ABOUT THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF RICHMOND

Since its beginning in 1926, the Junior League has set its sights on the Richmond community, and its commitment to children and families has remained steadfast. The volunteer spirit is what the Junior League is all about. Trained by the League and on the job, volunteers give their time and talents to help others in need...without pay, but not without rewards. Every moment shared in the spirit of community is both priceless and timeless.

MISSION

The Junior League of Richmond is an organization of women committed to the mission of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

VISION

The Junior League of Richmond leverages its talented and trained members to serve women, youth, and families for the purpose of reaching educational goals, preparing for the progression in life, and generating pride in the community.

“

The Junior League of Richmond is one of The Doorways most dependable and dedicated partners having provided over 10,000 hours of service with us. Over the decade plus of our relationship they’ve done everything from serving meals, to setting up a mobile thrift store, to hosting virtual Bingo Nights. While the hours are impressive, the value of that time could never be overstated. Our guests and staff are always excited to see Junior League because we know the volunteers will be smiling and happy, the food will be delicious, and the games will be fun. We could never say enough how much it means to all of us here to have the continued support of the women of Junior League at The Doorways!

Taylor Fanelli
Volunteer & Outreach Manager
The Doorways
Empowering women. Strengthening communities. Improving lives. These are six words that have effectively defined the Junior League of Richmond, its members and its work for the past 94 years. We are 863 strong with 420 Active members and 442 Sustainers in our organization. We also welcomed 101 new members during the 2019-2020 League year. In late 2019, the Junior League of Richmond voted to change our community focus area to women helping women within the greater Richmond community.

I never imagined when I shared the Volunteer. Lead. Inspire. theme for the 2019-2020 League year, we would rely so heavily on these three words, especially during a pandemic.

- We came together to volunteer and serve the greater Richmond community.
  - Established a Community quasi-endowment to maintain funds for future programs for Women Helping Women
  - Hosted 66 community events equating in 2,150 volunteer hours and $59,125 dollars
  - Purchased a mobile truck and revamped it to be the Rolling Rack, a mobile extension of our brick & mortar Clothes Rack stores to reach underserved populations
  - Volunteered over 1500 hours at the Clothes Rack stores
- We invested in leadership development for our members and for the community.
  - Hosted 12 Training Institute for Leadership Impact (TILI) courses which equate to over 1,000 hours of training for our members
  - Hosted our first leadership breakfast with 140 attendees that focused on empowering women leaders and raised over $15,000
- We inspired each other throughout the year and moved into action during a time of crisis to support each other, the League and the greater Richmond community.
  - Held our first legislative meet and greet with 6 legislators
  - Hosted our first advocacy day in over 10 years to promote awareness around human trafficking
  - Created a Public Health Emergency Management Team to lead the League through the current and future health crises
  - Spent $5,250 at a local business for gift cards to distribute to families impacted by the pandemic
  - Made nearly 1,000 masks to distribute to healthcare workers and other essential personnel

I am honored and proud to have served along with our 863 members to accomplish so much, even when faced with adversity and the fear of the unknown.

Savon Sampson
2019-2020 President
PROMOTING VOLUNTARISM

863 members
420 active
442 sustainers

10 in person recruitment events
3 virtual events with 110 prospective members attending across all events

3 in person General Membership Meetings
with 615 attendance across all GMM’s

DEVELOPED A NEW 2020-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

League members provided over 2,125 volunteer hours, equating to $59,000

23 affinity group events

Two New Member Classes Equals Double the Impact

101 new members

With the return of a two-class new member program, the New Member Project was twice the fun. The Fall New Member Class, in conjunction with Richmond Parks and Recreation, beautified both Broad Rock Sports Complex and the butterfly garden at Reedy Creek Park. Parks and Recreation staff educated new Leaguers about the history and demographics of the underserved park facilities. New Members collected over 600 pounds of litter in the first hour of the clean-up. The Spring New Member Class, in conjunction with RPS Shines, organized supplies, including food and clothing, at the Family Support Center. The Family Support Center serves students and their families facing housing instability and homelessness.
Leadership Events Celebrate International Women’s Day

As part of our mission to develop the potential of women, the Junior League of Richmond’s Training Institute for Leadership Impact (TILI) and the Fund Development Council collaborated on two events to celebrate International Women’s Day. On Friday, March 6, 2020, 140 women from across Richmond were guests at the Unstoppable Women’s Leadership Breakfast organized by the League and sponsored by 14 companies and organizations. The next day, Saturday, March 7, 2020, more than 80 League members participated in JLR Leadership Day, held at Capital One, who graciously donated space for the half day workshop.

