

theColumn

a community publication of the Junior League of Omaha
Fall 2013



2013-2014 New Member Class



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF OMAHA
Women building better communities

Contents.

President's Perspective 3

Celebrating New Members 4

Volunteering Together 5

AJLI Webinar Wednesdays 6

Member Recognition 7

94th Annual Meeting 8

A Book of My Own 10

Project Hope Pack 11

Block Party Sponsors 12

Dear Miss JLO 13

Digital Cheetah Member Site 13

Summer Fun 14

Corresponding Secretary Report 15

Building a Firm Foundation 15

theColumn is a community publication of the Junior League of Omaha.

theColumn Staff

2013-2014

Jen Patten-Benson, *Communications Chair*
 Lisa Tonjes Moritz, *Communications Vice-Chair*
 Jamie Ryder, *Communications Coordinator*
 Rachel Flannery, *Communications Coordinator*
 Melissa Hoeman, *Communications Coordinator*
 Veronica Wortman, *Communications Coordinator*
 Liz Bruening, *Communications Coordinator*
 Kristen Bladt, *Communications Coordinator*
 Emily Blunck, *Publications Assistant*
 Rachel Cushing, *Publications Assistant*

Junior League of Omaha Board of Directors

2013-2014

Becki Wiechman, *President*
 Jen Alloway, *President-Elect*
 Brenda Smith, *President-Elect-Elect*
 Sherri Mitchell, *Financial Vice-President*
 Amanda LaPuzza, *Corresponding Secretary*
 Carly Turner, *Recording Secretary*
 Shelly Marsh, *Fundraising Director*
 Lexie Frahm, *Membership Director*
 Megan McFarlin, *Community Impact Director*
 Courtney Hellman, *ByLaws*
 Deyna Rouse, *Finance Manager*
 Jen Patten-Benson, *Communications Director*
 Kareen Hickman, *Nominating Chair*
 Kate Hansen, *Member-at-Large*
 Jami Heideman, *Member-at-Large*
 Chaley Chandler, *Member-at-Large*
 Trish Liakos, *Member-at-Large*
 Lisa Russell, *Sustainer Advisor*

Mission Statement: The Junior League of Omaha 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.

Since 1919, the Junior League of Omaha has served the city of Omaha. Our membership has trained volunteers, provided civic leadership, raised funds and developed programs and services that have helped make Omaha great. Junior League of Omaha members continue a tradition of identifying unmet needs, forging effective coalitions, motivating volunteers and working for real and lasting change.

Junior League of Omaha is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All rights are reserved. Reproduction without permission, except by other Junior League of Omaha publications, is prohibited. The Junior League of Omaha office is located at 12135 Pacific Street, Omaha, Nebraska, 68154. 402.493.8818.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF OMAHA
Women Building Better Communities

President's perspective.



It's time to CELEBRATE! This year the Junior League of Omaha celebrates its 95th anniversary, a record-setting New Member class and a legacy of leadership in our community.

As members of the Junior League of Omaha, we have become so concentrated on our committee work and the day-to-day logistics of our events that it may be difficult to remember we are a part of something much larger than our own League. The Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) represents 293 leagues and we were the twenty-third league inducted, back in 1919. We have an incredible legacy to celebrate. Our League has created landmarks in Omaha and started countless organizations and guilds. Through our *Project Hope Pack* project, we have given dignity to a child just pulled away from their family, and thousands of children have received their first book through *A Book of My Own*.

In Spring 2013, our New Member committee set out to recruit our 2013-2014 New Member class. Wow, did they succeed! We are excited to welcome 75 New Members this year! Each New Member has been involved from the minute she signed up. This summer they attended new member socials, worked volunteer shifts and completed fundraising opportunities, all of which were "sold out" in volunteer attendance.

All of our members have been very busy in the last few months. The Riverfront Wine Festival designated our League's *A Book of My Own* as its beneficiary again this year. The event is up for Metro Magazine's "The Big Event" in the Food & Wine category. Please vote!

Once again, our members volunteered at the Cox Classic golf tournament and provided the largest number of volunteers for

the event. Partnering with the Salvation Army and KETV's 7 Can Help Kids Back-To-School event, 4,000 books were given to kids to accompany their new school backpacks. Several of our members served on a fundraising ad hoc committee and vetted potential new fundraisers were announced at October's General Meeting.

Along with potential new fundraisers, there were prospective new projects brought forth at the October meeting. Great amounts of research and time were involved in getting these potential programs ready for our members' vote. The Communications committee spent the Summer editing and redesigning the new League yearbook—we hope you like it! The change in format is saving the League thousands of dollars ... money better spent on training and projects. Please read more on page 11 and learn how to download the new member app for your smartphone featuring the most current membership directory.

