



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
EAU CLAIRE**

*Women building better communities*



**JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2008**

Volume 14, Issue 4

# Connections

The Junior League of Eau Claire (JLEC) is an organization of women committed to promoting **voluntarism**, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and **leadership** of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively **charitable** and educational.



Liz Falkner and Tammy Eckert, along with others JLEC members, prepare a meal at the Community Table.

## The History of the Junior League of Eau Claire and The Community Table

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. A treasurer and a director who had worked in nursing homes were also elected out of this meeting. They all began to prepare a plan. Kaye wrote a letter and sent it to all of the churches listed in the Eau Claire phone book. She then went on a speaking tour to spread the message and create awareness. She and other members of the organization visited the Rice Lake soup kitchen to gain an understanding of their system. There she learned that volunteer teams create the menu and make the same meal each week or each month depending on their involvement and level of commitment. And so it began.

The first meal for the Community Table of Eau Claire was served in the basement of the Unitarian Church with assistance from Neil Hovind, then director of the Eau Claire Food Bank. Neil involved the Community Table to see if groups with similar missions could all share a space somewhere. Hope Gospel bought the building where food was served for The Community Table, which is also the former Senior Center. A goal was launched to merge the efforts of these groups with similar missions and find a common space to combine the Community Table and the Food Pantry. The long-range mission was to create a homeless shelter offering medical services, dental care, haircuts, and spaces



Kate Gillette and Tammy Eckert chop veggies for the meal.

(continued on next page)

**Did you make any New Year's resolutions?**

**How about to attend every General Membership Meeting in 2008? See you there!**

# Community Table . . . (Continued from page 1)

where children could study and play. The Sisters of the St. Francis Food Pantry then secured a donated space. What started as one meal in the basement of a church grew to one meal per week advertised through posters. Kaye Senn began selling hot dogs, chips, sodas, bars, and sundries at Jim Severson's auctions all over the city to raise funds and awareness of the Community Table. Jim had a tiny trailer that Steve Senn would haul to the auction site and Kaye Senn would run extension cords for power to cook the hot dogs and the coffee. Coolers were filled with ice and sodas and friends would bake and deliver bars and cookies. It was all quite a production. Kaye Senn also organized spare change cans on checkout counters all over town. That, too, was quite a job to organize and keep track of where the cans were located and to collect the change.

As awareness spread, teams signed up. Meal service expanded to two per week, then three. The City Council served a meal. During the holidays, volunteers assembled bags of soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, and nutritious snacks. Many guests of the Community Table were unable to chew fresh fruits and vegetables, so volunteers made sure to cook everything to a soft consistency. Menus were planned around guests with compromised dental hygiene.



Joanna Schneider shows off the breadsticks.

It was a time of change in Eau Claire. Ruth Wallace created Beacon House. The Free Clinic was formed. The Hope Gospel Mission was created and soon housed the Community Table. Since the mission of the Community Table was specifically not religious, it moved to First Avenue where meals are served every day of the week there today. Kaye elaborates that coordinating all of these activities for the Community Table was the easiest job she has ever done to get people involved and to volunteer. It is quite rewarding to know it is still with us, though she would like to see it disappear for lack of use and need. The reality is that there is still a great need in our community today. Space is limited and an initiative is underway to find a new home for this vital organization.

Cooking a meal at the Community Table on December 4th was a wonderful way to start off the holiday season, helping others! The night brought our first big snow storm of the season so many people stayed home. Those who braved the cold and snow were glad to have a great meal of baked spaghetti with cheese, bread sticks, bananas, veggies and cookies. Our JLEC fundraising efforts paid for the food we cooked. We had 13 league members help cook and serve and a good time was had by all. Thank you!

The Community Table is a non-profit organization, serving meals are served 360 days a year.

For more information on The Community Table, please visit [www.thecommunitytable.org](http://www.thecommunitytable.org) or call 715-835-4977.



Sheri Baemmert and Deb Hanson help prepare.

