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Congresswoman Susan Brooks Receives the Mary Harriman Award for Community Leadership

In October, Congresswoman Susan Brooks, a JLI Sustainer, was honored by AJLI for her accomplishments and received the Mary Harriman Award for Community Leadership. Check out the video regarding Congresswoman Brooks' accomplishments on the JLI website and AJLI's announcement below.

Congresswoman Susan Brooks of the Junior League of Indianapolis has been recognized for a lifetime of community leadership, both as a League member and as an advocate for women, by The Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) with the 2021 Mary Harriman Award for Community Leadership. The award, which is The Junior League's most prestigious, was announced at AJLI's 99th Annual Business Meeting on May 22, 2021.

Olivia Thomas, AJLI Treasurer 2019-2021, introduced Congresswoman Brooks and said, "This award celebrates a woman of outstanding leadership in The Junior League who has used her talents and resources to improve the social and economic conditions of others and who exemplifies The Junior League mission



and vision as exemplified by our founder Mary Harriman."

Ms. Brooks joined the Junior League of Indianapolis in 1992, and has become an accomplished leader with a long history of tackling difficult issues as a volunteer and public servant. She has served as a strategic advisor to companies, nonprofits, educational institutions, and hospitals during organizational change. She often shares with Junior League of Indianapolis

members her incredible journey and encourages them to take advantage of the leadership and networking opportunities the League provides.

During her remarks following the announcement, Ms. Brooks added, "Mary Harriman inspired this movement that lives on today more than 100 years later. After a century of meaningful volunteerism in our communities, we know there is still so much to be done. We still need more women leaders at all levels of society-

politics, government, business, academia, nonprofits and beyond."

The Honorable Ms. Brooks joins such past Mary Harriman Award winners as former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor; Lyda Hall, a noted Texas philanthropist; as well as last year's winner, Chief Justice Cheri Beasley, the quintessential servant leader. ■



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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JLI OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday, Friday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



*"Imagination is everything.
It's the preview of life's
coming attractions."*

-Albert Einstein

The preview of our Junior League of Indianapolis Legacy is the amazing work we are accomplishing each year.

Dear Members,

Thank you for your membership, your time, and your resources. If the last 100 years are a preview of what is to come, the Junior League of Indianapolis is

poised to continue its role as the premier member driven community change maker in Indianapolis.

I recently reviewed the complete list of our past projects (available on our website at <https://www.jlindy.org/past-community-projects/>) and felt an incredible sense of pride when I realized the scope of Indianapolis non-profits that the Junior League of Indianapolis founded or made better. This sense of pride came with a realization that we are responsible for setting the Junior League of Indianapolis to achieve this same impact and more in the next 100 years.

In early August, the Junior League of Indianapolis began its work on the next strategic plan. The strategic plan will push us to continue to be the community change maker our Sustainers worked to make us. We'd like to take this opportunity to share our strategic priorities. They are: Member Satisfaction and Retention; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I); Finances; Community Engagement; and The Path to League Leadership.

We view these Strategic Priorities as a preview of our next strategic plan and hope that our members share our excitement for a future based on these priorities. Our Executive Vice President, Elizabeth Scott brought the strategic plan to management council this fall. The management council worked on a number of strategy suggestions for implementation.

In October, we kicked off our Centennial year with the Scarlett Run 5k. Over 100 runners supported the Junior League of Indianapolis while enjoying a scenic run or walk starting at White River State Park. The Centennial festivities will be continuing in Spring 2022 with our Centennial Member Party on June 11, 2022. I hope to see all our members there and cannot wait to celebrate our past present and future. October also brought the prestigious Mary Harriman Award to Indianapolis. We celebrated our very own award winner, Susan Brooks. We are so thankful to have Susan as a Sustainer in the Junior League of Indianapolis!

November brought us the 50th anniversary of Holiday Mart. This in person event at the Indiana State Fairground kicked off with Shopper's Eve and included a new Sustainer breakfast event on Friday and flower arranging workshops on Saturday.