It's only Fall and our members have already made amazing progress. The old saying is true ... you get back what you put in. I promise our members that each will get so much more from your League year by being personally involved. Where else can you meet amazing women, learn new things and experience our community in new ways?

So as you set out this year, "Have fun-Celebrate our members"! You are rock stars; you are the ones making things happen. The hard work of each leader bringing solutions to the committee they served on has paid out abundantly. Celebrate the accomplishments of Junior League and your personal participation!

Cheers to our members!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becki Wiechman".

President, 2013-2014

Celebrating our members.

Celebrating New Members.

by Lisa Tonjes Moritz

Some call it a mulligan, others a do over; but the idea is the same. Have you ever considered what it would be like to redo your new member year?

Now, don't get me wrong, I enjoyed my New Member year. From learning about the League, attending the first *Big Red Block Party*, to touring Project Harmony and helping style doll hair at the *American Girl Fashion Show*, many of us can recall similar inspiring moments that made our first year great. Yet, I reflect back and can't help but consider that despite the many meetings and events I attended, I never felt like I really had an opportunity to connect with other new members. Now that I have been an Active member for four years, I have had many chances to develop relationships with my fellow new member classmates, as well as other active members. So, I consider once again, what would it have been like to have formed these relationships as a new member that first year?

The New Member Class of 2013 is already off to a running start in developing both professional and personal bonds. New Member Chair Chaley Chandler and the New Member committee have done a fantastic job encouraging member engagement in the League as well as within the New Member class. As one of the largest New Member classes, these 75 women have been divided into core groups that are led by a member of the New Member committee. Through these smaller core groups, the committee hopes to promote socialization and focus more on the development of inter-league connections.

As the Communications Assistant Director, I had the opportunity to meet most of the New Members before other Actives while I was taking yearbook photos. The energy and excitement from this fantastic group of ladies was contagious and made me excited to kick-off another great JLO year! Given the sheer numbers, it certainly might be easy for these ladies to get lost in the masses. Yet, this group has already begun to show they are a force to be reckoned with. This past summer, the group had an opportunity to attend two new member socials hosted by Courtney Dunbar and Chaley Chandler. Many of the ladies also had an opportunity to volunteer at River Front Wine Festival and Cox Classic--making both events a continued success. Through active participation in these events, relationships continue to build even prompting several ladies to plan their own social outings at Jazz on the Green and Omaha Fashion Week.

It is evident that this group is motivated to be engaged in the League and we are fortunate to have such an energetic New Member class. Hopefully these ladies don't mind when a few Active members start crashing their events to join in on all the fun.

"Why did you join the Junior League of Omaha?"



Ashley Wampler-Gloystein

"I joined the League to meet new people and to help make a difference in the community. My mom was in the league when I was little and is still great friends with many women from her class. She has also become an active volunteer. I hope to have the same experiences! My favorite part of the JLO so far has been seeing and experiencing the dedication in the women of the League. It's inspiring!"



April Rice

"I was a member back in Houston over 7 years ago. I came back to the Junior League to join a community organization to volunteer and meet women with like minded goals. My favorite part has been the inspirational stories and careers of the women I have met. I have enjoyed the community efforts I have been a part of already and cannot wait to participate in the additional programs JLO is involved with. The fundraisers are fun, high quality events with a great purpose! "



Lindsey Bray

"I joined the Junior League of Omaha because I was finally at a point in my life that I had the time to get more involved in Omaha. I had graduated from grad school and was settled in my job. I also wanted to meet more people and wanted to volunteer for causes in the community."



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF OMAHA
Women building better communities

Volunteering together.

Committee's bond strengthened by supporting others

by Veronica Wortman

In the weeks leading up to last year's *Big Red Block Party* fundraiser, the committee was in daily contact with each other, meeting almost as frequently, to wrap up the details of the big event. The women worked so well together that many formed tight friendships with lasting memories.

When the event was over, the committee members had free time on their hands and came to the conclusion they were not seeing as much of each other as they would have preferred. "I was so used to spending a lot of time with these women, and after the event, I really started to miss them being around all the time," commented Jennifer Buda.

Members of the committee began signing up for project and fundraising shifts together as a way to fulfill their membership requirements and satisfy their own social agendas. "I remember reaching out to Jen and asking her to do a *Project Hope Pack* shift with me so we could catch up," said Veronica Wortman. "We had a great time, made a ton of packs, and the shift flew by."

