Junior League of Kane & DuPage Counties, Inc.

Annual Profile 2019-2020
The Junior League of Kane & DuPage Counties, 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.
The Junior League of Kane and DuPage Counties, Inc. (JLKDJ), located in the western suburbs of Chicago, is a network of empowered women engaging with community organizations to address and solve pressing local issues.

We are part of an international network of 290 Leagues comprised of over 125,000 women, in Canada, Mexico, the U.K., and the U.S., engaged in similar work in their own communities. This provides us with a unique and powerful depth of knowledge and resources to bring about the changes we strive to accomplish.
On April 20, 1995, the Junior League of Greater DuKane (now JLKD) was welcomed as the 284th member of the Association of Junior Leagues International. Our celebration party was postponed due to the pandemic, but we plan to reschedule. More information about our celebration is forthcoming. To commemorate this milestone, the Board of Directors and members have embarked on a year dedicated to honoring the League’s commitment to the Kane & DuPage Counties area through our three pillars – Engage, Inspire & Grow.

Engage
- Give our members opportunities to connect with each other
- Provide our community with meaningful volunteer hours

Inspire
- Collect and share stories of JLKD’s impact in our community
- Give funds to support programs and organizations in our community

Grow
- Continue our community programs
- Offer our members personal development opportunities

We invite you to join us in celebrating our 25th League Year as we aim to engage and inspire those around us. We look forward to all we can accomplish together! We will be celebrating all year on social media. Watch our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram feeds for #Flashback Friday posts with pictures and memories from our first 25 years.

To learn more about our past, check out the History page on our website.
Our programs work to improve the lives of underserved women and children in Kane and DuPage Counties, Illinois in the areas of health, education, and shelter through programs and direct service. We achieve this focus by partnering with a variety of community organizations and providing our own community programs.
Throughout our history, The Junior League of Kane & DuPage Counties, Inc. (JLKD) has partnered with over 30 community organizations within Kane, DuPage, Will and Kendall counties to improve the quality of life for women and children at-risk in our communities. A few examples of our impact in the community this year include:

• Provided career skills training for young mothers entering the workforce through a fun and interactive Fashion Show demonstrating appropriate work attire and a session on how to answer tough interview questions. The evening concluded with a shopping event and tips on finding a new or better job. We gathered hundreds of clothing items to outfit the women in appropriate job attire.

• Labeled and packed food for needy families in Northern Illinois through two different shifts at the Northern Illinois Food Bank. We also made a monetary donation to help meet COVID-19 demand for food.

• Made fleece blankets to donate to women in shelter at Mutual Ground.
This year we held three sessions of our signature program Kids in the Kitchen for more than 1,000 participants.

The program consists of a three-part workshop in which children participate in an exercise activity, a nutrition tutorial, and a healthy food demonstration. An emphasis is placed on small, low-cost changes children and their families can make to add nutritional value to their meals and also on the importance of exercise for optimal physical and mental health.

*Kids in the Kitchen* is part of a larger initiative put forth by the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) designed to promote the organization’s long-time commitment to improving the health and wellness of children.
The Junior League of Kane & DuPage Counties awards scholarships annually to college-bound, female high school students who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to voluntarism. It is more important than ever to support the spirit of giving and leadership and voluntarism is a vital part of a thriving community.

**Volunteer Scholarship Recipients**

**Verae Fields**, Waubonsie Valley High School, plans to study Nursing

*Excerpt from Essay:* My purpose while on this Earth is to lead by example, provide encouragement and comfort, and be selfless through service. Each day that I exist, I exude these characteristics and that is how I make a difference in my community.

**Zyane Williams**, Joliet Catholic Academy, plans to study Business

*Excerpt from Essay:* Volunteering in my community allows me to connect with its members and make improvements. I enjoy volunteering and believe that just as much of a benefit as I am to my community, my community continues to benefit me.

