

Winter 2017 Newsletter



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
EAU CLAIRE

Junior League of Eau Claire Leadership Team

President: Courtney Kanz
President Elect: Sue Mertens
Past President: Katie Walk
Secretary: Leslie Lyons
Treasurer: Amy Weiss



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! Each winter after the holidays have come and gone and the cold weather really sets in, I find myself getting a serious case of cabin fever. I tend to hibernate when it's cold which makes me crazy by mid-January. This winter, in an effort to step out of my comfort zone and embrace the cold weather, I committed to giving winter running a try. While I'm still trying to get used to how many layers I need to wear on these extremely cold days, I have grown a little more accustomed to the temperatures and ice that come with Wisconsin winters.

I was recently out for a run after a fresh snowfall. As I was watching the ground (mostly to help ensure I would not wipe out and be stranded on a trail by myself) I noticed another set of tracks in the snow. I started to wonder about that person. Who were they? Where were they going? What was their story? It made me think about my own footprints – those I have left in my past and continue to make as I move forward in my life.

It is hard to grasp that we are halfway through our Junior League year. I am extremely proud of the footprints we have left in the Eau Claire community so far. We have supported several local non-profits through donations and volunteering including Beacon House, Girls on the Run, The Community Table, Feed My People and the Child Advocacy Center. We also continue to leave footprints through our focus programs – seven local schools have had the opportunity to experience our Kids in the Kitchen program and we will soon move forward with an initiative to strengthen The Diaper Bank through improved marketing material and an updated tool kit. We have also made significant progress in our efforts to increase membership engagement and growth. We still have much to do this year and many opportunities to get involved.

I would like to extend an official welcome to our Provisional class. You will find a brief biography for each member of this dynamic and enthusiastic group within the newsletter. We are honored they have chosen to give their time and talents to JLEC.

During our January meeting we started discussions about the nominating process. One of the many benefits of belonging to JLEC is the opportunity to develop your leadership skills and broaden your strengths in a supportive, fun, energetic environment. I personally feel a greater sense of awareness about the issues affecting our community and have met many wonderful individuals through my participation in League. I have also learned a lot about myself, my strength and weaknesses as well as what I am passionate about through my involvement on committees, participation in projects and while serving on the Board as both the President and a past Treasurer. I'd like each Active and Provisional member to think about the footprints you'd like to leave on this organization. I challenge you to step out of your comfort zones and go for it!!

I am so thankful for all of you. Our list of accomplishments would be much shorter if it weren't for the time and energy of our Active and Provisional members and the continued encouragement and support of our Sustainer members. You all are leaving more footprints on the lives of others than you likely realize.

With sincere gratitude,
Courtney Kanz

JLEC Holiday Celebration

Junior League Members and their guests gathered on December 3rd at sideBAR on Grand to celebrate the holidays. The turnout was great! This is our second year at sideBAR and the atmosphere is perfect for our group. We were happy that so many new faces and spouses joined us at the party.

Highlights:

- **Trivia** – Leslie Lyons won the holiday music trivia game edging out her husband, Phil for the champion title. They are both pretty competitive so it was a full on, game on battle.
- **Silent Night Auction** – we raised \$660 at the event through our silent auction. Members who couldn't attend but wanted to bid were able to do so via Facebook throughout the evening. We are very thankful to everyone who contributed to the silent auction, we couldn't do this without you.

Special Thank You to Katie Walk for organizing the event and silent auction!



Want to get more involved in shaping Junior League for the future? Looking for leadership experience? Join the Junior League of Eau Claire Board of Directors!

Being in a leadership role is a great way to continue your growth and development within the organization and to get more involved with the inner workings of Junior League. It is an eye-opening, rewarding experience that is also a lot of fun!

Elected positions that you may be interested in include:

- **President Elect** – *shadow the President and prepare to take on this role the following year*
- **Secretary** – *keep formal records of meetings and decisions and maintain the membership roster*
- **Treasurer** – *responsible for our financial accounting and reporting*
- **Nominating Committee and Chair (non-Board role)** – *this committee accepts nominations and organizes the elections for leadership roles*

If these roles do not pique your interest, we also have other optional board positions available such as (but not limited to): VP of Community, VP of Finance and VP of Membership.