This trend would continue throughout the spring. "*High Heel Dash* was recruiting teams and I think they knew they could count on *Big Red*

Block Party to put one together," said Katie Triplett. "Jen Buda and I recruited Angela Kros, and I got to work on custom t-shirts." There was no mistaking the committee this team represented. Sporting red and white pom poms, eye black, custom shirts and heels, they raced towards the finish line together as a team.

Ask around the league and you'll hear all about the *Big Red Block Party* women. They know how to put on a great event and have fun doing it. Equally as important, this group strives to promote and maintain the spirit of camaraderie and support throughout the League. "We know the hard work and effort that goes into planning a fundraiser and organizing a project," said Buda. "We want to show our support and respect for other groups and for the League as whole."

"It is so important that all League fundraisers and projects are successful so we can make a difference in the community as a whole," commented Triplett. "It is just a very special feeling knowing that you are making this difference alongside the women who have become your friends."

This year's *Big Red Block Party* is on Nov. 9 at the Scott Conference Center in Omaha, Neb. Tickets are available on the Junior League of Omaha website www.jlomaha.org.



Big Red Block Party at *High Heel Dash*—Active members Jen Buda (left), Angela Kros (center) and Katie Triplett (right) formed a *Big Red Block Party* team to support the *High Heel Dash* fundraiser.



Big Red Block Party at *Project Hope Pack*—Active members Veronica Wortman (left) and Jennifer Buda (right) schedule project shifts together to stay in touch with each other.

AJLI Webinar Wednesdays

The Association of Junior Leagues Internationals webinar series, **Webinar Wednesdays**, is one of many methods to help Junior League women develop as community and civic leaders. These sessions, typically one-hour in duration, are designed to appeal to every Junior League member, regardless of age or current engagement in her community, as an easy way to increase her knowledge of and interest in community and civic leadership.

Webinar Wednesdays runs from September to June, typically on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 12 p.m. CST.

AJLI has lined up some great speakers and content for this fall, and with the help of Junior League members across the Association who continue to participate in crowdsourcing using the Idea Marketplace, they are busy booking additional speakers on topics that you found to be most interesting.

To register for these online events visit www.ajli.org.



Upcoming Webinar Wednesdays

11.13.13

Hitting a Homerun with Critical Relationships
by Katie Snapp and Carol Wight

11.20.13

Tour of Grantstation: Identify Potential Funding
Sources for Your League by Ellen Mowrer

12.04.13

Building a Powerful Grant Strategy for 2014 by
Cynthia Adams

12.11.13

Intentional Leadership by Jan Combopiano &
Michael Chamberlain



JLO ANNUAL FUND

Donations support our mission, training
women to be highly skilled volunteers.

*Your participation is what matters.
We celebrate gifts of all sizes*

How to give:

- Turn in or mail a check to HQ earmarked for annual fund.
- Go to www.jlomaha.org:
Home page > Store > Annual Fund
- Add an annual fund donation with your dues payment during membership renewal this spring.

*THANK YOU for all you do to support
the Junior League of Omaha!*



Junior League of Omaha

Holiday Social

December 9, 2013

Brenda Christensen's Home

7 p.m.

Additional details to be announced.

Member recognition.

First Class Ladies.



Jennifer Cooke-Yin as a part of the amazing Training Committee with appreciation for her dedication, creativity and willingness to help in any situation.



Marla Grose for her amazing work on communications for *High Heel Dash*.



Britt Dudzinski for coordinating book sorting events and tracking inventory for *A Book of My Own*.



Wendy Moore as a part of the amazing Training Committee with appreciation for her dedication, creativity and willingness to help in any situation.



Emily Blunck for talents in copy editing while working on the JLO yearbook.



Kate McCoy-Jones for coordinating book sorting events and tracking inventory for *A Book of My Own*.



Tina Nelson as a part of the amazing Training Committee with appreciation for her dedication, creativity and willingness to help in any situation.



Rachel Cushing for talents in copy editing while working on the JLO yearbook.



Amy Henderson for an amazing job putting together the Barn Bash in only weeks!



Jackie Lesiak as a part of the amazing Training Committee with appreciation for her dedication, creativity and willingness to help in any situation.



Lisa Tonjes Moritz for organizing the membership section of the JLO yearbook and for photographing, editing and uploading photos of nearly all League Active and New Members.



Emily Lauritzen for taking on a newly created Literacy placement as a book buyer.

Sarah English for committing the time and effort to provide support and guidance as an ALT Team Mentor.



Katie Triplett for going above and beyond as a New Member trainer, for creating an amazing New Member binder and bringing a fresh perspective to the New Member program.



Patrice Ott for taking on a newly created Literacy placement as a book buyer.



Carol Wang for committing the time and effort to provide support and guidance as an ALT Team Mentor.



