Our Community, Our Story, Our Legacy
The First 100 Years

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
The impact we make on Kansas City includes training our members to be effective community volunteers and leaders. It is the combination of training and hands-on experience that leads to a legacy of community impact. Our mission of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving our community gives our members the ability to learn and serve beyond their active years. It is the contributions of the individual members that allow us to celebrate this anniversary.

The best way to celebrate a 100th Anniversary is to honor and recognize that we have been true to the mission throughout our history. Our collaborations and the development of programs is driven by the desire to help solve an unmet need in our city. There will always be dedicated, smart, passionate women who have a desire to give back to our community and make Kansas City an even better place to live - I know we are in great hands for the next 100 years!
Picture Kansas City in the early 1900s. The city owed its existence to the river, railroad, grain and livestock trading. Places like the 18th & Vine district were vibrant, dances were hosted at Municipal Auditorium and concerts in Fairmount Park. In the United States in 1920 the 19th Amendment was passed extending voting rights to women.

The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri, began unofficially in 1911 as a small group of 16 women who were interested in sewing diapers for Children’s Mercy Hospital and service to others.

One year later, these ladies were invited to the home of Miss Virginia George and Miss Dorothy George to hear Ruth Carr Patton tell of the work in New York City of the Junior League that had been formed in 1901. The ladies at the meeting were: Margaret Carter, Josephine Egan, Dorothy George, Virginia George, Louise Kimball, Louise Lathrop, Mary Oglebay, Adalina Richards, Alice Richards, Dorothy Russell, Ruby Sewall, Frances Scarritt, Lillian Snyder, Marguerite Strean, Edna Thomson and Mary Withers; prior to incorporation other members joined including Nancy Bell, Margaret Crowe, Harriett Douglass, Abby Hagerman, Katherine Harvey, Anne Peppard, Dorothy Reid, Helen Ward and Martha Woods.

In 1914 the JLKCMO officially became the 14th League to be established in the United States. Mary Oglebay was elected as our League’s first President.

In 1919 our first Provisional class, now referred to as New Members, was created and annual League dues were six dollars. We also printed our very first JL newssheet in 1927.

In 1927 the JL Club Room was established, pictured below. Regular lunches, private parties and teas were served for members, family and friends. There were four cooks and our members served as waitresses. It was a very popular placement.

In 1925 President Alice Sebree commented during her year end report:

“The JL has now passed the years of infancy and inexperience. The ladies have become the service women of the present, supervised by trained social workers and building up from this experience and by an efficient League of today.”
A war broke out in Europe just as the League formed in Kansas City. During World War I, League members played an active role by selling more than $140,000 in War Bonds. They also rolled up their sleeves to work in Army hospitals and served 1,300 meals daily for 21 months at the League canteen. In 1918, the League sent member Lurannah Harris to France as part of the Junior League Unit of the YMCA for French and German canteens. She and other League members across the country served thousands of meals to soldiers who fought in the war.

While the war efforts were some of the earliest projects undertaken by the League, providing assistance to the children of Kansas City was also at the forefront. Before our volunteers were officially part of the League, they organized and operated the first public kindergarten in Kansas City.

Members also sewed diapers for Children’s Mercy Hospital, which is one of our longest-standing relationships. The League has provided funds and volunteer services to Children’s Mercy throughout our 100-year existence.

Other efforts during the earlier years included managing and staffing the daycare and nursery at the Florence Crittenton Home from 1921 to 1929. Also during the roaring twenties, the League established the Girls’ Advisory Bureau. During that time, it was considered taboo to be a single mother, so the League created a program to offer them and other young women moral support and guidance. Our volunteers also helped these residents with job placement, which typically was not offered in traditional commercial boarding houses.
The League responded to the Great Depression by focusing on health and social issues affecting the community. Members established the Junior League Health Clinic for mothers and babies. The center housed a well-baby station, two dental clinics and a staff of two doctors, three visiting nurses, three dentists and our volunteers.

During World War II, JLKCMO members sewed clothing for soldiers and served as nurse’s aides and volunteers at the Red Cross blood bank. Shortly after the war ended, League member Mary “Shawsie” Branton helped found the Cerebral Palsy Nursery School, now known as Children’s TLC (Therapeutic Learning Center).

Other agency partnerships during our earlier years:
- Children’s Center for the Visually Impaired (originally Kansas City Nursery School for the Blind)
- Children’s Convalescent Center
- Mattie Rhodes Neighborhood Center
“I saw our mission in action. Volunteers working together, developing the potential of women as new Actives worked alongside League leaders, and improving our community by teaching families about healthy eating.”

Allison Taylor, 2013-2014 Director of Membership, describing Family Dinners
Membership in the Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri has come a long way in 100 years. Our philanthropic goals stand strong, but the business of being a member of the Junior League is always changing.

The League began as an organization to which one was invited to join. It was to be an honor, and one which you would strive to uphold. This legacy was strong and stayed in place for years, with a secret admissions committee in the 1980s that took a year to decide who was accepted. In the early 1990s, the League adopted a “Reach Out Statement” and put open membership practices into place.

Training is a key part of our mission and one we have protected with the Legacy Fund, developed to ensure future funding for training activities for our members. The training component is one of the benefits that sets us apart from other volunteer organizations.

“I have deep gratitude and respect for the investment the League made in me through training opportunities, conferences and appointments to community activities. I see the need for us to do more of this and I think it is a brilliant way to strengthen and continue our legacy for the next 100 years.”

Mina Steen, 1994-1995 President

Some member placements involve creating a strategy for how we will donate our time and money. Other committees go out into the community and work directly with families in partnership with local agencies. Members can choose how to use their talents to best serve others, and that may change during their membership in the League. As our members have different experiences in life, like new careers or children, their League experience can change too. This flexibility is key to fostering a lifetime membership in Junior League — an experience we can enjoy from college through our Sustainer years. We can choose how much time and what type of commitment to make each year with our placement.