## 2008 Dental Sealant Volunteer Dates

For more information on this wonderful program, please see the Junior League of Eau Claire website at:  
[www.juniorleague-ec.org/dental](http://www.juniorleague-ec.org/dental)

Thursday, February 7th  
Longfellow Elementary

Friday, February 15th  
Northwoods Elementary

Friday, February 29th  
Manz Elementary

Friday, March 7th  
Lakeshore Elementary

Friday, April 4th  
Flynn Elementary

Friday, April 18th  
Sam Davey Elementary

Friday, May 2nd  
Sherman Elementary

Friday, May 9th  
Putnam Heights Elementary

To schedule:  
Please contact Linda Bohacek  
[Lbrdh4pets@charter.net](mailto:Lbrdh4pets@charter.net) (email)  
715-579-5009 (cell)  
715-833-9636 (home)

## 2007-2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President-Elect.....Jill Fenn  
Past President.....Bobbi Giles  
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**March 31 - April 4, 2008**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF THE GREATER CHIPPEWA VALLEY**

Kids in the Kitchen planning is in full swing! Junior League's Kids in the Kitchen is designed to help address the urgent issues surrounding childhood obesity and poor nutrition. Our overall goal is to educate and empower youth to adopt healthy habits in an attempt to reverse the trend of childhood obesity. The Junior League of Eau Claire Kids in the Kitchen week will occur from Monday, March 31st through Friday, April 4th at the Boys and Girls Club of America located at 201 E Lake Street. Each day at 4:30pm, we will present a program teaching the kids (and hopefully their parents) how to make healthy choices, as well as distribute materials that include learning exercises for kids, tips

on nutrition, recipes for meals and snacks, and information on the childhood obesity problem.

We are excited about and grateful for our partnerships and presenters. Here is a sampling of what to expect during the week: Kim Ayres of Mission Accomplished will conduct a yoga class on Monday, Laurel Robertson of Dinner's On will prepare a healthy snack on Tuesday, Robin Shih will present on honeybees and healthy cooking with honey on Wednesday, Kristine Beuning of Sunbow Farm will present container gardening and organic farming on Thursday, and Linda Bohacek and Kyle Anderson will present on dental health and healthy

habits on Friday in conjunction with a make-your-own-healthy pizza and fresh banana ice cream party!

Please direct your questions, comments, and ideas to the Kids in the Kitchen committee c/o Robin Shih at [rshih@csstars.com](mailto:rshih@csstars.com) or Sheri Baemmert at [baemmert@charter.net](mailto:baemmert@charter.net). We welcome your participation and ideas!

To learn more, please visit the website <http://kidsinthekitchen.ajli.org/>. All are welcome and invited to participate, so please let us know if you're interested in helping in any way. Our next committee meeting is January 15th at 6pm at the Boys and Girls Club. Join us!

## 2007 Holiday Party at Sweetwater's



## Special Notes...

- Thank you to Burracho's for hosting a benefit night and donating a portion of sales on December 11th to Junior League of Eau Claire.
- Thank you to Marianne Klinkhammer for planning a fabulous Christmas party!
- Welcome baby boy Bennett Edward Shoberg. He was 8 lbs. 2 oz. and 21 inches long. He was born on December 11 at 6:22pm to Kim, Lee & big brother Carson.
- Thanks to all who donated to Feed My People foodbank at our last GMM. We raised \$85 and two huge bags of groceries. Your generosity makes a difference, thank you!



**Bennett**

## Upcoming GMM Schedule Join Us!

January 22, 2008      Avalon Floral  
- AJLI Board Member Visit  
You won't want to miss this one!

February 26, 2008      The Meal Connection

6:45 - GMM  
7:45 - Refreshments  
8:00 - 8:30 - Program

## Bunco, Blue Jeans and Bling 2008



Save the Date!  
Thursday April 10, 2008  
Stella Blues



This year's Provisional Members will host the 2008 Bunco Blue Jeans and Bling. Please join us for an evening of wonderful food and drink, prizes and of course Bunco at Stella Blues. All Bunco clubs are welcome to join us.



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Return Service Requested



## Member Spotlight... MaryAnn Dickoff

### Hometown:

*Eau Claire (moved here in kindergarten) but have also lived in Milwaukee, Chicago and Syracuse NY.*

### Year joined JLEC:

*1996*

### Favorite thing about JLEC:

*Meeting and getting to know many accomplished women.*

### Favorite JLEC project:

*Back to School (but am looking forward to participating in Kids in the Kitchen)*

### Who would you like to become a member of JLEC? (anyone, from anywhere):

*My cousin Mary from West Bend, Wisconsin. She would be an awesome member.*

### Where can we find you on a Friday night?

*Usually, out to eat.*

### What's something we may not know about you?

*Most of you probably don't know that I was born with congenital heart disease and that at age 22 (several weeks after graduating from college) I had a brain abscess which required surgery. After that I had to relearn how to walk, write, drive, and do many other things. It was that experience that prompted me to go back to school and get a degree in Occupational Therapy.*

### If there is one thing you wish JLEC could/would do, what would it be?

*A summer social event could be fun.*