Jen Alloway for connecting the *A Book of My Own* Committee with the Salvation Army's backpack event, coordinating meeting details and working every shift to help distribute 4,000 books.



Shelly Ruwe for her hard work organizing the Cox Classic, her dedication to *High Heel Dash* and contribution to the League.



Andi Hallgren for committing the time and effort to provide support and guidance as an ALT Team Mentor.



Jen Buda for being a tirelessly enthusiastic chair and cheerleader for *Big Red Block Party!* She has done everything with a smile and positive attitude. She has truly led by example.

The **Big Red Block Party Committee** for an amazing job securing fantastic silent auction item donations for this year's event on November 9.



Courtney Hellman for committing the time and effort to provide support and guidance as an ALT Team Mentor.

The **Fund Development Committee** for an amazing job putting together the Barn Bash in only weeks!



Lexie Frahm for designing and editing the most amazing magazine JLO has published, her amazing work for communications on *High Heel Dash* and an amazing job putting together the Barn Bash in only weeks!



Sarah Carse for many hours spent updating the original engagement tracker followed by entering all the New Members engagement information into the Digital Cheetah Members' Site.



We honor and celebrate.

94th Annual Meeting

The Junior League of Omaha's Annual Meeting was held on May 14, 2013, at Embassy Suites LaVista. The meeting is a celebration of the culmination of another successful League year. New Members were welcomed as Actives, new Sustainers congratulated, outgoing Board and Management team thanked and the new Board and Management Team announced.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Two high school seniors were awarded \$1,500 scholarships for outstanding volunteer dedication to the community.



Allie Baxter

Millard North High School attending Northwestern University

Allie created the Red Kettle Run, a 5k run and fundraiser for The Salvation Army. She started the event in 2010 and drew 300 runners, raised \$4,500 and collected 8,000 cans of food. It has more than doubled every year. The Red Kettle Run is now a staple of The Salvation Army's calendar and is being introduced throughout the Midwest.

The Salvation Army's Metro Volunteer Director noted Allie "Does not shy away from difficult tasks. In fact, she relishes the challenge, often developing new and creative solutions to long-standing problems ignored by others. We cherish Allie and her commitment to making our community a better place."

Kareen Hickman, 2013-2014 Nominating Chair with scholarship winner Allie Baxter.



Lizzy Marcotte

Duchesne Academy attending Creighton University

Founder of Heart-for-Heart Service Club, the club has fundraisers throughout the year to collect money and donated items to benefit victims of domestic violence as they are often forced to leave their homes without packing. Red tote bags full of toiletries and gifts are given to the women on Valentine's Day.

Lizzy's academic counselor shared "She has gained invaluable experience working with all ages and people from all walks of life. She truly has developed a love for service. I have been especially impressed with the Heart-to-Heart project that she totally planned and designed on her own. I can only imagine the wonderful impact she has made on many."

Kareen Hickman, 2013-2014 Nominating Chair with scholarship winner Lizzy Marcotte.

DISTINGUISHED SUSTAINER AWARD



Wanda Gottchalk

Wanda Gottchalk was selected as the 2013 Distinguished Sustainer. Wanda moved to Omaha in 1973, with her husband, Mike. She joined the League in 1976, after being inspired by many good friends. Wanda was intrigued by the training opportunities the League provided and she wanted to meet more women and make new friends.

Wanda's favorite placement was being part of a task force that developed the Children's Crisis Center and then serving as co-chair and chairman. Today, the Crisis Center is part of Child Saving Institute. Thousands of children have found a safe haven because the Junior League of Omaha was willing to stand up for kids when no one else would. Wanda doesn't know of another project that has literally saved young lives and continues to do so today.

From left to right, 2012-2013 Nominating Chair Amy Grohe, Wanda Gottschalk and Sustainer Mary Maxwell. Maxwell introduced Wanda as Distinguished Sustainer.

WOMEN TO WATCH AWARDS



Megan Riebe

Megan's (left) new member year was 2008-2009. Last year, Megan served as the Chair of the *American Girl Fashion Show* fundraiser. Megan has outstanding leadership skills and maintains an extremely positive attitude. She leads by example and her committee members rallied around her. Megan's favorite thing about the League is all the great women she has met and friendships she has developed. She joined the League to volunteer in the community, but she has also found a group of women who are so motivated and dedicated, it inspires her every day. Megan is the director of outpatient service at OMNI Behavioral Health.