Outstanding Members

The Mary Harriman Community Leadership Award, established by the Association of Junior Leagues International, honors and acknowledges individual Junior League members whose volunteer efforts provide a contemporary link to Mary Harriman’s sense of social responsibility and her ability to motivate others to share their talents through effective volunteer service. The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri has been honored with two members receiving this award:

1996 – Adele Coryell Hall
2011 – Mary Shaw Branton
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<tr>
<th>Years</th>
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<td>Stacey Bishop</td>
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<td>Amy Hunkeler</td>
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<td>2013–2014</td>
<td>Marissa Schaffner</td>
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100 years of community partners

Académie Lafayette • Access House/PA.S.S. Project • Ad Hoc Group Against Crime • Adolescent Resources Corporation • AIDS Education Project • Alan Wheat-5th District Advisory Group • Allied War Charities - Children's Service Association • Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. • Alphapointe Association for the Blind • American Cancer Society, Missouri • American Red Cross - Greater Kansas City Chapter • American Relief • American Royal Visitors Center • American Wind Symphony • Armenian & Serbian Relief • Armour Memorial Home • Army Navy League • Arthritis Foundation • Arts and Education Council • Associated Youth Services • Association of Retarded Citizens of Johnson County • Avila College - Women's Leadership Institute • Baby Clinic • Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Kansas City • Board of Education of Kansas City, Missouri • Bonwit Teller • Brain Injury Association • Bundles for Britain • Butterfield Youth Services • Camp Fire, Inc. - Kansas City, Missouri Council • Catherine Hale Home • Center for Management Assistance • Central Volunteer Placement Bureau • Centurions • Chamber of Commerce - International Visitors Committee • Child Abuse Hotlines • Child Abuse Prevention Coalition • Child Sexual Abuse Prevention • Children's Center for the Visually Impaired • Children's Convalescent Center • Children's Hotel • Children's Library • Children's Mercy Hospital • Children's Oncology Services of Mid-America Inc. • The Children's Place • Children's Therapeutic Learning Center • Children's Trust Fund • Choices Affect Life • Christian Church Hospital • Citizens Environmental Council • Citizens for Missouri's Children • City Arts • City Council of KC MO • Civic Council of Greater Kansas City • Civilian Defense • Clean City Commission of KCMO • Clearinghouse for MidContinent Foundation • Clinicare Family Health Services • Coalition for Battered Women's Service Providers • Coalition for Quality for Education • Coalition for Volunteers • Community Beautiful Commission • Community Children's Theatre • Community LINC • Community Parenting Speakers Series • Comprehensive Mental Health Services • Computer Braille • Concerned Care • Convalescent Home for Sick and Crippled Children • Coordinating Council for Corrections Volunteers • Coordinating Council of French Relief Societies • Coterie Theatre • Court Appointed Special Advocates • Crayons and Crayons • Craft Learning Center • Crippled Children's Nursery School • Crichton Children's Center • Defense Bond & Stamp Bash • DeLano School • DeLassale Education Center • Domestic Violence Network • Don Bosco Family Support Center • Dyslexia Scholarship Fund • Easter Seal Society-Kids on the Block • Elmhurst School • Enriched Information and Referral • Fatherless Children of France • Florence Maternity Home for Black Girls • Folkway Theatre • Fort Riley • French Orphans • French Relief • French Villagers • Friends of the Zoo • Genesis School • George Nettleton Home • Geriatric Resources Corporation • Gillis Center • Girls Advisory Bureau • Girls on the Run of Greater Kansas City • Good Neighbor Program • Good Samaritan Project • Gordon Parks Elementary School • Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce • Greater Kansas City Employment Bureau • Greater Kansas City Foundation for Exceptional Children • Greater Kansas City Health Foundation • Greater Kansas City Writing Project • Guinotte, Watkins and Riverview Senior Centers • Hallmark Cards, Inc. • Handicapped Children's Fund • Happy Bottoms • Harold Thomas Center • Harris-Keaney House • Harvesters • Heart of St. Louis Mission • Heart Fair • Heart of America Family Services • Heart of America United Way • HEED • Home Relief • Homefront • Hooked on Books • Hope House • Horizon Academy • Hospice Care of Mid-America • Individual Parity Assessment • Infant Development Center • Institute of Prevention Service • Interdenominational Home • Jackson County Historical Society • Jackson County Juvenile Court - Detention Home • Jackson County Prosecutor's Office • Jackson County Society for Crippled Children • Jan Clayton Center • Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City • Jewish Family & Children's Services • Jewish Vocational Services • Johnson County Library Foundation • Jumpstart Kansas City • Juvenile Court Children's Shelter • Juvenile Court Emergency Fund • Kaleidoscope • Kansas Children's Service League - Regional Adoption Exchange • Kansas City Academy • Kansas City Area Hospital Association • Kansas City Art Institute • Kansas City Arts Council • Kansas City Association for Mental Health • Kansas City Bicentennial Corporation • Kansas City Campaigning • Kansas City Commission