The keynote speaker for both events was Dima Ghawi, a nationally recognized Leadership Speaker and Executive Coach. Dima shared her own journey of self-discovery and empowerment by escaping confinements, shattering barriers and crossing continents to create a bold identity and a transformational life purpose. Dima challenged participants to dare to thrive personally and professionally by taking courageous, life-changing actions unburdened by fear, ultimately breaking free of limitations and growing in leadership.

The League is grateful to our partners who sponsored these events and share the Junior League of Richmond’s commitment to develop the potential of women in our community.

thank you Sponsors!

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On the recommendation of the Research, Evaluation, and Planning (REP) Committee, the Junior League of Richmond moved forward with establishing a new community focus of Women Helping Women. This decision was based on careful consideration of the needs of the Richmond community, feedback from our nonprofit partners and members, and an evaluation of where the League could make the greatest impact. To introduce members to the new focus and needs, the League organized several projects with organizations who serve these populations. These events focused on service learning so that members could better understand the mission of the partner organization and the constituents being served. As a result, ten new community partnerships were formed, which will allow League members to work with those in underserved areas who may be homeless, live in poverty, face violence, or lack access to nutritious foods.

The Junior League of Richmond has continued to find ways to engage with our 7th grade girls, even in the face of 2020 and all its challenges. When most places used a really good excuse to take the year off, our friends from the Junior League looked for ways to safely and creatively continue providing programming and engagement. The experiences and education that come out of Kids in the Kitchen provides unique opportunities for the young women, and allows them to develop life-long skills. Thanks so much for sticking with us and building relationships with our students in spite of the obstacles.

Katye Snipes
School Administrator
Anna Julia Cooper Episcopal School
In FY20, JLR Provided the Following Impact to the Richmond Community

**66 Community Events + 2150 Hours Served = $59K**

13,500 Community Members Served

Introduced service learning elements into each community event, so members understood the mission of the nonprofit partner, and why their engagement was critical to the organization’s success.

In Response to COVID-19

**900 Masks Made for Essential Workers + $6K in Local Business GC Distributed to Families Affected by the Pandemic**

Provided support to the medically fragile and their families at Doorways by:

- Food donations to fill pantry
- Meal donations to guests
- Financial support to organizations

JLR Community Partners

- Anna Julia Cooper Episcopal School
- Doorways
- Community in Schools
- Boys and Girls Club
- YWCA
- Safe Harbor
- Salvation Army
- Peter Paul Development Center
- SCAN
- ChildSavers
- FRIENDS
- YMCA of Greater Richmond

10 New Community Partners
The Junior League of Richmond held its first Advocacy Day in over a decade during the 2020 General Assembly Legislative Session. The goals were to create awareness of, and place a focus on, a national AJLI public policy initiative: combating Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence. Many people are unaware of how prevalent this form of modern slavery is locally, as the intersection of Interstates 95, 85, and 64, make Richmond a hot zone for trafficking human cargo. The JLR Public Affairs Committee researched legislation and developed talking points and constituent emails for League members to use in outreach to their legislators asking for support of Human Trafficking victims.

On February 6, 2020, members met to review messaging to legislators and write notes to members of the House Courts of Justice and Senate Judiciary committees. Later that day, League members met with Legislators and their staff, including Delegate Emily Brewer (R-64th District), Delegate Betsy Carr (D-69th District), Senator Siobhan Dunnavant (R-12th District), and Delegate Rodney Willett (D-73rd District). Legislators were asked to support a resolution to close funding gaps for resources that support victims and survivors of Human Trafficking and Sexual Assault.

The Junior League of Richmond looks forward to continuing these advocacy efforts and building relationships to impact meaningful change in the Richmond community.