December brings our annual Community Assistance Grants. Grants VP, Cat Patterson and her council have narrowed down the applicant pool to three finalists. Our Active Members, including our newest Actives from the Fall 2021 provisional class will vote to choose the winner of our largest grant during the December general membership meeting. Members will also share their opinions about the future of our Community Focus Area at the December general membership meeting. The Community Focus Area Ad Hoc has been working to sunset the JLI's focus on preparing students for academic success and move us into our next focus area. Community partners who represent the final contenders for our next focus will be at the December GMM to answer questions

If the work we've accomplished so far is a preview, we are set up for success! Now we continue our work in connecting women, cultivating and leadership and collaborating with the Indianapolis community for meaningful impact. I encourage all our members, especially our Sustainers to continue to engage with the Junior League, ask questions, attend meetings, and continue our journey into the next 100 (or more) years. ■

AJLI 2021 Centennial Summit

By: Ali McNichols, AJLI Summit Committee Chair

In light of the increasing number of COVID-19 cases due to the Delta variant across the country, AJLI Leadership made the very difficult decision in early August and changed the format of the AJLI 2021 Centennial Summit to a virtual-only conference. Unfortunately, JLI was unable to host the previously-planned in-person event in Indianapolis. AJLI has assured JLI leadership

that Indianapolis will get “first dibs” on being a host city in the near future, and the committee continues conversation with the coordinating group. Whenever JLI hosts this event, it will be a great economic boost and tourism opportunity for our city. We look forward to that time in the future and celebrating League history and success. If you see them, please take a minute to thank the Committee that had been diligently working on this event since February 2020. The committee includes: Patrice Dawson, Ali McNichols, Katie Lenz and Erin Lucas. Thank for your dedication, ladies! ■

Honoring Our Past. Celebrating Our Present. Securing Our Future.

By: Amanda Cash, Centennial Committee Marketing Chair

The Junior League of Indianapolis is officially in our 100th year of service to the Central Indiana community. In 1922, founding member and first President, Charlotte Scott Moxley, had a goal to equip and maintain the Occupational Therapy Department at Riley Hospital. The project remained one of the League’s major endeavors for nearly 20 years and resulted in nationwide recognition. Since 1922, we have been committed to helping women and children in the Indianapolis community. We have given away over \$11 million in funding and support since 1922 and provided over 2,000 hours of volunteer power each year to community-based non-profits.

The Centennial Committee is planning several events throughout this year to help us celebrate and memorialize this tremendous milestone! We launched our year of scheduled events by hosting our first ever Scarlet Run 5k on October 3rd. We welcomed 141 participants to White River State Park for our race. Participants enjoyed a yoga stretch session with JLI member, Lauren Hafner, and music from DJ Fly Ty to get them

ready for the race along a scenic route. We even had the food truck, the Garnacha Spot, on site for participants to grab some lunch after the race. The Garnacha Spot graciously donated a portion of their proceeds from the day to the JLI. Thank you to each of you who helped spread the word about the race, volunteered, or participated in this event!



We are looking forward to continuing the celebration in 2022! The Centennial Committee is working with the Civic Engagement Committee to host a Day at the Statehouse event in early, 2022. We will be wrapping up our 100th year with a member celebration on Saturday, June 11, 2022 at the Indiana State Museum’s O’Bannon Great Hall and

Ball Family Terrace. We hope attendees enjoy the company of members you know and also ladies that you have not yet had the opportunity to meet. It will be a wonderful time to share our own experiences in the League with others while celebrating the history and success of the JLI.

A fundraising goal of \$100,000 from individual donors by May 2022 was established by the Centennial Committee. Thank you to each and every one of you who have already contributed to the Centennial Fund! We are well on our way to reaching our goal. We are excited to share that we will be using funds generated through this campaign to help preserve our history. This may be in the form of projects like working with local museums on exhibits that share our history or maintaining our archives by digitizing a portion of them to provide greater access to our story. Preserving our history will allow us to more easily share with the Central Indiana community the impact the JLI has had in its first 100 years and help us prepare to serve the community in the next 100 years! ■

Fall 2021 Sustainer Representative Update

By: Cece Gerdenich (Sustainer Representative with Joan Blackwell)