Carol Wang

Carol's (center) new member year was 2007-2008. Last year, Carol served on the Placement Committee as a Member Engagement Specialist. Carol has taken on many leadership roles in the League, from chairing the inaugural *High Heel Dash* in 2011, to Community Council Director and serving as Administrative Vice President. Carol is a natural leader and is always looking for opportunities to engage all members. She joined the Junior League of Omaha because she moved to town and wanted to meet other women. Carol says the League has become a home for her – a place where she has made and strengthened friendships, gotten

the chance to learn more about non-profits in our community and where she has grown as a person and a leader. Carol has been married to her husband, Jim, for almost 10 years. She is a proud dog mom to Tucker and Bailey. Carol is executive director of the Metro Omaha Medical Society and works at KETV.

Kareen Hickman

Kareen's (right) new member year was 2006-2007. Last year, Kareen was the Nominating Committee Vice-Chair and the Communications Coordinator for *American Girl Fashion Show*. Kareen has shown consistent dedication and commitment to the overall well-being and promotion of the League. Kareen is always looking for additional opportunities to help others and shares her knowledge freely with all members. She fully understands the vision of the League and her actions are guided by the League's mission. Kareen appreciates the many friendships she has gained through her League experience. She has been married to her husband, Tim, for more than 12 years. She is the development associate at Fontenelle Forest.

SUSTAINER HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Dawn Buchanan

Dawn (left) joined the Junior League of Omaha in 1985, after moving to Omaha from Kansas City. She enjoyed her years on Project Development. This experience allowed Dawn to learn about organizations she otherwise may not have known. She learned many things from her Junior League experience, including delegating, asking for help and that we are all volunteers. Dawn served as President in 1996-1997. She has been married to Doug 31 years and they have two children, Lindsey and Scott. Dawn enjoys playing bridge, needlepoint and knitting. Running is now a hobby because her sister and daughter think it would be fun to celebrate her birthday by running a half marathon.

Sam Hohman

Sam (center) joined the Junior League of Omaha in 1996, after reading about successful local individuals and many of them listed the League as an organization they belonged to. Among her many placements, Sam found Project Development as one of her favorite placements. Sam learned a number of things from her League experience, but one of the most important things she learned was how to run a meeting. She believes the Junior League of Omaha needs to continue recruiting and stay relevant by being able to react quickly. Sam served as

President of the Junior League of Omaha in 2004-2005. She has been married to Dave for 19 years and they have three children: Harrison (15), Hudson (13), and Henry (9). In her spare time, Sam enjoys doing anything creative.

Anne Bothe

Anne (right) joined the Junior League of Omaha in 1986, after being inspired by League members and the history of the League projects. Anne was anxious for more training to better respond to community needs, especially the lives of women and children. Anne's favorite placement in the League was chairing the Operational Role Model in 1990. She learned the Junior League is a tremendous organization for training women to be leaders. She believes in order for the Junior League of Omaha to say viable we need to continue to monitor our community and membership with a broad perspective and strive to serve as an agent for change and collaboration. Anne served as President of the Junior League of Omaha in 1994-1995. She has been married to Bob Bothe for 40 years and they have 3 children: Kate Bothe Schulz, Leigh Bothe Shea and Meghan Bothe. They have one grandson, Henry Schulz (3). Anne enjoys gardening, golfing, playing bridge, reading, traveling, cooking and skiing.

We do literacy.

A Book of My Own Partners with Salvation Army and KETV 7 for Record Distribution

"You mean this book is mine? I don't have to give it back?" Heard time and time again by Junior League of Omaha members working *A Book of My Own* distributions, this response by children after having carefully selected a book during visits to local schools and organizations, is the reason we are so passionate about this project.

It is also the reason JLO eagerly accepted the invitation to distribute books during Salvation Army and KETV's 7 Can Help Kids Back-To-School Backpack Program – an annual event held at four locations across the metro which provides thousands of at-risk youth with backpacks, school supplies and free health checks.

Stationed at the Salvation Army Kroc Center in South Omaha, JLO members were enthusiastically greeted by families who patiently waited in line with their children for an opportunity to peruse the table of popular titles collected or purchased through *A Book of My Own*. The response was overwhelming. In just two short days, JLO had distributed more than 4,000 books... over a quarter of the project's annual goal!

Think of all of the children who now have a book to call their own... no longer forced to share tattered copies or go without a bedtime story. "The need is great and we are so fortunate to have an opportunity to help in a meaningful way," said Joey Gaines, JLO Literacy Project Chair. "I've never seen people so excited about books! Kids were sitting down to read (in the middle of a crowd of thousands) as soon as they selected their favorite."

As parents expressed their gratitude and youth proudly held up their finds, JLO members were reminded that *A Book of My Own* is about much more than just sharing stories on paper. Reading expands vocabulary, boosts creativity, reduces stress and improves writing skills. When a child opens a book, they're also opening a new world of possibilities.