on the Status of Women • Kansas City Community Gardens • Kansas City Consensus - The Promise Project • Kansas City Crime Commission • Kansas City Desegregation Task Force • Kansas City Free Health Clinic • Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey • Kansas City Jazz Commission • Kansas City Literary Connection • Kansas City Marching Cobras • Kansas City Museum • Kansas City Parks & Recreation • Kansas City Public Library • Kansas City Spirit Festival • Kansas City Star • Kansas City Summerbridge • Kansas City Symphony • Kansas City Tomorrow • Kansas City Wheelchair Athletic Commission • Kansas City Women's Volunteers, Inc. • Kansas City Zoo • Kansas City Kansas Area Chamber of Commerce • KC Reads • KCMO Warmth & Light Commission • KCFJ-Channel 19 • KMBC – TV • University of Kansas Medical Center • League of Women Voters • Leeds Tuberculosis Hospital • Legal Aid of Western Missouri • Lyric Opera of Kansas City • M.E.L.D. • Manicamp • Market Area Development Corporation • Mattie Rhodes Center • Mayor's Theatre Committee • Mental Health Association in Wyandotte County • Mental Health Foundation • Metropolitan Community Colleges Foundation • Metropolitan Council on Child Care • Metropolitan Energy Center • Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry • Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault • Metropolitan Women's Roundtable • Mid Continent Council of Girl Scouts, Inc. • Mid-America Immunization Coalition • Mid-America Regional Council • Midwest Artists Association • Midwest Research Institute • Midwest Whole Child Development Group • Miles of Smiles, Inc. • Missouri Association for Social Welfare Resource Discovery • Missouri Citizens for the Arts • Missouri Legislature • Missouri Mansion Preservation, Inc. • Missouri Repertory Theatre • Missouri State Public Affairs Committee • Museum Council of Mid-America • My School, My Neighborhood, My Kansas City • National Council of Jewish Women • National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse • National Sports Center for the Disabled - Kansas City • Needlework Guild • Neglected Children's Home • Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art • Nite in Old Possum Trot • Northeast Owl Center • Northland Battered Persons Program • Nutra-Net, Inc. • Operation Breakthrough • Our House Community Center • Ozanam • Pages and Chapters • Pan Educational Institute • Pembroke Hill School • Permanent Blind War Relief • Planned Parenthood of Greater Kansas City • Power Literacy • Project Plus • Provident Association • Psychiatric Receiving Center • Reach Out and Read Kansas City • Reading Reaches • Regional Health and Welfare Council • Rehabilitation Institute • Renaissance West, Inc. • Research Medical Center • ReStart, Inc. • Ronald McDonald House - Cherry Street • Rose Brooks Center • Salvation Army • Save the Bingham Sketches • Scholarship Fund • Science City at Union Station • Service Men's Club • Sexual Abuse Treatment Network • Shamrock, Inc. • Sheffield Place • Sherwood Center for the Exceptional Child, Inc. • Spotfond Home • Spouse Abuse Education and Intervention • St. Andrew's Episcopal Church • St. Joseph Hospital • St. Luke's Hospital • StandUp Blue Springs, formerly Blue Springs WellLink, Inc. • State Ballet of Missouri • Stepping Stones • STOP Violence • Street Academy • Swofe • Parkway Comprehensive and Mental Health Center • Swofe Settlement • Swofe Settlement Kindergarten • Synergy Services • Teach and Learn Experientially • Teen Connection Hotline • Teenage Parent • The Children’s SPOT • The Humane Society of Greater Kansas City • The Shadow Buddies Foundation • Theatre for Young America • Thornwell Children's Home • Toy and Miniature Museum • Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity • Truman Medical Center • United States Congress • United States Service Organizations • Unemployment Relief Fund • UNESCO • Unicorn Theatre • Union Station Kansas City • University of Kansas • University of Kansas Medical Center • University of Missouri at Kansas City: Conservatory of Music, Family Study Center, L.P. Cookingham Institute, Vanguard Theatre • University of Missouri Extension • Variety Children's Charity of Greater Kansas City • Victim Net • Victim Offender Restitution Program • Visiting Nurses Association • Volunteers Intervening for Equity • Wayside Waifs • WDAF Radio • Welfare Department • Wesley Hospital • Western Missouri Mental Health Center • Westport Crime Prevention • Westport Tomorrow • Westside Community Center • WHB Kansas City • Whole Person, Inc. • William Mitchell Landing • Women's Chamber of Commerce of Kansas City, Missouri • Women's Employment Network • Women's Foundation of Greater Kansas City • Women's Health Magazine • Women's Register • Women's Resource Service • Wonderscope • Worlds of Fun • Wornall House • Wyandotte Mental Health Center, Inc. • YMCA of Greater Kansas City • YWCA Greater Kansas City • Young Audiences • Young Survival Coalition Kansas City • Youth Volunteer Corps • Youth Yellow Pages • Youthfriends
The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri tends to be at the forefront of issues that help bring progress and assistance to those in need. In pursuit of this goal, we pledge our money and volunteer time to many agencies in Kansas City each year. We have given struggling organizations the boost they needed. We have joined with already strong groups to make a big difference. We have also started programs when they were needed. Our partners are key to our ability to serve the families of Kansas City and they are mentioned throughout this publication. Here are a few additional highlights.