Sustainers have been busy in supporting the efforts of the JLI during the past many months. During 2020-2021, many Sustainers led mentor groups of Actives. I had such a fun time getting to know Tory Blackwell, Erika Doke, Alex Kennedy, Shannon McGeorge, Lindsay McGuire and Julia Vandegriff! I was paired with a long time Sustainer friend and former JLI Treasurer, Amy Rainbolt. Amy and I had fun coming up with ways to engage the group during our darkest pandemic Zoom days. We discussed our “favorite things” over a shared doc and celebrated the birth of Shannon’s first child. I invited my former JLI President friends from Boston and Tucson to Zoom in and chat with Actives. We encouraged them to seek leadership positions within the League. I really hope to stay connected as I found them to be such an amazing group of women. Many other mentor groups had similar experiences.

Several Sustainers have participated in many ways during the 2021-22 year already!

Fund Development hosted many Sustainers during a meeting to discuss strategy. Deirdre Matt, Jennifer Mitchell and Mary Lueders and many others have been meeting with leaders to discuss Sustainer interests and involvement in the Centennial celebration. Nicole McCulloch and Julie Rowlas are lending support to Focus Area initiatives. Mary Lueders is on the Grants Committee. Sustainers lent a hand for the Scarlet Run by volunteering. Karen Glaser planned an event for all members at the Schnull-Rauch House to celebrate Sustainer Susan Brooks’ receipt of the Mary Harriman Award for Community Leadership. Sustainer Stacy Payne Miller is participating on the Investment Committee as an At Large Member. The Sustainer Breakfast at the 50th Holiday Mart was a success. Early Chairs in attendance included Claire Clark and Link Krimendahl. Sustainer Lynda Goeke, always up for a good time, hosted our Sustainer December gathering in her home. In July, Sustainers including Jane Burgess and Kelley Hurst attended an event

in my home in which both the Board and the Management Council were invited to socialize and participate in a panel discussion to learn more about the history of the JLI and Sustainer interests.

The President, Joan and I hope you have enjoyed some of the Sustainer stand alone email newsletters. We have worked hard to make sure these have information that is relevant to you.

We look forward to engaging Sustainers over the League year. Clear your calendars to celebrate JLI’s 100th on Saturday June 11, 2022. You all have helped make these 100 years possible and you have helped make the JLI such a sound organization which will sustain itself over the next 100 years. Please lend a hand or just enjoy yourself when the opportunities arise. You have given so much to the JLI so continue to both nurture the organization and enjoy all it has to offer. Contact Joan and me directly if you’d like to help in any way. ■

Celebrating Our Good News

As women, we dedicate our daily lives to caring for our families and communities, and strive to better ourselves as strong women through our careers, education and volunteerism. Thank you all for leading by example, and for your inspirational and fierce spirits! Congratulations to the following ladies.....

- Sustainer Joan Blackwell was recognized with the Mentor Award by the Women and the Law Division of the Indy Bar.
- Amanda Ward was promoted to Director of Undergraduate Nursing Programs at Purdue University.
- Laura Merrifield Wilson, Associate Professor of Political Science and Pre-Law Program Advisor (University of Indianapolis), has been selected as 1 of 25 participants in the Stanley K. Lacy Executive Leadership Series.
- Olivia Dole obtained her LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker).
- Erika Steuerwald was selected to participate in the Lugar Series Board of Governors.
- Amanda Gallagher has a new job as a staff attorney/judicial law clerk for a federal judge.
- Sara Ann co-edited a book; Rhetoric, Politics, and Hamilton: an American Musical.
- Julianne Brainard has a new job and purchased a new home.
- Alli Badgero coordinated a mattress purchase/donation to Coburn Place.
- Lauren Lattea accepted a new job at Resultant.
- Amanda Cash and her husband welcomed their daughter on May 29th.
- Lindsay McGuire welcomed her son, Miles, on July 15.
- Sustainer Susan Brooks and Board Member Amber Finely were honored by the Indiana Lawyer!

Have Good News you want in the next Hotline? Submit it through Digital Cheetah!





