

2020-2021 Annual Report







Randi Ligon, President

## From the President

The Junior League of Raleigh's commitment to improving our community carried on throughout 2020-2021 despite a global pandemic and heightened racial injustice in our community and our nation. COVID-19 hit us hard but it did not stop us from carrying out our mission of supporting our community. We continued our legacy work of training volunteers, creating community leaders and impacting the lives of so many people in need in Wake County, while at the same time continuing to modernize our League to remain strong into the future.

We reached out to our community partners to see how we could shift our activities to safely support their emerging needs. Our volunteers adapted their plans and we added placement options to ensure we met those needs. Our fundraising teams also had to shift their plans. With the help of our media partner ABC-11 WTVD, we shifted our A Shopping SPREE! to A (virtual) SPREE!, which still allowed us to showcase our exhibitors and local businesses that have made our event a success for over 35 years and support our community organizations and Legacy Grant recipients. Our members truly stepped up in so many ways this year, conducting get out the vote efforts, hosting numerous donation drives, and helping us raise over \$80,000 in our annual Day of Giving.

We continued our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work, creating a standing DE&I committee and providing leadership and League-wide DE&I-focused training opportunities as well as hosting the first ever North Carolina Statewide Conversation on Inequities in conjunction with our sister NC Leagues.

Thank you to our leadership, volunteers, sponsors and donors who were undaunted by this challenging year, doing what was necessary to help the Junior League of Raleigh continue to have a positive impact on our community. This year was unlike any other, but we steadfastly faced these challenges with creativity, resilience and determination. Through these trials, we are continuing to build a stronger, more resilient and more inclusive League. Thank you for your commitment to the League, our future remains bright!

Thank you for reading our 2020-2021 annual report and for your continued support of the Junior League of Raleigh.

All the best,

Rundi Lupin

Randi Ligon Junior League of Raleigh 2020-2021 President







# About the Junior League of Raleigh

#### **Mission Statement**

The Junior League of Raleigh (JLR) is a local chapter of the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc., an international organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

#### Diversity, Equity & Inclusion statement:

The Junior League of Raleigh welcomes all women who value our mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations and communities.

#### Strategic Plan: Impact Your Community. Impact Your Life.

The Junior League of Raleigh's new 2020-2023 strategic plan provides guidelines and puts in place strategies that will contribute to the long-term holistic success of the JLR, our members and the community we serve.

By focusing jointly on the needs of the Wake County community and the needs of our membership, our strategic plan will help the Junior League of Raleigh achieve its vision of being a change-agent in childhood well-being in Raleigh through the work of our volunteers within and outside of the League.

#### Our goals:

- Align our efforts with community needs
- Modernize the Member experience
- Embrace diversity and inclusion
- Invest in our Members and community

#### Our strategies:

- Develop community board and JLR leadership pipeline
- Increase funding impact on the community
- Provide relevant trainings
- Review our effectiveness as a community partner
- Promote community use of Quick Impact
- Enhance strategic recruitment
- Balance funding streams







### **Board of Directors**



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# JLR Serves

The Junior League of Raleigh provides passionate, trained volunteers to local nonprofit efforts, including: AventWest Children's Mentoring, BackPack Buddies, Brentwood Boys & Girls Club, Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, The Green Chair Project, Helping Horse Therapeutic Riding Program, Heritage Park Community Learning Center, InterAct, Note In The Pocket, SAFEchild and StepUp Ministry.

# Note in the Pocket

Note in the Pocket volunteers organized several drive-thru drop-off events, filling a 10-foot U-Haul truck and eight SUVs during their August 2020 drive, raising 3,300 pounds of donations in December and the Women of Color Affinity Group partnered with the community team to ensure success.

While difficult to coordinate volunteer activities during a pandemic, Co-Captain Shanna Stephenson mentioned precautions they have taken to ensure the community partner still gets what it needs.

She said: "the team has been vigilant about staying abreast of the latest Covid protocols. This includes using a larger loaned location to allow for more space between volunteers, quarantine periods for incoming donations before volunteer processing, mask and hand sanitizer restrictions, and smaller volunteer groups."