Children’s Center for the Visually Impaired (CCVI)
The Junior League and the Delta Gamma Alumnae Chapter started CCVI (formerly Kansas City Nursery School for the Blind) in the 1950s. The school is for legally blind and visually impaired children ages birth through kindergarten. Members are still involved in the Trolley Run, a fundraiser for CCVI.

The Children’s Place
After funding a study in the mid 1970s to address the problems of abused and neglected children, the League donated $21,000 to start this agency. The agency provides families with services to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect. Members have volunteered in classrooms and served on the Board.

St. Vincent’s/Operation Breakthrough
The largest daycare in the state of Missouri, Operation Breakthrough serves around 600 children between birth to five years. The families with children here are all under the poverty level. Since 2003, we have supported this agency with $200,000. We still work with families through programs like Healthy U.

The John Wornall House Museum
The League contributed $10,000 to the restoration of this farm that served as a Civil War field hospital. Members have served as docents and on the Operating Committee for 40 years.
Each year we add new names to the list of more than 350 community partners shown on page 9 of this book.
Over the past 100 years, the Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri has touched the lives of countless Kansas Citians. By providing groundbreaking and innovative community assistance programming, members have addressed relevant societal issues of the times. The Legacy Tour, previously named the Trolley Tour, is an opportunity to introduce Junior League members to the rich history of community involvement undertaken by the League over the last century. The tour visits twenty agencies, all of historical significance to the JLKCMO. Highlights include the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, where the League began the gallery docent program and The Children’s Place, opened by the League in 1979 to provide services for families and children for the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

League members ready to board the Trolley for the Legacy Tour.
From 1914-1934, capacity audiences would fill the theaters of Kansas City for the not-to-be missed Junior League Follies Broadway-style song and dance reviews starring League members. The Follies were the fashion of the age and members starring in the production would grace the pages of The Independent in elegant Strauss-Peyton portraits. Local boutiques would feature advertisements geared toward Follies audiences. Even with ticket prices as low as one dollar, one record-breaking show brought in more than $19,000.

The debut of the Follies was Campus Mouser performed at the Garden Theater in February of 1916. It brought in a net profit of $2,500. Being in the Follies cast was serious business. Local newspapers praised the show and the performing members. The Independent said it was a waste of an opportunity that the Junior League did not rent the theater for several more performances.

League members traveled to New York to plan productions and meet with paid New York directors. One Follies star, Gertrude Boyle Ridenour, took the stage name Marion Mansfield and went on to Hollywood to star with Bing Crosby in Here is my Heart.

Martha Belle Aikins Smith, a local dance instructor, would choreograph for the Children’s Theater and often have a solo dance in the Follies. Interviewed during the 75th Anniversary, Martha Belle, with a special sparkle in her eyes said, “Way back when I was young, they had the most marvelous shows every year. This was the Follies, the Junior League Follies.”

The Roaring 20s were a great time for the Follies, but the productions did cause some dissent among members who thought the shows detracted from the League’s image, while others felt the shows were half the fun of League membership. The 1921 Follies were performed at the Shubert Theater, now known as the Folly Theater. Proceeds benefitted the Convalescent Home for Sick and Crippled Children, which has developed into today’s Cardiac Center at Children’s Mercy Hospital.

The Follies maintained the high spirits of its members. Barbara James McGreevy, 1932-1933 President, recalled the director of the Follies asked young women to do cartwheels down the aisles. She informed the director that League members were not professional gymnasts, and that doing cartwheels was not a dignified activity.

The Follies were also known by other names including the Junior League Nightclub and the Cabaret, held in conjunction with horse shows and American Royal Festivities.

In 1962, a Follies revival showcased the first full scale production since 1934 with a cast including 150 members. We celebrated the Follies during this League year with a special dance tribute in honor of our 100th Anniversary performed at the September General Membership Meeting, held at the historic Folly Theater.

Other fundraisers in the League’s early history were horse shows held from 1928-1933. The profits ranged from $1,260 to $3,519 and were put into the Headquarters Fund and toward programs like the Benefits Unemployment Relief Fund. The Cowtown Carnival was a fundraiser held in the forties and fifties. Profits ranged from $1,007 to $7,174 and were earmarked for projects like the formation of the Community Children’s Theatre and the Rehabilitation Institute.
In the mid-80s the Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri began making plans for a new fundraiser – a shopping extravaganza – Holiday Mart. Led by Dee Dee Warner, the inaugural event was held in October 1988 after two years of planning. Holiday Mart 1988 was at the Overland Park International Trade Center and featured 32 retailers and 90 crafters in a consignment area called Simply Splendid. Martha Stewart was a special guest presenter at the Holiday Mart Luncheon on October 13, 1988. The shopping sensation surpassed expectations with over 10,000 shoppers and $94,000 in proceeds. Fast forward over a quarter of a century and Holiday Mart has become a Kansas City tradition, having raised over $9 million to support our Mission and community projects. Holiday Mart truly is “great shopping for a great cause.”
1933: The Junior League Thrift Shop – 504 Westport Rd.

In 1933, Mildred Trimble, Thrift Shop Chair, shared details of the building renovation, describing the Mexican open air mercado look. She also addressed the heart of the matter, “The Thrift Shop is catching on. Our patrons are beginning to depend on us. We are besieged with all manner of odd requests – white satin wedding dresses, men’s leather jackets, baby pens and even sanitary cots. May it be our good fortune never to be found wanting.”

1954: 1017 Truman Rd.

In an article in the Kansas City Star, Jeanne Sosland, 1999-2000 President, commented on the shop as a training opportunity. “The women who volunteered were considered to be extremely talented. For the most part, League women are college-educated and very smart, and they provided not just who was running the cash register but who was the brains behind the business. They had merchandising ideas. They had marketing ideas.”

1971: 4805 Troost

A 1972 JL Newsheet talked about a training program where two young mothers on welfare learned retail skills at the Thrift Shop. Members later helped them prepare for job interviews, which successfully led to employment.

1978: 4509 Troost

Carolyn Patterson, 1987-1988 President, recalled how organized the managers of the Thrift Shop were. She said Dot Dixon, Mary Lang and Ellen Louise Fennell always had duty lists ready for volunteers, were savvy merchandise pricers and always ready to share their knowledge about the League.