With 7,000 books already distributed this year and a goal to distribute 8,000 more, *A Book of My Own* drives, sortings and distributions are in full swing! How can you help? Collect new or gently used books, sign-up for a sorting shift or join *A Book of My Own* committee members for distributions in the community to see the impact first-hand. We look to having you join us and making this the biggest year yet!

Our literacy project, *A Book of My Own*, launched in 2011, and as of February 28, has collected, sorted and distributed more than 20,326 new and gently-used books to Omaha kids who don't have a book at home. Over the last few months, the committee has been busy organizing book drives and creating new community partnerships.



Junior League of Omaha members distributed more than 4,000 books at the KETV Seven Can Help Kids Back to School Bash at the Salvation Army Kroc Center.



Diary of a Wimpy Kid is one of the most requested titles.

How can you help?

- ➔ Hold a book drive at your church, organization or business. For information email book@jlomaha.org.
- ➔ Donate books. Send an email to book@jlomaha.org.
- ➔ Donate money. Send a donation in the envelope included in this edition of *the Column* or visit our eStore at www.jlomaha.org to make a monetary donation.

We do hope.



Project Hope Pack Receives GIVE Team Grant

Project Hope Pack was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Omaha GIVE team which is part of the larger eBay Foundation. The eBay Foundation was established in 1998 as part of the company's longstanding commitment to philanthropy. The entire foundation has given more than \$21 million to various nonprofit agencies around the world. According to Pierre Omidvar, the founder and chairman of eBay Inc., "We created eBay Foundation to link people with the resources that will empower them to improve not only their own lives, but also the community around them."

The GIVE Team program was established in 2008 and designed to engage eBay employees in service to the communities where they live and work. The eBay Foundation has GIVE Teams in 10 different countries and 16 locations. They support a global network of employees volunteering their time, organizing drives and fundraisers, and championing local nonprofits to receive cash grants from the eBay Foundation. In the past year, GIVE Teams worldwide selected 160 nonprofits to receive eBay Foundation grants totaling more than \$625,000. The GIVE Team sponsors a competitive program through

which grant decisions are made by an employee committee. eBay Foundation GIVE Team grants are only made to organizations recommended for funding by the local committee. This year *Project Hope Pack* was chosen as one of ten local nonprofit agencies to receive such funding. Project Hope Pack was nominated for this award by eBay/Pay-Pal employee Doug Hegarty.

The mission of Project Hope Pack is to provide backpacks full of necessities and comfort items to children who are unexpectedly removed from their homes as a result of a crisis situation. Each pack is age and gender specific and contains toiletry and hygiene products, socks, underwear and a sleep shirt, as well as a stuffed animal, educational item and an activity item. The kits are designed to last for a three to five day period as the child is in transition.

Because of the generosity of the GIVE Team and the eBay foundation, Project Hope Pack will be able to distribute packs for approximately 100 children through one of the various community agencies that they partner with. Currently Project Hope Pack partners with CASA of Douglas County, Nebraska Children's Home Society, Project Harmony, Nebraska Families Collaborative and the Salvation Army. In the past year, over 750 packs have been distributed through these agencies. Project Hope Pack hopes to expand to partner with even more agencies in the upcoming year.



Left to right: Junior League of Omaha President Becki Wiechman, *Project Hope Pack* Sustainer Advisor Alicia Brand Battershell, Paypal representative and Ebay Give Team member Doug Hegarty, and former *Project Hope Pack* Co-Chair Jamie Ryder accept the check on behalf of *Project Hope Pack*.

Big Red Block Party sponsors.

Honorary Chairs
Heidi and Steven Warren



All-American Sponsors



MVP Sponsors

Addy's Bar and Grill
Consolidated Kitchens & Fireplaces
Country Gardens Florist
Daylight Wine Company – Sea of Red Wine
Kelly Ryden Photography
Nothing Bundt Cakes
Odeys
Storz Brewing Company

Quarterback Sponsors

Dave & Busters
Greg and Jeannie Heckman
InkBlot Paper Designs
Kellie Konz - Deeb Realty
Lotus House of Yoga
Louie's Wine Dive
Jordan Maddex, Graphic Designer
Mockingbird Cupcakes
Music Masterz
Oriental Trading Company
Simply Delicious Gallery & Loft
Skin by Sarah, LLC

Booster Sponsors

Colleen Dustin Photography
Creighton University
DotPops! Bakery
Dustin Hajek Brows & Hair
Gryphon Editions
Hail Varsity
JD Schafer & Co.
Julie Hockney Designs
Nosh Wine Lounge
Prairie Life Fitness
Republic National Distributing Co.
Runza
The Stephanie Moss Salon
Salt 88
Tim Matulka, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones
The V Bowling and Entertainment