# BackPack Buddies and Brentwood Boys & Girls Club

These programs partnered to support 55 families of the Boys & Girls Club with donations of food.

The JLR Boys & Girls Club Team also made the Brentwood Boys & Girls Club a little brighter this past holiday season. With the usual holiday party on pause, one of the JLR members decorated the club with a donated tree. The festivities also included an outdoor movie (Elf!) for the kids with individual movie candy bags for 55 kids.



### InterAct



Our InterAct team traditionally holds a Holiday Bazaar for the women and children of the agency. When that wasn't possible this year, JLR members collected items for 24 women who are currently at the shelter.

The women were given items such as spa facial masks, nail polish/manicure tools, candles, journals and planners, fuzzy socks, shower gels and lotion sets, and perfume.

InterAct is a private, nonprofit, United Way agency that provides safety, support and awareness to victims and survivors of domestic violence and rape/sexual assault.







# StepUp Ministry

This year was different for JLR volunteers with StepUp Ministry, but members worked hard to engage kids in a virtual setting, hosting interactive Zoom meetings which included crafts with the kids. For Valentine's Day, JLR volunteers helped the kids make cards for their family members and craft some "Cupid's arrows." Around the end-of-year holidays, JLR members created a gingerbread virtual craft.

"(It) was so much fun watching the kids assemble their houses," said Co-captains Hope Homesley and Whitley Gordon.

# Food Bank

Since 2016, the JLR has partnered with the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina to serve a large population of people who struggle to access nutritious and adequate amounts of food.

The JLR team partners with the Food Bank to further its mission of receiving and distributing as much food as possible, by organizing fresh food so that it can be distributed to the community in an efficient and timely manner.

The Food Bank and our JLR volunteers are committed to addressing food insecurity that remains a serious problem in central and eastern North Carolina.









# JLR Trains & Engages

# The Government Relations and Public Affairs

Our team organized and conducted a phone bank in advance of the 2020 election to encourage Members to vote. The GRAPA team also held a virtual training event with the Wake County Board of Elections.

When asked about the vision for the phone bank, GRAPA team captain Haven Powell said: "I wanted the JLR Members and our community partners to know the importance of their voices being heard in this critical time."











# Women in Public Service Panel

The GRAPA team organized the Junior League of Raleigh's annual Women in Public Service Panel!

Jessica Holmes, former Wake County Commissioner for District 3, moderated the panel.

#### The panelists included:

Shinica Thomas, Wake County Board of Commissioners, District 6
Ashleigh Parker Dunston, District Court Judge
Tiffany Powers, Superior Court Judge
Nervahna Crew, Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor
Jessica Day, Mayor, Town of Knightdale

#### 2021 WOMEN IN PUBLIC SERVICE PANEL

**EmpowHER: Encouraging Women Through Leadership** 



VIRTUALLY LIVE: 7 P.M.

The Junior League of Raleigh cordially invites you to our annual Women in Public Service Panel. Please join us for a discussion featuring our communities' most influential women leaders.

This discussion will explore their sources of strength and confidence to make a difference in their community as well as how they create an environment to support other women leaders to make a difference.



Moderator: Jessica Holmes, Former Commissioner, Wake County Board of Commissioners



Ashleigh Parker Dunston, District Court Judge



Tiffany Powers, Superior Court Judge



Nervahna Crew, Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor



Jessica Day, Mayor. Town of Knightdale







# The Women of Color Affinity Group

The Women of Color Affinity Group organized a number of initiatives this year, including partnering with Note in the Pocket and a Black History Month social media series.



The Women of Color Affinity Group also organized, around the National African American Read-In, the nation's first and oldest event dedicated to diversity in literature. As part of our commitment to diversity in literature, the Women of Color Affinity Group hosted a virtual Black History Month Read-In, which included nine virtual storytimes of books with diverse characters.

# Military Friends and Family Affinity Group

The Junior League of Raleigh's new Military Friends and Family Affinity Group hosted a card making and letter-writing event on Oct. 25. The group's efforts contributed over 50 cards to be sent to various North Carolina Veteran Administration sites in honor of Veteran's Day!

Discussing the JLR's newest affinity group's founding, Co-Chair Laura Barnes said the idea came about last year when her husband was deployed.

