

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

Women building better communities®

etcetera

VOLUME 46, ISSUE 4 | February/March 2011

Major Project Update-Finding the Beat

Special guests at the January 19th Pathway Caring for Children “Dance Lessons 101” class were instructors from the Andrew Fulmer Dance Studio. Lead instructor Jared Andrew Hughes taught the youth a variety of dance moves, including the basics for the waltz, hip hop (ticking and popping), break dancing and the cupid shuffle - a fun line dance that had everyone on their feet!



Before the dance lesson began a video entitled DANCE EVOLUTION was shown as well as a news segment on the importance of men having good dance moves in order to attract positive attention. A dance trivia quiz helped break the ice. After some brief reluctance, the majority of the youth were up and learning the new dance moves. After each session we ask the youth to complete an evaluation of the presentation. Based on the evaluations received, the event was a hit! The average evaluation was 9.2 out of 10. The most common comment being “awesome!”

We continued our incentive plan for attendance and evaluation. All youth who complete the evaluation form following the session are entered into a drawing. The winner gets to pick from our supply of gifts cards. This month’s winner selected a \$25 gift card to the Olive Garden as his prize. This program has been a big hit with the kids.

There were 17 Pathway youth in attendance and 12 Junior League volunteers on hand to provide support, encouragement and nourishment. In total, 24 volunteer hours went into this event. Our next session with the youth will be “Dance Lessons 201” on February 17th we hope to see you there!

Plans by the youth committee for the April 29th prom are also continuing. The DJ for the evening, Dance the Night Away with Jake, met with the committee to discuss ideas for making the evening fun and maintaining a positive flow of activities. Next month’s topic of discussion is decorations. If you are a florist, or would like to help the youth in making their final decisions about flowers and decorations, please contact Lisa Lynch at finnegan1@sssnet.com.

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HEADQUARTERS reminders

- The office will be closed on February 21, 2011 in observance of President’s Day.
- Look for your dues invoice in the mail in the upcoming weeks.

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.



Megan Pellegrino

President's Perspective

By now you should have received your invitation to this year's annual fundraiser: "A Black and White Ball." You may not be fully aware of how important the success of this event is in allowing us to meet our mission of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities. We expect the event to net just over \$26,000, which is our single largest source of income (dues follow close behind). It is up to every single member to help in some way, whether it be securing a donation, helping to set-up or tear-down, or by simply attending the event and inviting your friends and relatives to join you. I look forward to seeing you at this wonderful event on Saturday, March 5th at the Cultural Center for the Arts!

The Pathway Prom Project has been moving along with monthly activity sessions for the youth. February's session will be "Dance 201" and is the second of two activity sessions in which the Andrew Fulmer Dance Studio instructors will teach both ballroom-style and hip-hop dancing. The first session was well-received by the youth and they are looking forward to utilizing their new dance skills at prom on April 29th. If you have not had the chance to participate in this project, I urge you to do so soon.

A Done-in-a-Day project with the J.R. Coleman Childcare and Family Center will take place on Saturday, February 12th. This is a great opportunity for members to get involved in a short-term project that will allow the Center teachers to tackle the deep-cleaning of classrooms. We all know how important a clean environment is to the health and safety of the more than 200 students who attend the Center.

The Provisional Class has been working hard to ensure the success of their project. On March 8th the class will be hosting a wellness fair for teen mothers and their children at Turnaround Community Outreach in downtown Canton. I have been very impressed by the hard work and dedication of the Provisional Class this year and am quite sure that the fair will be a huge success!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the February General Membership Meeting where we will take time to break into small groups and work on the 2011-2013 Strategic Plan, something that we had planned to do at the January cottage meetings that were canceled due to the weather. The March General Membership Meeting is one not to be missed as we will be hearing presentations from the finalists for the 2011-2012 Major Project. This is always one of my favorite meetings of the year as we decide where our volunteer efforts will be focused over the next year.