50 Years of JLI Holiday Mart

By: Patrice Dawson, Past JLI President and Holiday Mart Community Relations Chairwoman

Claire Clark, the first Holiday Mart Chair and I sat down for a chat on a rainy and dreary October day. As she began to talk, the rain slowly faded away and her beautiful smile brightened the room. As we began our conversation, she said to me, “I’m smiling because it was so much fun to plan Holiday Mart.” The idea came about because the League was looking for a project in addition to the Next to New Shop. After a visit to a JLI conference and chatting with other Leagues, the president at the time, Carolyn Callender, brought back the idea of a holiday shopping event.

As Claire reflects on the experience now, she says, “Wow, we did it. We never thought about what it would look like 50 years later.”

Claire and her committee members were challenged with developing this new event. She first traveled to Washington DC, the best Mart at the time, to get ideas and set the tone. After

the trip to Washington DC, Claire and six other women packed up her Suburban and headed to Detroit, Michigan to visit another Holiday event and develop expectations for the JLI Holiday Mart.

The original idea was to bring vendors from out of town to Indianapolis for a unique shopping experience. These vendors were recruited from other Holiday Marts around the country. In addition, the committee created Mistletoe Madness, which consisted of handmade goods made and sold by Junior League of Indianapolis members.

For the first Mart, the committee collaborated with a meeting planner. The event was held in the Egyptian Room at the Murat Temple and was professionally decorated. Both League members and shoppers alike were overwhelmed with excitement. At Mart, the committee assisted vendors, collected money, and worked with vendors nightly to calculate sales (JLI took a percentage of sales). After the success of Mart, local merchants were not happy about the event. They felt sales were taken away from them and given to vendors from out of town. Over the years as Mart continued, this sentiment began to dissipate and local merchants became more supportive.

As Claire reflects on the experience now, she says, “Wow, we did it. We never thought about what it would look like 50 years later.”



It was so fulfilling to work with women you may have never normally spent time with”. For many years after the first mart, the committee would continue to hang out and make things to be sold at Mistletoe Madness and then as they faded away, they would make items for each other. They are still a very close-knit group and try to get together at least once a year. Claire and the Holiday Mart Committee are very proud and honored that the trip six women took in a Suburban over 50 years ago, lead to an event that’s still going strong. ■



Celebrating Our Similar Interest Groups

By: Tracie Schroeder

In addition to exceptional opportunities available to JLI members, the organization offers women a means to connect with one another through various interests and activities. It is through the following Similar Interest Groups (SIG) that women can form long lasting friendships, while enjoying some of their favorite pastimes.

- **Adventure** – Have an adventurous spirit? Take a journey with Chairs Jourdann Borski, Suzanne Brittain and Michele Peterson as they explore the outdoors (and in-doors during those chilly months).
- **Book** – Love a good book and conversation? Co-Chairs Anjelica Violi and Annie Howell will take you on a literary voyage.
- **Brunch** – Join the “Ladies who Brunch”, Co-Chairs Morgan Phillips and Shamika Anderson!
- **Craft Beer** – Beer tasting anyone? Join Co-Chairs Diana Coyle and Jennifer Knapp.
- **Crafts** – Calling all crafters! Co-Chairs Erika Doke and Jen Akright are planning “craft together” sessions (all skill levels welcome). A new break-off group (Knitting Circle) is on deck! Can’t knit? No problem, they’ll teach you!
- **International Dinner** – Gather around the table with Co-Chairs Megan Ruvolo and Tracie Schroeder to experience various cultures through food. Dining-out, cooking classes and themed parties are on the menu.
- **Mom’s** – Mom’s unite! Chairs Nicole Carroll, Nicole Carey and Courtney Schroeder have planned kid-friendly and mom-only events. Kiddos can tag along for apple picking, ZooBoo, and sip-n-play at Urban Vines, but moms-only for a night out with Tipsy Truck.
- **Over-40** – Co-Chairs Beverly Randolph and Michelle Campbell are planning unique, engaging, and fun-filled events. Top Golf anyone? Plus, the competition is on with their “Walk the Talk” Centennial 5K Group.
- **Running/Walking** – Want company on the hiking trails or an accountability partner to help you go that extra mile? Look no further. Co-Chairs Cassidy Howell and Erica Metz are taking this crew on virtual and in-person prep sessions for the Scarlet 5K, Strava challenges, and JLI representation at events like the Drumstick Dash.
- **Transfer** – Attention Indy Newbies! Discover all that this city has to offer with Co-Chairs Kristen Ackley and Lindsey Roberts.
- **Wine** – Chair Darcy Marlett is bringing members together over a glass of wine, after-work networking, wine-tasting opportunities, and themed events. ■



“What do my dues pay for?”