1987: The Junior League Resale Boutique – 6398 Troost

In the final location of what became the Junior League Resale Boutique, annual revenues climbed as high as $182,000.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri was officially incorporated as the 14th Junior League with a membership of 30. Mary Oglebay served as the first president.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>The Junior League hosted its first Follies, and the popular fundraiser lasted for several decades.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1916-1918</td>
<td>The League played an active role in supporting soldiers at home and abroad during World War I. Support included selling war bonds, raising money for the Red Cross and opening a canteen which was maintained at 1305 Walnut until 1919. One League member in particular, Lurannah Harris, completed a year-long placement in France to help in the Junior League/YMCA canteen.</td>
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<td>1919</td>
<td>The League helped create Kansas City’s first prenatal clinic.</td>
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<td>1921</td>
<td>Members staffed the daycare and nursery at the Florence Crittenton Home.</td>
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<td>1927</td>
<td>The Junior League started the Children’s Theater, which moved from being a fundraiser to providing free performances for schools in 1938.</td>
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<td>1931</td>
<td>The Junior League Tea Room opened and began serving lunches to the community.</td>
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<td>1933</td>
<td>The Junior League Health Center examined babies and advised mothers about their care.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>The League helped establish the Art Docent Program at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, which opened that same year. The program is still in place today, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York modeled its docent program after the one at the Nelson-Atkins.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>The League opened its first thrift shop as a fundraiser to support community projects. Throughout its 77-year history, the League’s thrift shop raised more than $4 million.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>The Junior League Headquarters was used for Naval dances and officer parties. Red Cross groups also used the building for sewing and knitting soldiers’ items during World War II.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1942-1943</td>
<td>The League helped establish the Art Docent Program at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, which opened that same year. The program is still in place today, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York modeled its docent program after the one at the Nelson-Atkins.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>The Junior League created an award-winning radio show “Cuddles and Tuckie,” which continued until the late 1960s.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>Several ambitious Junior League members established a singing group that eventually became known as The Noteables, which is still intact today.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>The League celebrated its 50th Anniversary by gifting $3,500 to the Kansas City Zoo to purchase orangutans and $7,500 to Loose Park Lake for beautification.</td>
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</table>
The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri was officially incorporated as Kansas City, Missouri on May 29, 1914. Mary Oglebay served as the first president of the Junior League and helped establish the league's first prenatal clinic. The Junior League played an active role in supporting soldiers at home and abroad during World War I. Support included selling war bonds, raising money for the Red Cross, knitting soldiers’ items during World War II, and providing food to the community.

The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri started the Children’s Art Center in 1933, which later became known as Children’s TLC. The Junior League also started the Crittenton Home and opened the Florence Crittenton Daycare and Nursery in 1931. The Junior League opened its first thrift shop as a fundraiser to support community projects in 1934. Throughout its 77-year history, the League’s Docent Program at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Missouri has been a key component of the League’s service to the community.

As part of its 75th Anniversary festivities, the League helped create one of Kansas City’s most famous fundraisers—Jazzoo. Proceeds established a new endowment fund—the Zoo Learning Fund—to support education projects for the Kansas City Zoo. As part of its 100th Anniversary, the League helped create one of Kansas City’s most famous fundraisers—Jazzoo. Proceeds established a new endowment fund—the Zoo Learning Fund—to support education projects for the Kansas City Zoo.

The League assisted in the restoration of the Wornall House, the Folly Theatre and the Harris Kearney House. The League hosted its first Holiday Mart with special guest Martha Stewart. The League started Hospice Care of Mid-America and Child Abuse Training and Education. The League’s Letters from Home project supported Operation Desert Shield troops.

The League launched its Children’s Literacy impact area. In its 10-year focus, the League provided $1.3 million in children’s literacy funding, collected 765,000 books through its Hooked on Books program and donated 29,850 volunteer hours.

Members provided support to tsunami relief efforts in Asia as well as helping to rebuild in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Shawnie Branton won the Mary Harriman Award, the Association of Junior Leagues International’s highest honor.

The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri funded the lead gift of $1 million dollars to the Penguin Exhibit at the Kansas City Zoo in honor of its 100th Anniversary.

The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri launched its Children’s Nutrition and Fitness Impact area through a unique partnership with Harvesters and University Academy.

Holiday Mart celebrated its 25th Anniversary. More than one million shoppers have helped Holiday Mart raise more than $8 million in 25 years to support the League’s community projects.

The League donated money to the New York Junior League Relief Fund and the Community Blood Center in support of the 9/11 tragedy.

Kansans City for 100 years

1972
The League assisted in the restoration of the Wornall House, the Folly Theatre and the Harris Kearney House.

1981
The League started Hospice Care of Mid-America and Child Abuse Training and Education.

1984
The award-winning Beyond Parsley cookbook was published, selling more than 100,000 copies. A third cookbook, Above and Beyond Parsley, was published in 1992. In total, League cookbooks raised more than $2 million for community projects.

1985
Past President Adele Hall won the Mary Harriman Award, the Association of Junior Leagues International’s highest honor.

1989-1990
As part of its 75th Anniversary festivities, the League helped create one of Kansas City’s most famous fundraisers—Jazzoo. Proceeds established a new endowment fund—the Zoo Learning Fund—to support education projects for the Kansas City Zoo.

2001
The League donated money to the New York Junior League Relief Fund and the Community Blood Center in support of the 9/11 tragedy.

2004-2006
Members provided support to tsunami relief efforts in Asia as well as helping to rebuild in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

2011
Shawnie Branton won the Mary Harriman Award, the Association of Junior Leagues International’s highest honor.

2012
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2014
The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri funded the lead gift of $1 million dollars to the Penguin Exhibit at the Kansas City Zoo in honor of its 100th Anniversary.

2010
The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri launched its Children’s Nutrition and Fitness Impact area through a unique partnership with Harvesters and University Academy.
Company’s Coming, 1975, $7.95

- Focused on food and entertaining
- Net profits increased more than 400% in its second year, earning $12,069
- Became part of the Culinary Collection in 1980 in the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe College

“The project was undertaken as a way to establish esprit de corps among members and a way to celebrate 65 years. Members felt there were not enough opportunities to meet, get acquainted, or simply ‘have fun.’ There were many, many tasting parties all year before we voted on which recipes would be included. The money making aspect of the cookbook was a wonderful by-product.”