Plans are also well underway for the 64th annual Women of the Year Luncheon in which we truly fulfill our mission of "promoting voluntarism" by honoring two women who have dedicated themselves to the very important work of bettering the Stark County community. Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, April 13th for this very meaningful event.

As you can see, we are in the heart of the league year, with so many meaningful projects and events. This is where we see the fruits of our efforts and begin to see what other committees have been working on all year.

With warm regards,

Megan



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Provisional Class News

The ladies of this year's Provisional Class have been very busy the past few months. They named their class officers (right, top to bottom) Lynn Kelley, President; Melissa Lombardi, Vice President; Corleon (CJ) Assent, Secretary; and Stephanie Walls, Treasurer. The class researched and presented three potential projects to the group. Each presentation was impressive but the project that was overwhelmingly voted for was the "Healthy Kids, Happy Kids" event.

The Provisional Class will be pairing with Turnaround Community Outreach (TCO), a downtown Canton based nonprofit organization, which is dedicated to teaching people to rise above challenging circumstances in life. They will be creating a program for teen moms aimed at teaching a variety of important parenting skills. The class has divided into three groups and is in the process of preparing classes on cooking healthy and affordable meals, childhood development and milestones, and mom's mentoring moms.

The class has met with Margaret Reaves, TCO's executive director and has learned the biggest challenges these young families are facing. They are doing an amazing job customizing a program to address these challenges. The class is full of great ideas and is looking forward to sharing them.

Member News

The Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Pro Football Hall of Fame recently announced that sustaining member and past JLSC President, Candy Wallace has been named General Vice Chair of the 2011 Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival.

Provisional member Corleon Assent has accepted a position with the Canton Development Partnership. As event manager, Corleon will be responsible for many downtown events such as the Farmers Market, Light Up Downtown and Taste of Canton.

JLSC Receives Thanks

Julie Hayslip, Independent Living Coordinator at Stark County Department of Job and Family Services, Children Services Division and our contact for the Christmas Giving project had this to report about the gift recipients' reactions: I'm happy to report that Merri was overwhelmed with joy and gratitude. She just kept saying over and over "this can't all be for us." She said "how great is it that these women care about others and if they have a good Christmas or not." Cady loved her bike (and of course Merri couldn't stop talking about hers) and she is really excited for Christmas now. Michael and Rico were speechless and really overwhelmed with emotion. They said they never expected anything and this was too much. Tina of course was so excited and felt like it was a "real" Christmas because of the tree, gifts, etc. Most of the kids said it was the "best Christmas ever."



2011-2012 Dues Notices Coming Soon

In February all members will be receiving their 2011-2012 dues notice and Membership Payment and Information Form. Please be sure to return the Membership Payment and Information Form with your payment so we have your most up to date information for the yearbook.

Membership dues are due to headquarters by **April 1, 2011**. Active and Provisional member payments not received by **April 15, 2011** are subject to a \$10 late fee. We accept Visa or MasterCard, however, because we have been incurring substantial fees in conjunction with payments made on certain credit cards, we ask that you consider making your dues payment and any other payment to The Junior League of Stark County, with a check. 2011-2012 dues costs are as follows:

Actives:	\$160
Sustainers:	\$80
Non-Resident Actives:	\$80

Any active member requesting Sustainer status must make her request in writing to the Secretary, Meredith Bailey, by **March 31, 2011**. In order to request Sustainer status you must have been an Active member for at least five (5) years, not including your Provisional year. Resignations must also be made in writing to the Secretary.

If you wish to set-up a payment plan or if you are unable to pay your dues, please send a letter to headquarters, Attention: Treasurer; prior to **March 31, 2011**. You will be contacted by the Treasurer and all such matters will be held in CONFIDENCE.

As a reminder, dues are considered a charitable deduction on each member's individual income tax return! If a member wishes to make a donation above the amount of their dues, this will also be considered a charitable deduction.

