiting new members; we all have a story, share yours!

As Naomi said "Remember, League members are not born when they join League." We all have skills that are invaluable to offer to League; our goal should be to orient and engage provisional members right away so they can start their fairy tale and add to our purpose and mission. When it comes to member engagement we need to remember actives are not the only focus. Sustainers are members too and we need to appreciate and utilize them. Both sustainers and active members can offer mentoring and development. The goal of a mentor is to assist in the growth and development of Junior League volunteers and leaders. Keep in mind; it does not have to be formal to be someone's mentor. As a mentor, provide your mentee with what they need, not what you want to provide. You have a responsibility to develop those to replace you in your role. Communication is key, listen first and connect with your members.

Lastly, we need to feel our meetings are worthwhile. We all love League, but we are busy people! Who has time to sit for three hours to listen to reports? Retaining members is essential and the experiences we offer have a direct affect. The evil dragon for a majority of the Leagues in attendance at ODI was retention of members. Each of our fairy tales will take a different path, but we all have a common goal. It's time for The Junior League of Stark County, Inc. to join together and build our castle!

### Past President Luncheon



From left to right: Sandy Turner (2002-03), Megan Pellegrino (2010-11), Barbara Cockroft (1993-94), Nancy Leach (1988-89), Nancy Platek (2006-07), Joanne Ovnic (2009-10), Teresa Fout (2015-16), Stephanie Helline (2016-17)

## **CODE Day**

The Junior League of Akron hosted this year's CODE (Connect Ohio Develop Educate) Day at the downtown Akron library. As with many regional trainings, the most valuable part of the day was when each League showcased their best practices, and we all learned from each other. Some great takeaways were: aligning members' interests and skills with their roles in League, combining GMM time with committee meeting time, the importance of social media in promoting League, and involving provisionals directly in committees from the very beginning. Of note, the Junior League of Akron talked about their new recruitment strategy, which involves fall and spring entry points for new members, a much smaller provisional project, and instant committee placement for new members. Also, the Junior League of Toledo recently celebrated a "League through the Decades" event where Sustainers shared what they did in League during each decade, along with the historical context for those activities. This event preserved institutional knowledge, and promoted relationships between active members and sustainers.

President Teresa Fout described the process our League went through over the past year to select a three-year project with a larger budget and bigger community impact. She talked about the role of the Strategic Planning committee, as well as transparency and member engagement in the selection process from the very beginning, which resulted in higher member satisfaction with the project choice. AJLI Director of Education, Dr. JuWon Choi, Ed. D, said she was impressed with Stark County, and that our process



Dr. JuWon Choi, Ed. D

was "textbook" when it came to assessing community needs and matching them to what members want to do in League.

Dr. Choi, the author of AJLI's new membership model, emphasized giving members a voice and choice in League, effectively deploying and developing the talents of members, and promoting multiple connections. She suggested one -on-one interviews to better match members' talents to their placements, and introduced the idea of a "member compact" approach vs. membership requirements, as well as monthly meeting alternatives.

In attendance this year were members from the Junior Leagues of Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo, Youngstown, Akron and Stark County. AJLI commended our Leagues' regional CODE day is one of the few in the country that has continued uninterrupted for as many years as ours: 15 years.



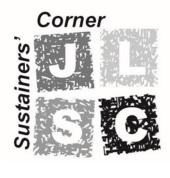


Pictured right: President of JLSC, Teresa Fout

Pictured above: Stacey Leath, Elyse Ramirez, President Teresa Fout, Amber Ollis, President Elect Stephanie Helline and Kimberly Wells







Sustainers have become an important part of the JLSC's Martin Center project. On the fourth Tuesday of each month, Sustainers have been preparing and serving meals to young people and,

occasionally, their families and other neighbors throughout SE Canton. Many thanks to Sally Bernard, Wendy Lichtenwalter, Susie Cook, Amy Goering, Denise MacNealy, Amy Mast, Kathy Mihalik, Sue Sokolowski, and Cheryl Stewart! If you would like to help in any way, please contact Suzie Thomas at 330-324-2424 or <a href="mailto:thomas.suzie04@gmail.com">thomas.suzie04@gmail.com</a>.