Mary Kay Horner, 1974-1975 President

Beyond Parsley, 1984, $19.95, then $24.95

Beyond Parsley was unlike any cookbook published by a Junior League. It was hardbound and featured beautiful, colorful photographs of mouthwatering dishes. It captured the nation’s attention and garnered loyal fans among cooks and chefs as well as other cookbook developers. In less than 22 months, the printing investment of $87,000 more than doubled ($190,000) in net profits.

- 1985 Tastemaker Award (Presented annually to honor excellence in cookbook writing and publishing, now known as the IACP Award.)
- Featured in Ladies Home Journal, November 1985
- 1993 Tabasco Award (Presented by the McIlhenny Company to honor nonprofit organizations and the outstanding cookbooks they create to raise money for local charities and causes.)

“We had a clear vision that this book must be spectacular. We knew it would make money, but never thought it would be this successful. When we were $10,000 over budget, we had to find a way to make it work without touching the quality of the book. Putting all the food pages in the front of the book made it possible to be back on budget.”

Karen Craft, Chair, Beyond Parsley

Above and Beyond Parsley, 1992, $26.95

Building on the success of Beyond Parsley, the committee knew the audience would be nationwide. A nationally recognized publicist was hired and the first printing sold out before it even arrived.

- 1992 Omni Award for photographic excellence
- 1000 Points of Light Award (Presented to Co-Chairwomen Jan Flanagan and Jane Guthrie by President George H.W. Bush. This award honors citizens working to aid their community through volunteer work.)
- To reflect the changes in food trends, the cookbook emphasized the theme “Food for the Senses” to highlight presentation, aroma and texture.

“Beyond Parsley literally changed the course of community cookbook publishing – not just for this League but for the genre itself. The next step was to start working on a new one. And the latter had to be both a fitting heir to enormously successful predecessors as well as its own sort of showstopper.”

Jane Guthrie, Co-Chair, Above and Beyond Parsley
For over 100 years, the publications of the Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri have reflected not only the women of our League, but also historical events in our League, our metropolitan area and our nation. Titles of our publications have included *Choice Cuts*, the *JL Newsheet*, *Junior League News*, *This Month*, *All the Jazz*, and *Inside Scoop*. Other publications have included *Hot Flashes*, the publication for Sustaining Members, and *Community Issues*, highlighting current topics and social issues.

Regardless of the name at the time, our publications have featured the skills of many our members in photography, artwork, writing, editing, layout and design. Our publications are the strongest archival information we have to document the tradition, growth, change and accomplishments of our League.
In 1999, members selected Children’s Literacy as the impact area for the following ten years. Our specific focus area was adopted by identifying three critical needs: literacy awareness, brain development and school readiness.

We provided over $1.3 million in funding to 33 Kansas City area organizations focused on literacy initiatives. Our monetary contributions were highly effective, supporting programs like vision screenings and eyeglasses for children, literacy training for teachers and agency staff, creating and maintaining a lending library and providing braille software and equipment.

The League partnered with the *Kansas City Star* on our signature project, Hooked on Books. We launched three metro-wide billboard and media campaigns that brought awareness and visibility to the importance of children’s literacy. We created and distributed more than 100,000 *Let’s Read* booklets, a tool to show parents best practices on how to read aloud to their children. KCPT First Books also developed and launched the *Read Aloud* television program with Wally Amos.

The Literacy for Life Collaboration was formed for agency partners to share information about literacy programs and community efforts. This group quickly utilized their networking skills to form joint programs and provide assistance to one another.

Ten years later, members had leveraged relationships with over 200 agencies and schools to encourage donations and put over 765,000 books into the hands of children.
In 2014, according to the American Medical Association, one third of Americans were considered obese. Childhood obesity has tripled in just one generation. In the Kansas City area, nearly one in three children was considered overweight or obese in 2014.

The League has taken note. Since 2010, the League has focused on children’s nutrition and fitness issues. Our signature project, Healthy U, is a partnership with Harvesters and University Academy (UA) to help students and their families understand the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. We provide 230 BackSnacks each week to students to ensure they have healthy snacks over the weekend; we host 12 Family Dinners each year, which are hands-on cooking and education sessions; and we have adopted classrooms where we teach new exercises to inspire the children to get moving.

In just four years’ time, the League has made a significant impact with the UA population. Obesity rates have dropped 24% since the League’s involvement with the school; in addition, Superintendent Tony Kline has reported improved test scores during that same time period.

From 2010 to 2014, we gave more than $500,000 and 20,000 volunteer hours to community agencies focused on creating healthier lifestyles for children. Some examples were:

- Provided 230 pairs of gloves to UA students so they could play outside in colder months
- Purchased nine bicycles for students at Kansas City Academy; additionally 15% of the students’ lunch food came from the League-funded garden at the school
- Offered 785 students at Académie Lafayette fresh fruit daily
- Expanded the garden at Operation Breakthrough
- Provided support for Children’s Mercy’s PHIT Kids program, which helped nearly 75% of children enrolled in the program to lower their BMI percentile
- Coached 3rd – 8th grade girls through their first 5K with the Girls on the Run of Greater Kansas City

“The grant from the Junior League has exponentially built our capacity to deliver high quality interventions from families,” said Meredith Dreyer Gillette, PhD, Associate Director for Children’s Healthy Lifestyles and Nutrition at Children’s Mercy Hospital. “We benefit tremendously from the volunteer and financial support in order to run our programs effectively and with as low of a staff cost as possible.”

by Gina Stingley
Throughout the 1940s – 1960s, the Radio and TV Committee played an integral part in spreading the Junior League mission and ideals throughout the Kansas City area. Beginning in the 1940s, the Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri aired Listen Ladies on WDAF Radio. This weekly Saturday morning show spotlighted the positive impact League projects, such as work with the Rehabilitation Institute and Cerebral Palsy Nursery School, were having on the community by featuring the stories of actual patients and individuals touched by these agencies.