ROLLING RACK LAUNCH

In an effort to better serve the Richmond community and connect the League’s Clothes Rack thrift boutique with underserved neighborhoods, the Junior League of Richmond launched the Rolling Rack, a mobile version of our brick-and-mortar stores. The Rolling Rack’s primary mission is to provide affordable clothing to those who lack resources or access to traditional retailers. With the Rolling Rack, the League is now able to provide a unique shopping experience for guests at Doorways who need clothes for the changing seasons, outfit young women who are preparing to interview for their first jobs, and offer back-to-school clothes for families in underserved areas.
The Junior League of Richmond held its 75th Book & Author Event on Thursday, May 7, 2020. Presented by Dominion Energy, this iconic literary event, the longest running of its kind in the nation, raised funds to train League volunteers and support programs aimed at women and girls, including those in underserved areas of Richmond.

This year, sponsors and guests attended the event virtually due to COVID-19 and heard six renowned authors talk about their new books and their writing processes. Authors included: Bob Deans (who also emceed the event) – The Bicycle Man; Grady Hendrix– A Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires; Natalie Jenner – The Jane Austen Society; Lily King –Writers & Lovers; Melissa M. Martin – Mosquito Supper Club: Cajun Recipes from a Disappearing Bayou; and Phuc Tran– Sigh, Gone: A Misfit’s Memoir of Great Books, Punk Rock, and the Fight to Fit In.

Thanks to the support of our sponsors, our members and the community, the event was a success, enjoyed by over 700 guests and raising over $52,000. Also, continued thanks to Fountain Bookstore for your help with this event every year. Mark your calendars now for the 76th Book & Author which will be held on Thursday, April 29, 2021.
The 14th Annual Touch a Truck was held on October 19, 2019 at the Richmond Raceway. Over $68,000 was raised through ticket sales and event sponsorships with a net revenue of more than $55,000 to support the mission of the Junior League of Richmond. VIP tickets sold out in the first 24 hours of ticket sales and, thanks to a beautiful day, over 5,000 people attended the event. The League was also able to host a number of families from underserved areas at no charge in conjunction with JLR community partners.

With over 70 vehicles on site, children were able to touch and explore fire trucks, police cars, construction equipment, trucks of all shapes and sizes, a medical transport helicopter, and much more. Four birthday parties and a corporate family group outing were also held at the event.

Thanks to our corporate and nonprofit partners as well as food and activity vendors, the event broke attendance and revenue records for this fun-filled RVA family event. Due to COVID-19, the 15th Annual Touch a Truck was a Drive Thru at Richmond Raceway on Saturday, October 17, 2020.
WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

BARBARA RANSOME AWARD

Virginia Caldwell Stone

This award, named for one of our most esteemed and beloved members, is given to the person who demonstrates outstanding commitment to the community and the Junior League of Richmond through volunteer activities. This year’s recipient, Virginia Caldwell Stone, began her Junior League journey here in Richmond, before serving in DC, Chicago, and Arizona Leagues. After coming back to Richmond, she became a very involved Sustainer member, and is responsible for co-founding the Sustainer Book Club, and for helping the Sustainer Transfer group and Doers flourish. She is tireless in her enthusiastic promotion of a wide range of meaningful projects – from hosting tables at Book and Author, to leading a campaign to raise funds to remove graffiti on the outside of the Clothes Rack building. As an outstanding member and a wonderful ambassador, she represents the best of what it means to be a JLR volunteer.

PINKIE W. SMITH AWARD

Meghan Behny

The Pinkie W. Smith Award for Excellence in Volunteerism was established in 1998 to commemorate the exemplary service and dedication to volunteering that was so evident in the life of Pinkie Smith. The recipient is an “unsung hero” who consistently performs above the normal League requirements, demonstrates excellence in her volunteer work, and shows selfless dedication and loyalty to the Junior League of Richmond. This year’s recipient, Meghan Behny, joined the League in 2014 as a new member transfer from the Junior League of Washington, DC. She spent time as a TILI and Finance committee member before moving into Membership as a New Member Advisor. Meghan has also helped develop and lead our Historian committee, educating members on the incredible background of the JLR. This past year, she navigated a new two new member class system with poise and grace, helping the League welcome 101 new members.