Sustainer Coffee



A morning coffee for past and present JLEC sustainers was held on October 13th. This event was hosted by Lynn Stark, Marianne Klinkhammer, Courtney Kanz and Sue Mertens at the home of Lynn Stark. The event was well attended with 18 sustainers from past and present. With sustainers playing a critical role in league operations (both financially and in terms of community partnerships), it is our goal to provide touch-points throughout the year and foster connections to JLEC within our sustainer group. Courtney gave a brief presentation of league operations to update the group on our projects and needs.

This group continues to be passionate about the Eau Claire community and JLEC in general. Many shared their stories about past projects and challenges which made for an interesting walk down memory lane. I think we all left feeling like we had learned more about our rich history and our current projects. This gathering was so well received we are looking to plan another event in the spring (details to come at a later date).

We are so grateful to Lynn Stark and Marianne Klinkhammer for their incredible support and helping us in our efforts. They have both been so generous with their time and encouragement. We couldn't do this without you!



Meet the 2017 Provisional Class

Nicolle Davison

I grew up in Chippewa Falls and have lived in Altoona for the past year. Prior to that I lived in Madison for 18 years. I have three children; Logan (7), Joshua (5), and Kristin (2) and my husband's name is Joe. My free time is spent with my family, playing outside with my kids and running with Moms on the Run. I joined Junior League as I was looking to become more involved within the community and to develop new friendships.



Jessica Joyce

I've lived in the Eau Claire area most of my life, but spent 2 years living in Washington as a child. I graduated from UW-Eau Claire with a degree in Elementary/Middle Level Education, obtaining a teaching license for grades 1-9 with a Language Arts emphasis. I currently live in Altoona with my son Logan and our two cats, Kismet and Theo. Having a second grader who enjoys most any sporting activity, my hobbies seem to revolve around his involvement with sports activities. I also enjoy baking, reading, and occasionally tackling a Pinterest project or two.

While having discussions with Logan regarding charity and voluntarism, I realized that I wasn't practicing what I was teaching him. This led me to research different volunteer organizations and various charities in the area. I felt that Junior League would be a great platform to help support multiple areas that affect children. I was quite intrigued by the Diaper Bank program, and am excited that there are some events that would allow for Logan's involvement as well. So far, I've enjoyed the Junior League experience. It seems it will not only serve as a way for me to increase my community involvement, but to meet a group of really great women in the community as well. I am excited to see where this leads!

Leah Calvin

I moved to Eau Claire a year and a half ago from Rochester where I had lived for the past 8 years. Prior to that, I lived in Minneapolis and Woodbury.

I stay home with my two children; Eli is 6 years old and in kindergarten at Meadowview, Daniel is 4 years old and in preschool at Noah's Ark. I have been married 13 years to my childhood sweetheart, Andy. Andy works as a cardiologist at Mayo Clinic. When I have a break from taking care of the kids and my home, I enjoy working on my bible study (Side By Side), knitting, and gardening. I am always looking for ways to use my background in finance and BS in Statistics. I am a self-proclaimed feminist geek and would love to chat with you about the Marvel Cinematic Universe.



Tracey Samuelson

I have lived in the area since 1996. Nursing School and a boyfriend (that only lasted 3 months), were the reasons I moved to the area. I met my husband Tim through work, and decided to stay in the area. I have been married to Tim for 15 years and we have two girls (ages 9 and 13). I have worked at Mayo for 20 years. Besides work, basketball and soccer keep me busy! I enjoy reading, family outings, friend outings and being a part of church/school committees. I am also a 4- year survivor of breast cancer. I joined Junior League to find other ways to give back, be involved with Kids in the Kitchen, meet others and have fun!



Not pictured: Madeleine Foster

Junior League Endowment Fund

In 1985, the women of the Eau Claire Service League (which later became the Junior League of Eau Claire), created the Eau Claire Service League Endowment Trust to support projects of Eau Claire area non-profit organizations that benefited women and children at risk. The Endowment Trust was a completely separate entity from the Junior League of Eau Claire and had its own 501(c)3 status and Board. In 2012 the Board of the Endowment Trust considered how to best continue the legacy of the Endowment and the decision was made to turn the Endowment Trust over to the Eau Claire Community Foundation (ECCF). On May 3, 2012 the fund became a fully endowed field of interest fund at the Foundation.

The ECCF invests our funds annually and handles the administrative tasks associated with the fund as well as all aspects of the granting process. Each year, the interest generated from the fund is distributed to local non-profit organizations whose needs align with the mission and vision of JLEC. A member within our organization participates on the Foundation's grants committee to ensure our funds are distributed as we intend. For the past two years, Leslie Lyons has served as our Foundation Liaison.