Another major radio hit during the 1940s was The Christmas Adventures of Cuddles and Tuckie. The program, created by League members Frances Royster Williams and Frances Snyder Franklin, was based on the 1930s comic strip penned by Williams, and became an instant classic after its debut in 1941. Despite being discontinued temporarily during World War II, the Junior League ladies reprised the show in 1946 with a 14-part series. Cuddles and Tuckie became a permanent WDAF show in 1947 and two years later The Strange Adventures of Cuddles and Tuckie won first place at the American Exhibition of Education Radio Programs.

Just as many Kansas Citians were welcoming television into their homes in the 1950s, the Junior League shifted their focus from radio to TV programming during this time as well. Similar to the radio show Listen Ladies from a decade before, the 1954 television show Let’s Go Visiting, showcased different League projects throughout the community. Likewise, Yours to Enjoy and Focus featured cultural events and institutions around the city. The Radio and TV committee also promoted children’s and adolescent programming, such as the teenage quiz show It’s In the Bag, and productions of children’s classics by the Junior League Puppeteers.
The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri has been dedicated to enhancing the arts and culture of the city since its inception in 1914. Beginning in 1927, League members began producing and acting in plays that became known as the Children’s Theater. The project began as a fundraiser to expose Kansas City children to the arts and continued to grow and thrive for 50 years. In the 1940s the Children’s Theatre expanded its repertoire to include marionette shows, and a decade later it was performing free shows to local elementary schools for five consecutive weeks in both the spring and fall. Through the Children’s Theater, the League was able to bring education, entertainment and culture to hundreds of thousands of Kansas City children.

Another program that has touched countless numbers of children in the Kansas City area is the Docent Program at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. In 1933 League members assisted in the opening of what was then called the Nelson Gallery. The next year, League volunteers served as docents for the Gallery. These ladies spent hours learning about the museum and its collections as part of their docent training. Along with providing tours for elementary school visitors, the League also donated display cases, taught crafting classes, and even produced an art education television program, The Magic Glove.

There are also many lesser-known projects the League has participated in throughout the past 100 years to enrich the arts and culture of Kansas City. The League has been a longtime supporter of the Kansas City Philharmonic, known today as the Kansas City Symphony. The League sponsored free concerts for high school students, as well as supplied volunteers to act as concert hostesses. In 1966, the League Sustaining members introduced Thirty Miles of Painting, an exhibition for artists living within 30 miles of the Kansas City area. The fundraiser expanded to include all mediums of art in 1969 and was renamed Thirty Miles of Art. The name changed once again a decade later to Mid-Four, and featured the work of artists from Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa. The League has also been instrumental in monetarily supporting the arts by providing a scholarship fund at the Kansas City Art Institute and through the creation of the Arts and Education Association of Greater Kansas City.
The Junior League Headquarters locations have included 4700 Ward Parkway, 58th and Main, 4651 Roanoke Parkway and our current building at 9215 Ward Parkway. Over the years, the headquarters has been used for many purposes. Members sewed diapers and uniforms, organized Navy dances and luncheons, enjoyed card games and of course, attended countless meetings. It is full of beautiful furnishings and antiques that the League has acquired during the past decade. There is also a treasure trove of awards, books and photographs that tell our story. But the most important thing inside our building is the constant flow of our membership, planning our next 100 years.

The League moved to 4651 Roanoke Parkway in 1947. In 1991, the League moved to 9215 Ward Parkway after our planned Plaza West move was halted by a construction issue.
The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri has a long and rich history of contributing to the community. This has been especially true when we have celebrated the anniversary of our founding. During these auspicious occasions the League likes to kick it up a notch, as evidenced by some of our anniversary celebration gifts.

Our 50th Anniversary was celebrated in 1963 – 1964 with multiple gifts. The League gave the Kansas City Zoo $3,500 for the purchase of orangutans and gave $7,500 for the creation of the Japanese Garden at Loose Park (photo above).

Our 75th Anniversary was celebrated in 1988 – 1989 with a project called “The Kingdom of the Animals”. This was a four year, $200,000 project that included seven mini-projects and utilized 100 to 175 League member placements. The cornerstone of the project was a permanent educational endowment, The Zoo Learning Fund. The League also started Jazzoo, a black tie fundraising event, which still supports the fund today.

The League celebrated its 90th Anniversary in 2004 – 2005 with a Celebration, Retrospective Exhibit at the downtown library, a Past President’s Luncheon including Pam Newby, ALJI President, and extensive archival research to help us reconnect with our roots.

For our 50th Anniversary gift, the League chose a donation to the Zoo because it was a place for entertainment and education accessible to families of all economic levels.

In 2014, the Zoo Learning Fund has grown to nearly $5 million since we started it for our 75th Anniversary.
As our 100th Anniversary year drew to a close, we celebrated with two weekends of volunteering with the Ronald McDonald House, where families can stay when a family member is getting medical treatment in Kansas City. Junior Leaguers of all membership levels began by prepping and preparing meals for the families staying at both the Cherry Street and Longfellow house locations.

This was a special opportunity for League members to bring friends and family along to volunteer and see first-hand what we do in the community. Members commented on how warm and special the house was, and how proud they were to give back to families who were already faced with so much. It truly was a heartwarming experience for our members, who couldn’t help but be touched by the situation of these families. The League also donated $25,000 to Ronald McDonald House this year to support their third and newest residence, Wiley House, built in 2014.

“They thanked us for being there and I just about lost it because I would be leaving there in a few hours and going home to my sweet little baby and to a kids’ soccer game, and they were there waiting on their little one to get out of surgery. Overwhelming! I will be going back to volunteer for sure.”