Demystifying the JLI’s finances

By: Shannon McGeorge, Treasurer & Mollie Tavel Kaback, VP Fund Development

In an effort to educate JLI members around our finances and to more generally address “where the money goes,” we will share a series of articles that address frequently asked questions. Unsurprisingly, the most common question is “what do my dues pay for?”. While we wish this question was short and simple, the answer has more nuance. To address the question, we’ll begin with a high level overview of the JLI’s finances

EXPENSES

Our estimated expenses for the 2021-22 League year are \$767,000. This amount, which is in line with prior years, includes the costs of hosting Holiday Mart and our Centennial celebrations, the costs of training for members, the costs of our GMMs, the funds we give away to community organizations through our Community Assistance Grants, and all operational costs. Expenses like rent, taxes, legal, PR, financial services fees, and payroll are also critical to “keeping the lights on” for the JLI.

INCOME

The JLI’s income is much harder to estimate than expenses, and COVID has been the perfect reminder of this. Our estimated gross income for the 2021-22

League year is \$506,907. Notably, as we emerged from last year’s shutdown, we aimed to set realistic and conservative income goals.

DUES AS PART OF INCOME

Now let’s look at dues specifically, which were included in the above income total. Our dues bring us roughly \$40,000 net. If you consider this amount in relation to our total expenses for the year, you’ll realize this income covers less than 6% of our total expenses. So which expenses are the dues dollars covering? It’s hard to say. Your dues are deposited into the bank account that pays our bills, and it is difficult to track exactly which expenses the dues dollars will cover. The easiest way to explain where your dues go is to say that your dues cover a very small portion of the JLI’s expenses.

Once you understand your dues make up a small portion of our income, it’s easier to understand the impact that our fundraisers and donations have on our budget. In other words, your participation in Holiday Mart, the Scarlet 5K Run, and other small fundraisers and donation drives we hold throughout the year are so important! The more successful these initiatives are, the more money we have to fund

our Community Assistance Grants, our member training events, and to keep the Junior League of Indianapolis financially stable for future generations.

OUR UNBALANCED BUDGET, DEMYSTIFIED

If you’re wondering how we maintain such a large budget with relatively small income, read on! At this time, we rely on two primary sources to fund our JLI initiatives and cover our expenses: Holiday Mart. This is our only substantial fundraiser. In one long weekend, we’ve historically earned about \$250,000 in revenue.

Our Endowment. We are grateful to our Sustainers who made the prudent financial decision to sell the Schnull Rauch House, thereby ensuring the JLI could fund its mission-driven initiatives for many years. Without this fund, we’d have much less flexibility in our spending. We generally withdraw about \$250,000 from our Endowment annually, which is typically the maximum allowed.

For those keeping a tally of income vs. expenses, the remainder of the JLI’s revenue comes from other sources such as individual donations and corporate sponsorships. But the reality is that each year we spend more than we bring in... a trend that is not sustainable. As we look ahead to the next 100 years of the JLI, we are renewing our focus on generating additional sources of income to better balance our spend and sustain our organization. The more income we generate, the greater impact can have on our Indy community through grants, leadership training, and volunteering. Keep an eye on the Fund Development Committee as they work to broaden our income sources and introduce additional fundraising events to our calendar.



Have a question you’d like us to answer? Email it to treasurer@jliny.org. ■



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**DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
COMMITMENT**

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

OUR VISION

The Junior League of Indianapolis will be a catalyst of lasting change in the lives of children and their families in our community.

PLAN AHEAD

- February 24, 2022 - February GMM
- March 30, 2022 - March GMM
- April 28, 2022 - April GMM
- May 26, 2022 - May GMM
- June 11, 2022 - JLI 100th Member Party

BE SOCIAL

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For our **100th year**
use **#JLI100**

HOTLINE

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