Sue Sokolowski, Kathy Mihalik, Amy Mast and Cheryl Stewart

## **Shining Star Awards**

#### Stephanie Dominick – September

Stephanie is a member of the Membership Development committee. In addition to her duties on her committee, she also volunteered to join the ad-hoc Grant Coordination committee that is in charge of facilitating training for The Martin Center on how to find and write grants. She has gone above and beyond in that role. She hasn't missed a meeting and, almost exclusively through her hard work, TMC is poised to submit a lengthy grant application to acquire a 15-passenger van from Northeast Ohio Golf Charities. She has also graciously volunteered to help with our website. All this while she is in the final stages of planning for her October wedding AND where she was thrown



a giant curve ball in the form of a devastating fire to St. Mary's Church in Massillon. She is always pleasant and engaged and has been wonderful to work with. She is a great example of what a Junior League member should be.

#### Meagan Piegols - October

Meagan has worked tirelessly this summer as co-chair elect for the Community Impact Project committee. She helped coordinate the planting of the community garden early this summer, and has coordinated the monthly meals at TMC since then. Her hard work helped re-engage sustainers, who have been providing meals a second night every month. Meagan is also heading up a backpack program to provide weekend meals for the teens. Feeding the kids is really the most basic and impactful thing we can do for them, and Meagan makes it all possible. Thank you Miss Meagan!



### **GMM Update**

The September GMM has gotten us off to a great start! Members of JLSC met at Habitat for Humanity, a former DIAD project site. We heard about what Habitat does for our community and how JLSC and Habitat have partnered in the past on projects. Stacey Leath conducted a What's Your Style icebreaker to demonstrate how our different personality types come together to make League successful.

We also had a training on the JLSC website to learn how to track our volunteer work with League as well as finding resources available to us. Thank you to all that participated in the DIAM project by bringing back to school supplies for The Martin Center; these will be available to the students throughout the year to ensure they are provided supplies to be successful.

The Membership Development Committee is looking forward to see you at our future GMMs!

### **New Sustainers**



#### LISA LYNCH

Lisa has enjoyed six years as a JLSC member, including her provisional year, and a very busy six years they have been! Some of the committees she served on include Major Project, chairing the Admissions/Provisional Committee, chairing MM&T while serving on Leadership Placement, and serving as VP of Training and Development. She said, "If I could have, I would have stayed on Admissions/Provisional Committee forever. I met some of the most wonderful people and learned so much about our community."

Currently Lisa is working on projects for Weaver Child Development Center, St. Paul School, and Tiqvah Hands of Hope.



#### **KATHY MIHALIK**

Kathy has been a JLSC member since 2007. During her Active years, she served on the Major Project Committee with fellow Sustainer, Sue Sokolowski, and enjoyed two years planning Meetings and Training. She believes that the current three-year project commitment to The Martin Center promises to be the most exciting project throughout her involvement. "Things just get better and better," she said. "This is one of the finest group of women I have been associated with."

In addition to JLSC, Kathy is a member of WIN (Womens Initiative Network), and involved with the nursery at Canton First Nazarene Church. Her plans for the future include continuing to practice elder law at her firm, Kathleen A. Mihalik, as well as, with Cleaver & Sokolowski, LLC.



#### **TIFFANIE ROBERTS**

Tiffanie has been a member of JLSC since 2004, and remained active on the Cookbook committee for two years before a move resulted in her becoming a non-resident active. Tiffanie enjoys travel, and recently returned from a trip to France – we hope after enjoying some delicious French cooking!



#### SUSAN SHEARER

Susie has been a JLSC member since 2008. Throughout her active years, she served on a number of committees including the Women of the Year committee under Sally Bernard's chairmanship. Susie enjoyed it so much that she has agreed to serve on the Women of the Year committee for 2015-16 with fellow sustainer Sandy Turner. She said that the greatest takeaway from League will be the friendships she has made.

An active community volunteer, Susie's service includes Eucharistic minister through St. Michael's Church for the home bound and nursing home residents, something she has done for nine years. She has also served as President of the Catholic Alumni Clubs International since 2013, and on the Board of Glenmoor Country Club since 2014. Susie sings in A Chorus For A Cause philanthropic choral group, is a member of the CAST (caring and serving together), the early college high school CAMP (cast apprenticeship and mentoring program), Stark County Ski Club, Symphony League, the Canton College Club, Women's Impact, and the Akron Women's Network.