"I was hoping to build connections to others in the League who have been through similar situations and to build community with other members who had another connection to military stories."

One way the Military Families and Friends Affinity Group gives back is through participation in the Wreaths Across America wreath-laying ceremony at the Raleigh National Cemetery.

This event happens annually and honors those who have served our nation. Members of the Military Families and Friends Affinity Group along with their friends and family assisted in laying the wreaths on the headstones at the Raleigh National Cemetery.













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# SAFEchild

In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month in April and in support of our community partner SAFEchild, JLR volunteers planted a pinwheel garden in front of the Junior League of Raleigh building, the Julia Jones Daniels Center for Community Leadership.

Prevent Child Abuse America introduced the Pinwheels for Prevention Campaign in 2008.

According to their website, the pinwheels "represent childlike whimsy and lightheartedness and our vision for a world where all children grow up happy, healthy, and prepared to succeed in supportive families and communities.









# JLR Funds

# Legacy Grants

Four well-deserving Wake County charitable organizations are receiving grants of \$5,000 each during the Junior League of Raleigh's a (virtual) SPREE! The awards were announced and presented live on our Facebook page.

Since its inception in 2004, JLR's Legacy Grant has awarded nonprofit agencies \$260,000 – all made possible by proceeds from A Shopping SPREE!

Team Community Funding carefully reviews all grant applicants that are nominated by League members and selects the recipients the committee feel best support the local community and place an emphasis on children and women. JLR has a long-standing commitment to empowering Wake County women and youth and this year's recipients further that mission through housing, health and education.

# 2020 Legacy Grant Award Recipients

#### The Frankie Lemmon School and Developmental Center

Frankie Lemmon School and Developmental Center's mission is to educate and celebrate children of all abilities. The grant award will assist in fulfilling the need for Frankie Lemmon students to receive monthly therapy/educational toolkits to support at home learning and therapy. Preschoolers learn best through hands-on activity and play, which is why it is so critical that children at risk of delays or with developmental delays be given the proper tools to support therapy and learning at home. The toolkits were created as an educational resource during COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to be utilized after COVID-19.







# 2020 Legacy Grant Award Recipients cont.

#### **Garner Road Community Center**

The Garner Road Community Center practices Christian values to develop the total person in spirit, mind and body through character development programs that empower children, families and communities to achieve lifelong successes. Garner Road Community Center plans to use the grant towards three areas of increased need, brought on by COVID-19: improving technology within the center, providing more wholesome meals and snacks, and increasing transportation to and from the center.

#### **Haven House Services**

The mission of Haven House Services is to help youth be safe, supported and successful. Haven House helps our community's most vulnerable young people. This includes youth experiencing homelessness, youth in crisis, youth involved or at risk for involvement with the juvenile justice system, and youth having difficulty at school or home. Haven House will use the grant award for program operational expenses incurred due to the increased needs and challenges brought on by COVID-19.



#### The Women's Center

The mission at The Women's Center is to remedy the cycle of trauma, abuse, violence and homelessness among women in The Triangle, assisting women in achieving self-sufficiency, realizing their dreams of a fulfilling and dignified life. The Women's Center addresses critical needs such as meals, hygiene, clothing, mail services, transportation assistance, and safe, affordable housing. With the Legacy Grant, The Women's Center will increase the number of units in the Integrative Permanent Community Supportive Housing Program and increase the availability of immediate, safe and permanent housing with anonymity for women fleeing domestic violence, interpersonal violence and human trafficking.











# Day of Giving

Thank you for your outstanding support! With your contributions, we crushed our 2021 goals with 442 donors and raised \$80,044, exceeding our \$60,000 goal!

Your kindness and generosity will help us continue to impact our community in 2021. Thank you for your help to #ElevateOurImpact!













# A Shopping SPREE!

The Junior League of Raleigh held a (virtual) SPREE!, presented by First Citizens Bank. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our annual inperson A Shopping SPREE! at the Raleigh Convention Center was postponed until next year. However, we committed to showcasing our exhibitors and local businesses that have made our event successful for over 30 years, while supporting community organizations that rely on us throughout the year.