Verae Fields and Zyane Williams have both positively influenced our local communities and empowered women through their volunteer service. JLKD wishes both Verae and Zyane all the best as they continue to develop their potential and is honored to assist them in their educational journey.
JLKD encourages and supports excellence in teaching by awarding a Teacher’s Grant to educators who present outstanding student programming for an impactful program or project that otherwise would not be provided for in the school budget.

**Grant for Impactful Teaching - Fearn Elementary School – N. Aurora**

**Project:** Fearn Pollinator Garden

**Serving:** Grades K–5 (approximately 520 students each year)

**Impact:** To create a Pollinator Garden to extend the learning within grades K – 5, which study the biology of the plants that attract pollinators such as butterflies, honeybees, as well as other insects. From the application, “This outside classroom will enhance our Life Science units at all levels, allowing the students to gain knowledge by maintaining, investigating, and learning from this area. We will also be observing and plan to be an active part of the larger nation-wide Pollinator Partnership.”
One prong of JLKD’s three-fold mission is developing the potential of women and providing trained volunteers in the community. This year we launched “Training Tuesday” and brought in speakers on a variety of topics.

- JLKD member Lateefah Stanford discussed her volunteer experience providing eye exams and cataract surgery in Rwanda. Members also engaged in a lively discussion about diversity and inclusion, and ways we can further JLKD’s mission on those issues.

- In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Week, JLKD welcomed mental health advocate Michelle Tantillo. We learned ways to seize the awkward moments and about the staggering numbers of adults struggling with depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues.

- Hosted Courtney Geiger, Director of Mission Services at Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois and member of the Junior League of Rockford to learn the issues that low-income families face, the roadblocks that can be barriers to self-sufficiency, and how these factors shape behavior and beliefs.

- Sent two league leaders to the Organizational Development Institute, organized by The Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI), for training.
JLKD held several events to raise funds for our programs, including a Halloween-themed Trivia Night, a shopping event at Kendra Scott, raffles, and our inaugural Little Black Dress Initiative (LBDI)!

We also have an online fundraiser which allows you to shop at national stores and JLKD earns a portion of proceeds. Visit https://www.flipgive.com/c/102796 to join our team. In addition, you can select JLKD as a charity through Amazon Smile and a portion of your eligible purchases will go to the league.

For information on how you can donate to JLKD, please contact fundraising@jlkd.org.
This year JLKD held our inaugural Little Black Dress Initiative (LBDI) which raised over $3,200 for our programs!

LBDI is a week-long event where participants wear the same black dress or outfit to raise awareness about the shelter, health, and education issues facing our community and how JLKD strives to make a positive impact in those areas. It doubles as a social-media driven fundraiser as members post themselves every day in their outfit.
Thank you to our 2019-20 League Leaders!

We appreciate the time and talents you have contributed to JLKD.

Community Committee Chair: Pamela King/Laura Leigh Buatt
Community Committee Co-Chair: Ellen Lerner
Communications Chair: Beth O’Mahoney
Data and Logistics Chair: Karen Hossfeld
New Member Chair: Katrina Walsh
Nominating & Placement Chair: Angela David
Nominating & Placement Committee: Melissa Citarelli-Cunningham, Jessica Jecmen, Lynn Tucker, Sue Wilson, Amy Zook
Sustainer Chair: Cathy Klis
Treasurer: Bridgette Walshe

Our league showed the power of collective impact this year as our efforts positively affected over 2,800 lives in our neighborhoods. This is no small feat, but is the result of our community programs, member development opportunities, and group determination. I am very proud of our accomplishments this year, both as a group and as individual members. Not even a pandemic could get in our way as we continued to serve our community and members virtually to prove we really are unstoppable! This year has inspired me to do more, and hopefully, inspires you too.