2019 – 2020 END OF YEAR AWARDS

Staff Member of the Year – Ann Michele Sweeney
Community Partner of the Year – Anna Julia Cooper Episcopal School
Transformational Team – Placement Matching Tool Team
Fund Development Rockstars – Iris Laws & Kayley Perkins
Developing the Potential of Women – Jill Markey & Kate Townsend
Community Rockstars – Mary McLaurin & Alex Denny
Transfer of the Year – Alisha Boone
Membership Rockstars – Regina DiLauro & Robin Hill
Outstanding New Member – Natalie Stapp
Communications Rockstar – Jacqui Schlosser
Sustainer Go Getter – Sheryl Anne Hamza
Rising Star – Lauren Leggett

2019 – 2020 PRESIDENT’S AWARDS

Samantha Sedivy
Tamarah Holmes
Erin Hurt
Jamie Hasty
Jenn Keegan
Victoria Hauser
Traci DeShazor
New Members
Deirdre Aldridge
Christine Anderson
Mollie Andrews
Rachel Avery
Elly Bacigalupo
Nikisha Bailey
Dagny Barone
Emily Bosket
Jessica Bowman
Emma Breeden
Sarah Broughton
Cassidy Brown
Brittany Bucci
Madison Caudill
Caitlynn Childress
Amy Ciccone
Deja Coley
Mary Collins
Keller Craig
Cassie Cunningham
Emily Dannenhoffer
Regina DiLauro Fay
Meghan DiSesa
Mara Dominiquez
Amanda Doran
Caroline Dunevant
Carrie Edwards
Laura Elgin
Cooper Evans
Leah Frierson
Laura Friese
Courtney Garzione
Anna Givens
Haley Hall
Janna Hall
Carrol Hand
Emily Hardesty
Adrianna Hardy
Suzanne Holland
Kelly Hood
Elizabeth Howard
Caitlyn Huffstutter
Jacqueline Hughes
Lacey Kearney
Courtney Kelley
Liz Kelly
Michelle Klein
Emily Koci
Bethany Levin
Ying Li
Ashli Luse
Kelley Matthews
Toni May
Rashida Mitchell
Michelle Moock
Ali Moore
Nancy Nguy
Alexandra Nuckols
Clare O’Dea
Beth Okrasinski
Marie Palisano
Daiwana Parsons
Emilia Penney
Emily Pochter
Takeesha Pugh
Victoria Quilter
Jacquelyn Riess
Tara Rountree
Jacqui Schlosser
Maryanne Serignese
Lauren Sherrill
Stephanie Sor
Natalie Stapp
Karlin Stuckey
Melissa Taylor
Ariel Taylor-Ellis
Kathryn Thompson
Alyson Tignor
Faye Tinsley
Leanne VanDerveer
Jacque Vaughan
Turqueya Vincent
Ramona Walker
Toni Washington
Samantha White
Kali Williams
Cassandra Willis
Lindsey Worrix
Jordan Zydel
Amanda Jones
Jayda Justus
Jona Luizza
Katherine Lovelace
Katie Marsh
Emily Milhisser
Lauren Moore
Lauren Morano
Debra Pollock
Carolyn Port
Andrea Sheldon
Lara Todd
Carlene White
Susan Woodward

Active Transfers
Laura Aguilar
Elly Bacigalupo
Marshall Beale
Jessica Beeh
Kylah Clark
Elizabeth DeJarnette
Natasha Freeman
Laura Friese
Kelyn Gibson
Helena Grove
Emily Hardy
Cameron Grove
Anne Lloyd Hunley
Nicole Paulini
Allison Webster

Sustainer Transfers
Kathleen Early
Rachael Harrell
Emily Kane
Theresa McMurdo
Deborah Sellers
Trupti Shah
Harriet Yake

New Sustainers
Courtney Baytop
Wylie Crane
Katie Crumble
Tilly Gambill
Katherine Guroian
Resa Hoye

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Sue Bennett
Nancy Daugherty
Stuart Laughon
True F. Luck
Anne Norris
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Leslie Parpart
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Elizabeth Robertson
Missy Ryan
Tinky Scott
Janie Sellers
Virginia Stone
Mary Cabell Sulc
Melissa Taylor
Johnnie Lou Terry
Andy Thornton
Maggie Tomlin
Kay Tyler
Kay Sutton Whitworth
Mary Wick
Linda Wilkinson
Victoria Williamson
Barbara Wiltshire

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