Over the life of the fund, members of the Eau Claire Service League and the Junior League of Eau Claire have contributed over \$42,000 to the fund. When factoring in market growth, the current balance of the fund is \$46,713.12. Over the past four years, we have distributed \$6,330 to local non-profits.

Thank you to each member who has been involved with and contributed to the JL Endowment Fund. Through your generous giving, we have ensured our ability to make a difference to local non-profits each year.

JLEC Grant Recipients: 2013-2016

2013

REACH Foundation, \$705. This grant was given to the Hand In Hand Early Childhood Program to help prepare pre-school children with and without disabilities for success in school.

Chippewa Valley Child Advocacy Center, \$705. The purpose of the grant was to help construct a private bathroom within the center to minimize disruption and possible destruction of forensic evidence during interviews with child abuse victims.

2014

Boys and Girls Clubs of the Greater Chippewa Valley, \$845: This grant supported the Boys and Girls Club's weekly Fine Arts program, which promotes creativity and encourages cultural enrichment and artistic expression.

Literacy Chippewa Valley, \$845: The grant helped enhance Literacy Chippewa Valley's ability to implement a quality training program through the Top Tutor program.

2015

Chippewa Valley Child Advocacy Center, \$1,800: This grant was used to purchase digital recording equipment to create and distribute a DVD of forensic interviews with child victims of trauma and abuse to law enforcement, Child Protective Services, DA's Office, and medical/mental health providers in Eau Claire County for use in criminal investigations. By recording testimony, child victims do not have to repeat their testimony and confront their perpetrators in court.

2016

Girls on the Run, \$1,430: This grant will help Girls on the Run of the Chippewa Valley stay up-to-date with the latest curriculum materials and items needed to accommodate the growth of the program, which is expected to increase by 15-20% during the next year.

Tax-deductible donations can be made to the fund through the Eau Claire Community Foundation website (<http://www.eccommunityfoundation.org/>) or by sending a check to the ECCF (306 S. Barstow St., Suite 104, Eau Claire, 54701); designate the Junior League Endowment Fund as the recipient.

The Community Table

DID YOU KNOW?

Reprinted from the January/February 2008 issue of 'Connections'

In 1993, a voice of the people letter to the Leader-Telegram spurred a meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church to start a soup kitchen. Many women from the Junior League of Eau Claire attended the gathering. Because of their community involvement and leadership experience with the Junior League, Mary Ann Minton was elected president and Kaye Senn was elected vice-president of the new Community Table.

To learn more about The Community Table visit <http://thecommunitytable.org/>



A team of Junior League members and their families helped prepare and serve a meal at The Community Table on November 6th. As always, it was a fun and rewarding experience. Thank you to all who participated!!



Literacy Chippewa Valley's 16th Annual Scrabble Bee!!

JLEC has been involved with Literacy Chippewa Valley (LCV) for many years through Board Member placements and support of LCV's biggest annual fundraiser, Scrabble Bee. ScrabbleBee is Scrabble® with a twist! It's about having fun with your friends, neighbors, family and co-workers! All proceeds directly support Literacy Chippewa Valley programs & services. A team of 5 or 6 individuals work together to build words. Scrabble Bee 2017 will be held on Thursday, April 20th at The Lismore hotel.

Opportunities are available to get involved in the event through sponsorship, participating as part of a team or volunteering. Please contact Terri Hoepner for more information on how you can be a part of this fun, annual event and help support Literacy Chippewa Valley!!

Do you have a topic you'd like us to cover in our next newsletter?

Please send it to Terri Hoepner.

Upcoming Dates & Events



Paint and Sip Social benefitting The Diaper Bank

February 2, 7:00pm

Cheers Pablo, 2839 Mall Drive, Eau Claire

Enjoy a night out with friends while supporting a great cause! Cost for the event is \$35, which covers everything you need to create your work of art.

This event is open to JLEC members and friends.

We invite you to bring a box of diapers or a monetary donation to the event.



January 31 – Putnam Heights

February 14 – Northwoods

February 28 – Montessori

March 28 – Longfellow

April 11 – Locust Lane

April 25 – Meadowview

Kids in the Kitchen events take place at Forage in Banbury Place from 9am-1pm. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, contact Valerie Bestland.



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General Membership Meetings

February 16 – RCU, 6:30pm

March 16 – RCU, 6:30pm

April 20 – Scrabble Bee, Lismore

Save the Date!

JLEC Spring Banquet

Thursday, May 25th

Houligan's Steak and Seafood Pub