Lauren Kingston, 2019-20 President
The Junior League of Kane & DuPage Counties is thrilled to ring in 25 years as part of our community during the 2020-2021 league year. To commemorate this milestone, our members have embarked on a year dedicated to honoring the League’s commitment to the Kane & DuPage Counties area through three pillars – Engage, Inspire & Grow. As we dive deep to engage our members and inspire our community, I am excited to lead JLKD as President. I look forward to serving alongside our members and to all we are bound to accomplish together throughout the 2020-2021 League Year!

Korinne Smillie
2020-2021 President

Thank you to our incoming 2020-2021 League Leaders!

President: Korinne Smillie
Secretary: Monika Tucci
Finance Vice President: McKenzie Meek
Nominating & Placement Chair: Kristine Glockler
Board Advisor: Anna Mary Walker
Treasurer: Jenn Brown
Data and Logistics Manager: Lauren Kingston
Nominating & Placement Committee: Polly White, Amy Zook
Membership Team: Lydia Davies, Rebecca Calkins, Lateefah Stanford, Patricia Paxson
Fund Development Team: Erin Blott, Danielle Broadwater, Katrina Walsh
Community Team: Laura Leigh Buatt, Karen Hossfeld, Holly Redfern
Thank you to the women who served on our 2019-2020 Board and those stepping into Board roles in 2020-2021. We are grateful for your service to the League!

**2019-20 Board**

President: Lauren Kingston  
President-Elect: Korinne Smillie  
Finance VP: Anna Mary Walker  
Secretary: Patricia Paxson  
Nominating & Placement Chair: Angela David  
Board Advisor: Nancy Lincoln

**2020-2021 Board**

President: Korinne Smillie  
Finance VP: McKenzie Meek  
Secretary: Monika Tucci  
Nominating & Placement Chair: Kristine Glockler  
Board Advisor: Anna Mary Walker
League Finances and Expenses

The League is in great shape financially with healthy reserves. This year our expenses were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic as several community events and member trainings were cancelled or postponed.

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<th>Revenues</th>
<th>Fundraising</th>
<th>Support</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Fundraising</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Membership Training/Community Programs</th>
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In mid-March 2020, the Governor of Illinois evoked a stay at home order due to the health threat posed by the Coronavirus. In the weeks following, JLKD made the difficult decision to cancel our in-person events including the 25th Anniversary celebration, and Earth Day Kids in the Kitchen program at Mooseheart. We also reformatted our April and May monthly meetings and several social activities to a virtual format.

The pandemic continues to affect our members and our greater community. JLKD is navigating this latest challenge with guidance from the Association of Junior League International and by observing best practices from the CDC. In April, JLKD approved an emergency grant in the amount of $3,000 to the Northern Illinois Food Bank in response to increased food insecurity in our community.

While we may not be able to gather in person, we are committed to continuing our mission in a manner that is safe for our members and our community.
Every May JLKD gives out four awards to members who have excelled in their roles during the past year. Congratulations to our 2019-2020 award recipients!

- Lateefah Stanford
  JLKD Membership Award

- Beth O’Mahoney
  Gabriela Pino
  Fundraising Award

- Polly White
  Sustainer of the Year Award

- Laura Leigh Buatt
  Janet Bornancin
  Community Award
Sustaining JLKD members are involved in their communities as change agents and leaders. Many continue to stay involved in League activities and serve as mentors to our new and active members. We are proud of their local efforts and continue to learn from and be inspired by them.
Get Involved
The Junior League of Kane & DuPage Counties, Inc. (JLKD) encourages membership among women who have an interest in voluntarism, a commitment to community service, and a desire to develop their potential through training and community involvement. The Junior League welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations and communities. More information about joining JLKD is available on our website or by emailing join@jlkd.org.

Sponsorship Opportunities
JLKD is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. All of our programs and activities are supported by League membership dues, foundation and corporate grants, and other charitable gifts. To find out about upcoming fundraisers, how you can support our work, or make a donation, please visit our website www.jlkd.org or email fundraising@jlkd.org.

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