Brandi Thomas

100th anniversary community service project
by Meagan Campbell
With a simple “Hey Girl,” Hoda Kotb began an incredible celebration for the Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri’s 100th Anniversary Luncheon on September 20, 2013.

Hoda is after all, a Midwestern girl born in Norman, Oklahoma. Striking, almost 6 feet tall, and of Egyptian-American descent, Kotb spent her time at the podium at Bartle Hall as the keynote speaker, telling stories of her life … not all of which has been easy.

In Arabic, “Hoda” means “guidance,” and is a very popular name among Arab women. And I believe she succeeded in guiding the 800+ attendees at the luncheon through her journey and inspired us to impact our community with many more years of voluntarism.

She told the story of trying to find her first job out of college. She talked about being a television news anchor and TV co-host of Today’s Talk, the fourth hour of the Today Show with Kathie Lee Gifford. She described her life as a journalist for Dateline NBC. She also reminisced about her time at Virginia Tech.

Then she described her fight with cancer. After undergoing a mastectomy and reconstructive surgery for breast cancer, she has become an advocate for awareness. She allowed Today Show cameras to follow her throughout her cancer battle. In her book, Ten Years Later: Six People Who Faced Adversity and Transformed Their Lives, “we tell the stories of individuals who’ve dealt with sudden, radical life-changing experiences. While these circumstances can be jarring, it can also tap into a person’s best traits and enable great personal growth,” said Kotb.

Her life-changing experiences brought down the house at the luncheon and will continue to inspire each of us to work another hour, or another day for our communities. It was her stories and experiences explaining that it just takes one person to make a difference that encouraged us all.

“Life is a series of baby steps along the way and if you add up these tiny little steps you take toward your goal, whatever it is, whether it’s giving up something, a terrible addiction or trying to work your way through an illness. When you total up those baby steps you’d be amazed over the course of 10 years, the strides you’ve taken,” Hoda Kotb told the crowd.
Ten years ago, during the League’s 90th Anniversary year, President Katie Gerson led the Board in discussions on how to commemorate the League’s 100th Anniversary in a meaningful way. The Board recommended and Membership had the foresight to approve the use of 20% of total community funds over the next 10 years to go toward a significant community gift in honor of the Anniversary. The hope was that this fund would grow to be $1 million to ensure that we could make a substantial impact in the community.

Over time the fund grew and $1 million dollars was raised in time for the League’s 100th Anniversary in 2014, and was dedicated to the Kansas City Zoo’s new penguin exhibit. The process by which the Zoo was chosen was a thoughtful one. In 2010 – 2011 the 100th Anniversary Committee studied non-profit organizations in Kansas City and the League’s involvement over the years. After careful consideration, the scope was narrowed to three agencies: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, The Kansas City Zoo and Children’s Mercy Hospital, all of whom have a rich history with the League.

A group of 100th Anniversary Committee Sustainer and Active members and Deb Feder, 2010-2011 President, attended meetings with each organization. Courtesy of NBC
Action News, each agency was interviewed on camera to share with the League membership ideas for how the $1 million would be utilized. A vote was taken at the April 2011 General Membership Meeting.

The Kansas City Zoo received the most votes and was announced at the May GMM with stuffed penguins flying throughout the room and amazing penguin cookies for all to enjoy.

The $1 million lead gift was the catalyst enabling the Zoo to move forward with this project, and “The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri Penguin Ice Paradise” is a highlight of the final product.

On May 10, 2014 we celebrated at the Party with the Penguins. Nearly 800 League members and their families enjoyed the penguins, bounce houses, Gates barbeque, a DJ and riding the carousel and train.

Right: A young guest at the Party with the Penguins wanted to reach and touch the feathered friends. Below: Visitors enjoyed the newly opened penguin exhibit bearing our name.
Top left: 100th Anniversary commemorative jewelry created by Mazzarese Jewelers. Top middle: A resolution acknowledging our anniversary was presented to President Marissa Schaffner by Missouri House Rep. Judy Morgan. Top right: Special anniversary insert in the Kansas City Star. Middle: A floor to ceiling photo collage was installed at League Headquarters. Bottom photos: Members highlighted our history at General Membership Meetings throughout the year, each held at locations with historical significance.
The JLKCMO is one of the largest and oldest Junior Leagues in the world, with 1,400 members providing 30,000 volunteer hours annually and funding support for agencies in need every year. Over the course of 100 years the JLKCMO has donated more than $15.7 million and 2.3 million volunteer hours, while serving 350 agencies in our region.

Women have never been pulled in so many directions and the problems are more complex and confounding. But the future also looks promising. Women today have so much power and opportunity in education, health care, business, politics, government and the home. To keep our organization strong, we must lift ourselves to another level in training, education and experience – setting our League apart from other women’s organizations and empowering members with knowledge that improves our work and optimizes our outcomes.

The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri 100th Anniversary Legacy Fund was created to ensure a strong future for the League. It will provide ongoing funding for programs and activities that support our Mission, with special emphasis on developing the potential of women in order to improve our community. It will directly fund opportunities such as speakers, leadership development programs, civic leadership instruction and other quality training.

It is our training that differentiates us from other volunteer organizations. We are dedicated to improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

Women today have many opportunities to develop their potential through their workplace, church and other community involvement activities. The Legacy Fund will support special opportunities that will make membership in the League even more attractive to current and potential members. This will help us remain relevant, progressive and viable as a community leader.

Disbursement of funds will begin once $1 million has been collected. As of May 30, 2014, the following members have generously pledged their support and are members of the Legacy Circle.
The official 100th Anniversary was celebrated on April 30, 2014 at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. League members toasted our 100 years of service before the program, which included guest speaker Mayor Sly James.