Fishers Community Rewards

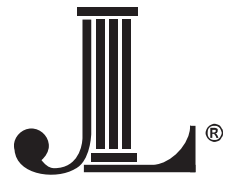


Fishers Foods Rewards Card to Benefit JLSC

Fund Development has enrolled The Junior League of Stark County in the Fishers Foods Community Rewards Program. Fishers Foods will make available a fund of \$20,000, a portion of which the Junior League can earn. The Community Rewards Program runs through April 17, 2011 or until all of the \$20,000 is earned by the participating organizations, whichever comes first.

How does it work? Visit www.fishersfoods.com and click on the Community Rewards link to login into your personal rewards account. Once you click on the link, follow the instructions to designate The Junior League of Stark County as your non-profit of choice. Once at least 50 cardholders select the Junior League, we will begin earning 1% of eligible purchases. The more we recruit and the more people that shop at Fishers Foods the more we can earn.

It's so simple so do not delay! This is a quick and easy fundraiser that everyone can participate in and which will greatly benefit JLSC.



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General Membership Meetings

We would like to thank our sustainers Nancy Bond-Bundy, Sally Bernard, and Natalie Weinsz who graciously offered to host January's Cottage Meetings at their homes! Unfortunately due to the Ohio weather we had to cancel the event.

Our next General Membership Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 8th at 91 Wood Fired Oven in Jackson. The social begins at 11:30 a.m. with the meeting starting at 12:00 p.m. The lunch options are Chicken Diablo, Tuscan Ravioli, or Drunken Shrimp and will be \$15 per person. Lunches will include a field greens salad and a peanut butter brownie for dessert. Please be on the lookout for your Evite!

Our March GMM will be Tuesday March 8th at DeHoff Realtors in North Canton. The social will start at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. This is an extremely important meeting to attend as we will vote on the Major Project for next year! The candidates for our Major Project will each do a short presentation and all members in attendance will have the opportunity to discuss the projects before voting for their favorite. We hope to see you there!

Major Project News - Gathering Clothes

On Saturday, December 18th, nine Junior League volunteers arrived at Pathway Caring for Children at 9:00 a.m. to start sorting and organizing the donations received thus far for the April 29th prom. Under the guidance of Jennifer Brosch, who is serving as the lead person for organizing the closet, the volunteers sorted the clothing, organized by size and stored on racks. In addition to sorting the clothes, the volunteers continued work on the photo albums that will be given to the Pathway youth at their April prom. In all, 26 volunteer hours went into this event.

The committee is still taking donations for CURRENT formal wear for both young men and ladies. Volunteers will be talking with the youth to get more information on their particular sizes and style preferences soon. If you would like to donate to the clothes closet, please contact Jennifer Brosch at jenniferbrosch@yahoo.com or Stephanie Jackson at whbc4stephanie@yahoo.com.

Sustainer Shannon English Hexamer is holding a prom event in early March at Westfield Belden Village Mall. At this event, young ladies can bring in previously worn dresses for re-selling. Any dresses not sold, will be donated to our closet. Thank you Shannon!

The March activity session "Looking Your Best/How to Dress for Success" will be held on March 16th. We are hoping to have someone for both our young ladies and young men on hand to help them learn how to measure themselves for proper sizing (the young men, their neck size, sleeve length) as well as to provide suggestions for alterations, if necessary. That said, if you are talented in those areas, again, please contact Jennifer at the above email.



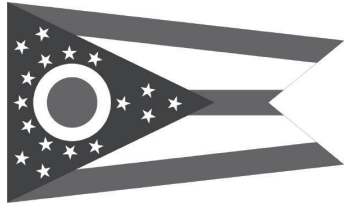
Susan Shearer hard at work!



Shoes, Shoes, Shoes!



Jennifer Brosch and Stephanie Walls prepare clothes for the closet.



CONNECT OHIO - DEVELOP & EDUCATE
2011 Junior Leagues of Ohio
C.O.D.E. DAY

Saturday, March 5, 2011
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Hosted by:
The Junior League of Dayton
at
Fifth Third Field

220 North Patterson Blvd., Dayton, OH 45402

C.O.D.E Day is a joint training event for members from the eight Junior Leagues in Ohio. Discussions and trainings will be focused on issues that pertain to all Leagues.