Our wish list:

Backpacks: boy and girl, all sizes and ages
Feminine hygiene products*
Lotion*, soap*, deodorant*
Underwear: boy and girl, all sizes and ages
Hand sanitizer*
Socks: boy and girl, all sizes and ages
Toothpaste* and toothbrushes
Girls' camisoles/under shirts: all sizes
Lip balm
Stuffed animals
Combs, hairbrushes, girls' hair ties and clips
Activity/coloring books: all ages
Diapers and training pants: boy, girl, all sizes
School supplies: crayons, markers, notebook
paper, folders
Baby wipes*
Gloves, mittens and warm hats
Washcloths

*please consider travel size

PIANO LESSONS

For beginner, intermediate and advanced
students of all ages,
with Mrs. Cindy Guenzel

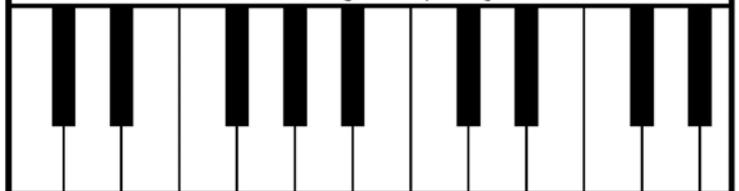
- ◆ FREE initial consultation
- ◆ 20+ years of piano, Masters of Arts in Teaching and several years teaching in public schools
- ◆ Sessions customized to individual music interests and needs of particular student
- ◆ Develop music appreciation and self-confidence
- ◆ 1/2 to 1 hour lessons depending on age and experience
- ◆ 2 recitals per year with year round instruction