A (virtual) SPREE! showcased a raffle, silent auction and Best of Spree Boxes.

Our online silent auction raised more than \$20,000 to support the League's commitment to projects and programs that impact women and youth in our community.

# Touch-A-Truck

The Junior League of Raleigh hosted the 6th annual Touch-A-Truck® fundraiser in April 2021! The event was virtual with various truck and transportation-related videos available online to ticket holders. A drive-thru pick-up event was held on Saturday, April 24, 2021, with activity bags for our participants to enjoy with the online videos at home.

Additionally, we held a raffle with great prizes. We want to thank our sponsors for offering various vehicles and transportation equipment.





#### A special thank you to sponsors:

Civic Federal Credit Union ABC11

#### Allstate – Brandon Reece Agency Inc. BENEFITING the JLR Community Fund

Proceeds from Touch-A-Truck® will benefit the Junior League of Raleigh's Community Fund, which supports the League's community programs and partnerships with AventWest Children's Mentoring, BackPack Buddies, Brentwood Boys & Girls Club, Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC, Helping Horse, Heritage Park Community Learning Center, Interact, SAFEchild and StepUp Ministry.











# **Our Donors**

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### Annual Fund President's Circle

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### Best of SPREE! Box Donations

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# Margery Scott Johnson Past Presidents' Fund

In 2019, Earl Johnson and his family generously established the Margery Scott Johnson Past Presidents' Fund in memory of his late wife who was a Past President of the Junior League of Raleigh. This fund supports the maintenance and enhancement of the interior and grounds of the Julia Jones Daniels Center for Community Leadership.

#### Donors

Blanche R. Bacon Earl Johnson and the Johnson Family Fund Mary Brent Wright

# **Our Touch-A-Truck Donors**

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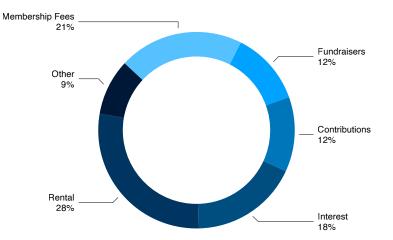




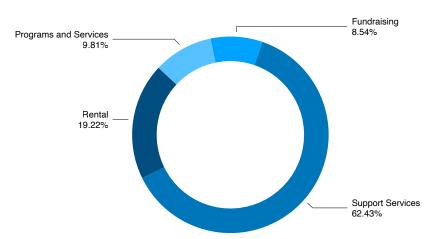


# **Financials**

Revenue	2020-2021	
Membership Fees	240,632	21%
Fundraisers	141,762	12%
Contributions	144,675	12%
Interest	209,187	18%
Rental	328,743	28%
Other	108,725	9%
Total	1,173,724	100%



Expense	2020-2021	
Program and Services	106,955	9.81%
Fundraising	93,085	8.54%
Support Services	680,660	62.43%
Rental	209,530	19.22%
Total	1,090,230	100%



# How can you transform the community?

#### Join

The Junior League of Raleigh is open to women who have an interest in volunteerism and developing the potential of women as well as a commitment to improving our community. Will you join us in making Raleigh a better place for all?

#### Support

You can support JLR as a corporate or individual donor to the Annual Fund, or by supporting one of our fundraisers: A Shopping SPREE!, Touch-A-Truck® or the N.C. Governor's Inaugural Ball.

#### Mailing address:

jlraleigh.org

**Street Address:** 

#### PO Box 26821 Raleigh, NC 27611 Office: 919-787-7480

Junior League of Raleigh 711 Hillsborough St. Raleigh, NC 27603

Partner

The Junior League of Raleigh prides itself on being an active part of the community. While a substantial part of our efforts directly impact members of the community, we also partner with other agencies to help with their community efforts. The strength and size of the League's membership also allows us to support other agencies with their own projects. JLR's Quick Impact team provides hands-on help to other community agencies with short-term projects or events. Also, JLR board members are available to provide leadership and guidance to other community agency boards. Not all community groups have dedicated meeting and training space. To fill that need, the Julia Jones Daniels Center for Community Leadership, the League's headquarters, is available for public use by other nonprofits and organizations. Meeting and training space is available at reasonable rates.