Please note that this is the same date as our Major Fundraiser. If you are interested in attending (you may attend a portion of the day and still make it back for Gala), please contact Megan Pellegrino at meganlpellegrino@gmail.com.



Find us on
Facebook

Are you on Facebook? The Junior League of Stark County is! Please "like" the page for updated information and photos from JLSC."

JLSC Social Groups

After reviewing the submissions for peer mentoring, it became obvious that many members were looking for opportunities to socialize with fellow members outside of League meetings and gatherings. Because of this interest, three social groups will be forming. These groups include; a running club, a workout club, and a book club. Please contact President Megan Pellegrino by phone at (330) 499-2977 or by email at meganlpellegrino@gmail.com if you think that you might be interested in joining one of these groups.

Save the Date

Wednesday, April 13, 2011

Women of the Year Luncheon

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

*Barrette Business and Community Center
at Walsh University, North Canton, Ohio*





THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
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Major Fundraiser - A Black & White Ball

March 5, 2011 is fast approaching. Invitations have been sent and RSVPs are due by February 14th. The evening will begin with cocktails at the open bar and appetizers of artisan cheeses, citrus-boiled shrimp cocktail and fire-roasted tomato bruschetta. The family style dinner is a Tuscan Duo consisting of orange glazed roasted pork tenderloin and garlic rosemary breast of chicken served with parmesan mashed potatoes, roasted corn and tomatoes and a mixed greens salad. A vegetarian option of grilled zucchini, squash and red peppers tossed with penne pasta and garlic aioli is available. Open bar and valet parking will also be provided. All this for a ticket price of \$50 per person!

We have many exciting things planned for the event including a signature drink raffle for your chance at a Judith Ripka ring and wine and gift certificate pulls. There will also be wonderful live and silent auction items. Watch the website for more information. We are looking forward to seeing you all of you on March 5, 2011 at the Cultural Center for the Arts! Our Black and White Ball will be a great success thanks to all of you!

Done-in-a-Day Project

In our next service project we will be partnering with J.R. Coleman Child Care and Family Center.

The J. R. Coleman Child Care and Family Center has provided quality childcare since 1980. J.R. Coleman is currently serving 200 children from 112 families who reside in northeast Canton and the greater Canton area. Over the course of a year, the Center will serve 400+ children through their Early Care and Education Program and School Age Program. Currently, the 200 children are served in 11 classrooms; 2 nurseries, 3 toddler rooms, 2 pre-school classrooms, and 4 school age classrooms. Demographically, the majority of the families are headed by single mothers. The families also are grandparents back in the role of parenting, foster families, and aunts, uncles, and relatives who are caring for children from parents missing in action. A non-traditional family situation is the norm, with 96% of the families living at or below poverty levels.

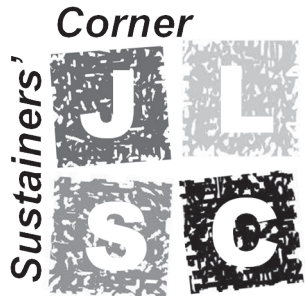
The objective of this project is to improve the classroom environment for the children that J.R. Coleman serves. This is a one day project, where we will be assisting Center teachers and staff in organizing the art areas and classroom equipment, as well as washing and sanitizing large toys and climbers in the classrooms, and other classroom equipment. We will also be washing and sanitizing the large indoor play gym. We are looking forward to working alongside the J.R. Coleman Center teachers and staff to improve the classrooms, art and play areas. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Sue Sokolowski at sue@scleaverlaw.com or (330) 329-1460.

Women of the Year Event

The Junior League of Stark County, Ohio, Inc. will host the 64th annual Women of the Year Luncheon on Wednesday, March 13, 2011 at 11:30 a.m. Please note that this is a change from the past several years when the event was held on a Saturday. The luncheon will take place at the Barrette Center on Walsh University's Campus. Tickets are \$35.