Susie enjoys volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, and is a member of the Swing-a-lings square dancing club! She is also on the community advisory committee for Sarah Care.





#### KARI WILLOUGHBY

Kari began her JLSC career in 2006. Highlights of her involvement include working alongside Habitat for Humanity and Pegasus Farm. "Partnering with other women throughout Stark County to build a home for a mother and her two sons was incredible," she said. "In 2006, we constructed the outdoor riding therapy course at Pegasus. That project gave me a true picture of what women working together to better our community truly meant."

Kari says that she also enjoyed getting to know the leadership of League, serving on the Executive Board for four years. "That was an amazing experience to work under four fantastic Presidents," she said. "To learn the inner workings of League, and to transfer my knowledge from League to other non-profits." The fortunate organizations benefiting from her JLSC experience include the Aultman Women's Board, Hammer & Nails board, and Lake Elementary School PTO.

As for Kari's plans for the future? "Spending time with my sweet girls - Anna Grace (10) and Charlotte (20 months); laughing & growing old with my amazing husband Patrick of 13 years; and continuing to make yummy cutout sugar cookies - long days, short years, serving God & serving others!"

### Member Update

#### Congratulations to .....

Ryan and Evrim Fulmer on the birth of their baby girl, Olivia.

Zak and Whitney Gonidakis on the birth of their baby girl, Harper.

Zakiya Harris on the birth of her baby girl, Maya Zoelle McCoy

Tony and Sarah Lambos on the birth of their baby boy, Alexander.

Mike and Melissa Lombardi on the birth of their baby boy, Samuel.

Jonathon and Steph Miller on the birth of their baby girl, Zoe Elizabeth





## 2015-2016 Executive Board, Committee Chairs and Committee Members

\*Executive Board Member

\*\* Member serving on more than one committee

\*\*\* Ex-officio committee member

President –Teresa Fout\*
President Elect – Stephanie Helline\*
Secretary – Whitney Gonidakis\*

		Community Counc	<u>:il</u>	
Amanda Cla	ark*			. Vice President
		Community Impact Comm	<u>nittee</u>	
Stephanie F	Harding			Chair Elect
	Faith Barbato	Mihaela Ciupitu	Laura Kuchmaner	
	Manndy Williams	Stephanie Hand-Cannane	Nicole Miller	
	Sara Ehret			
		Recruiting & Admission	<u>ns</u>	
	Tara Beachy**	Stephanie Jackson	Lynn Kelley	
	Stacie Stearn			
		<u>Finance Council</u>		
Lora Harley	*			. Vice President
		<u>Fundraising</u>		
	Abby Schock	Stephanie Miller	Kathryn Siegfried	
	Sarah Chilson	Chrissy Rice	Katie Wernow	
	Sarah Lambos**	Ashley Rich		



#### **Training and Development Council**

Jenifer Hill*		Vice President
	Leadership Placement	
Kim Hinderegger**		Chair
Jen Barone**	Tara Beachy**	Sarah Lambos**
Stacey Leath**		
	Membership Development	
Stacey Leath**		Chair
April Criss	Stephanie Dominick	Rosanna Fierro
Zakiya Harris	Kara Williams	
	Sustainer Council	
Suzie Thomas* (s)		Vice President
	Women of the Year	
Sandy Turner (s)		Chair
Nancy Bond-Bundy (s)	Kathy Cowgill (s)	Amy Goehring (s)
Teresa Golden-McClelland (s) Lora Kilkenny (s)	Bridget Harris (s) Linda Sirak (s)	Maria Heege (s)
Lora Kilkoriny (3)	Linda Chak (5)	

## JLSC Membership Requirements

According to the bylaws of The Junior League of Stark County, Ohio, Inc., Active members are asked to meet the following requirements:

- **Membership and participation on at least one League committee:** Active members are required to participate on at least one League committee unless taking a leave of absence.
- Attendance at General Membership Meetings: Every Active member is expected to attend all General Membership Meetings (unless taking a leave of absence). Up to three (3) absences will be permitted.
- Support any Major Project and Major Fundraiser Committee event approved by the membership as defined in the AMPs: Participation in some facet with any Major Project and Major Fundraiser Committee event is required.