We will be honoring two women from Stark County who exemplify service to others. The Community Award is presented to a woman who has made significant, unique and lasting volunteer contributions in many parts of the greater Stark County community. The President's Award is presented to a woman who has made significant, unique and lasting contributions in one of the following areas – Education, Health and Welfare or the Arts. These women act as role models of achievement for other women to emulate. Women of the Year award recipients will be selected in mid-February and announced shortly thereafter.

Please show your support of these deserving women by attending the luncheon. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, April 13th!



Save the Date

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, February 24th from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. for a Sustainer Luncheon at the Main Street Grille in North Canton. Details and menu are still being planned, once confirmed invitations will be mailed.

Sustainer Project – Early Childhood Resource Center

Our ongoing project with ECRC is to help assemble Sprout Learning backpacks. Sprout Learning is a retail brand of the Early Childhood Resource Center. For two hours, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., we gather and complete simple tasks like sorting, counting and laminating of materials that are then assembled into backpacks. This project is simple and social for our members but lends great support to the agency that simply does not have the resources to commit staff time to the project. The February work dates will be our third session of this year long partnership. Please consider joining us!

Our proposed project dates are February 7th and 10th. At this time, six sustaining members have signed up to help. Please contact Eileen Ziegler (330) 323-9186 if you can join us!

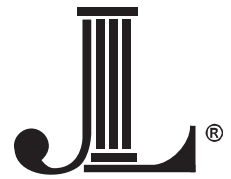
75th Anniversary Diamond Committee

We are looking for volunteers to serve on the 75th anniversary Diamond Committee. The goal of this committee is to plan special social events around our anniversary celebration. If you are interested in serving on this committee please contact President Elect, Wendy Menegay at wendymenegay18@hotmail.com.

Sustainer Denise Gotchall Reflects

When Eileen asked me if I would write something for the Sustainer Corner I had to take a few moments to reflect upon what I might add to the conversation for new Active members. As with many things in life, the memories of Junior League become sweeter with the passing of time. During my active years, I remember the Holiday Gala fondly. Many of the members then, as now, were women who had careers outside the home. When one was able to free up her schedule, it was really quite joyful to sit on the floor of what is now the McKinley Marriott with fellow members and assemble toys and items that would be auctioned the evening of the event. I believe that someone not familiar with the purpose of The Junior League may find that sight a bit surprising! Prior to the actual Gala, children would be bussed to the hotel for entertainment and to see the decorations. The whole event was a visually beautiful example of some of the work of The Junior League.

This brings me back to the question of what this may offer to new Active members. I would say to appreciate the compassionate and strategic service that you are able to provide to this wonderful community. The Junior League provides you with specific opportunities to help in ways that you may not otherwise have available to you. I imagine that most all of you have schedules that are full, but if you can clear a little time for yourself with The Junior League those will be some of your stories to share in years to come. More than anything, doing "good work" just fills you up with good energy.



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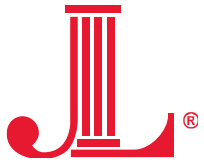
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upcoming events

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| • February 8 | General Membership Meeting | 11:30 a.m. at 91, Jackson |
| • February 12 | Done-in-a-Day Project | 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at J.R. Coleman
Childcare Center |
| • February 17 | Major Project Dance Lessons 201 Class | 6:00 p.m. at Pathway Caring for Children |
| • February 24 | Sustainer Gathering | 11:30 a.m. at Main Street Grille |
| • March 5 | Gala | 6:00 p.m. at Cultural Center for the Arts |
| • March 8 | General Membership Meeting | 6:00 p.m. at DeHoff Realtors |
| • March 16 | Major Project Grooming/Dressing Class | 6:00 p.m. at Pathway Caring for Children |
| • April 12 | General Membership Meeting | 6:00 p.m. at Walsh University |