Women building better communities®

#### Junior Leaders Service Grant Requirements and Guidelines

- 1. Applicants must be female
- 2. Applicants must have an adult co-applicant
- 3. Applicants must live in Stark County, Ohio
- 4. Applicants must be enrolled in Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- 5. Applicants may not have received a Junior Leaders Service Grant before
- 6. Service projects must benefit Stark County
- 7. Applications must be postmarked by January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and mailed to:

The Junior League of Stark County, Ohio, Inc. Attn: Junior Leaders Service Grant 4450 Belden Village Street NW, Suite 106 Canton Ohio 44718

- 8. Applicants may request up to \$2,500
- 9. Winners will be notified no later than March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- 10. Projects must be completed by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016
- 11. Up to half of the awarded monies may be requested in advance
- 12. The Junior League of Stark County, Ohio reserves the right to withhold monies if a Recipient demonstrates they are unable/unwilling to use the monies to benefit the community, or to follow the Guidelines and Requirements of the Grant, as determined by the Executive Board
- 13. All receipts must be turned into The Junior League of Stark County, Ohio by May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in order to be reimbursed
- 14. Recipients are also obligated to provide a written summary and evaluation of the completed project along with photo documentation
- 15. Recipients may be asked to attend a Junior League meeting to update membership on their project

I understand the requirements and guidelines of the Junior Leaders Service Grant as stated above and I agree that I will follow all such guidelines and requirements.

Applicant printed name		Co-Applicant printed name		
Applicant's signature	Date	Co-Applicant's signature	Date	





### **Junior Leaders Community Service Grant Application**

Application materials must be postmarked on or before January 30, 2016. Mail materials to: The Junior League of Stark County Attn: Junior Leaders Service Grant, 4450 Belden Village Street NW, Suite 106, Canton, Ohio 44718. Any questions should be directed to Megan Pellegrino, Grant Coordinator, at MeganLPellegrino@gmail.com. Grant recipients will be notified no later than March 15, 2016.

<u> </u>	
Name of Applicant:	
Street Address:	
Phone Number:	
Age and Grade:	
School and School District:	
Name of Adult Co-Applicant:	
Co-Applicant Email Address:	
Co-Applicant Phone Number:	
Co-Applicant's Relationship to Applic	ant:

Applicant Information (please print)

As much as possible, in the student's words, please attach to this form the following information on three or less double-spaced, typed pages:

- 1. Project Goals and Description (tell us your plans for the service project, who the project will serve/benefit, what will you do, how will it make a difference in Stark County)
- 2. Collaborating Agencies/Organizations (if this project requires the participation of any groups or organizations, who are they and have they agreed to participate if you receive funding)
- 3. Budget Outline (how much money are you requesting and how you plan to spend the money-remember, you can only request up to \$2,500)



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## upcoming events

•	November 3	Actives serve dinner-Membership		
•		Development Committee	6:30 pm	The Martin Center
•	November 5	Reverse Raffle	6:00 pm	Lake Cable Clubhouse
•	November 10	General Membership Meeting	6:00 pm	Social, 6:30 Meeting
•	November 24	Sustainers serve dinner	6:30 pm	The Martin Center
•	November 30	December Executive Board Meeting	6:00 pm	Lora Harley's home
•	December 1	Actives serve dinner	6:30 pm	The Martin Center
•	December 8	Holiday Social	6:00 pm	Deanna Parks home
•	December 22	Sustainers serve dinner	6:30 pm	The Martin Center
•	December 29	January Executive Board Meeting	6:00 pm	Deanna Parks home
•	January 5	Actives serve dinner-Community Impact		
•		Committee	6:30 pm	The Martin Center
•	January 12	Cottage Meetings	6:00 pm	TBD
•	January 26	February Executive Board Meeting	6:00 pm	Amanda Clark's home
•	January 26	Sustainers serve dinner	6:30 pm	The Martin Center
•	February 2	Actives serve dinner-Executive Board		
•		Committee	6:30 pm	The Martin Center
•	February 9	General Membership Meeting	6:00 pm	Social, 6:30 Meeting
•	February 23	March Executive Board Meeting	6:00 pm	Jen Hill's home
•	February 23	Sustainers serve dinner	6:30 pm	The Martin Center