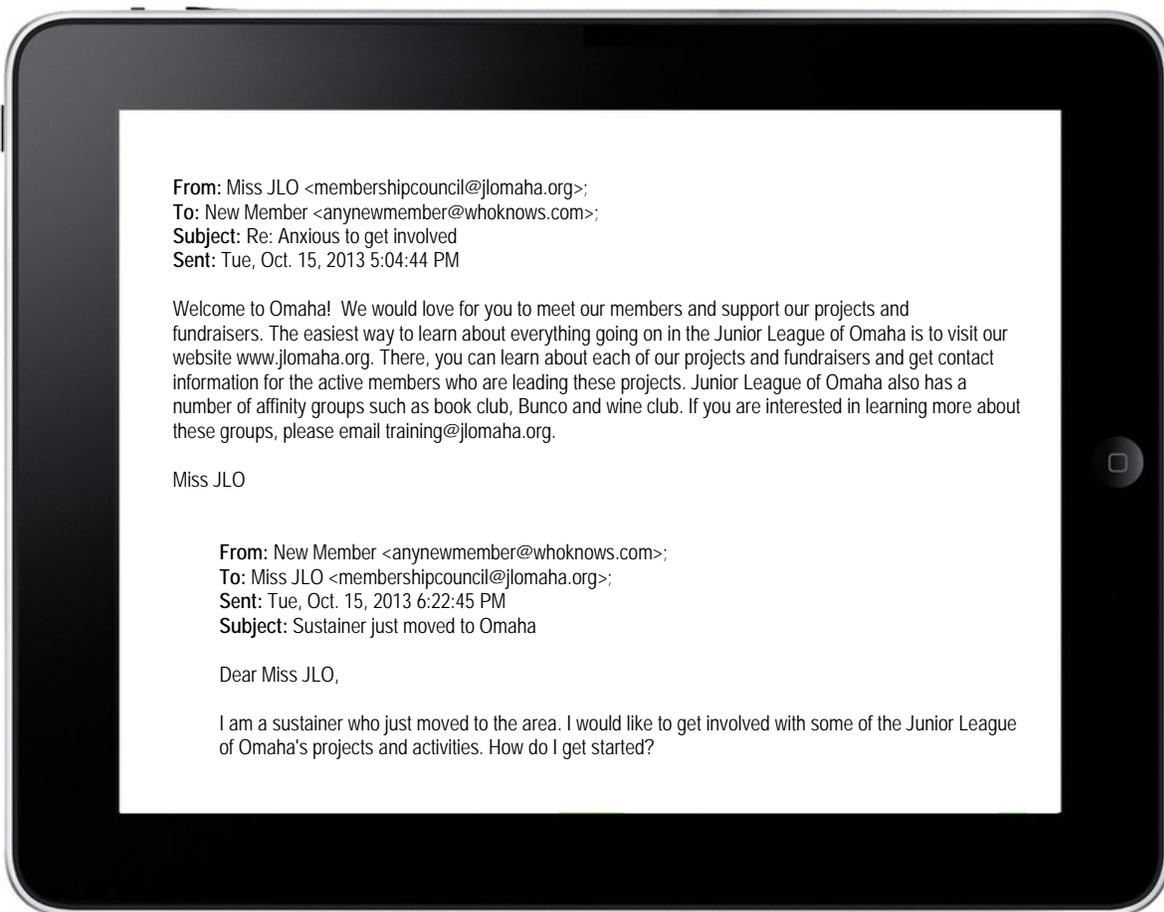


For more information,
call me at 402.522.6877 or
email: ckguenzel@hotmail.com

<http://about.me/cindyguenzel>

Currently accepting new students!





Digital Cheetah... show your spots!

We have gone digital, the Junior League of Omaha Member site is live! From the www.jloma.org, click on the "Member Login" button in the bottom left corner. Your username and password was emailed to you in mid-October. If you need this information emailed again, send a request to office@jloma.org.

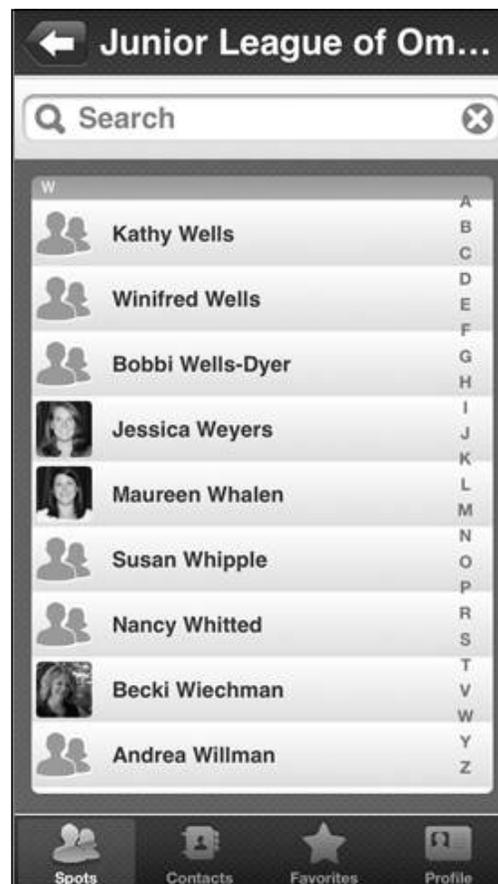
From this password-protected site, you can update your personal information, view your engagements and see the most current member directory. There is also a calendar with all League activities and events. Additional modules will be added in the future. Future modules will allow us to list all your placements, sign up for volunteers shifts and share files with committees.

The League's web host, Digital Cheetah, has a smartphone app—Seeing Spots—that you can download

to have the League membership directory at your fingertips. Seeing Spots is available for iPhone and Android devices.

From your phone's app store, search "Seeing Spots." You will need your username and password to login the first time. This app provides a list of all League members contact information for a quick connection from your smart phone.

We are very excited about this new technology and hope you find it as helpful as we do. Please contact office@jloma.org with questions.



Summer fun.



Riverfront Wine Festival was coordinated by Claire Acker and Jennifer Cooke-Yin.



Riverfront Wine Festival supports the Junior League of Omaha's Literacy Projects. League members volunteer to support the event held at Stinson Park in Aksarben Village.

Riverfront Wine Festival

Mix a little jazz with a smooth glass of wine and a lively venue and the result is sure to be a success! This was the atmosphere created at the 5th Annual Riverfront Wine Festival held August 3 in Stinson Park at Aksarben Village. With a selection of more than 200 wines from more than 40 wineries, distributors gathered to let guests sample wines from around the world. This year's event was the largest wine festival in Nebraska which also featured 40 craft beers as well as a Wine Academy where guests could learn about food and wine pairings.

For the 5th consecutive year, the Junior League of Omaha was selected as the beneficiary of the event. Proceeds from the festival directly benefit the League project *A Book of My Own*. More than 60 League members volunteered at the event. Area businesses helped to promote *A Book of My Own*—a book drive was hosted the week prior to the event at the Corkscrew Wine Store in Rockbrook Village and at the festival.

Assistant Coordinator Jennifer Cooke-Yin commented, "League volunteers were critical to the success of the event. They assisted in many aspects of the festival from setting up wine glasses, to helping people at the entrance, to working the volunteer tent and helping to tear it down after everything was over. The Riverfront organizers expressed much gratitude for our assistance."

Coordination of the event was once again lead by Jen Kocher of Urban Events who worked with Chair Claire Acker and Assistant Coordinator Jennifer Cooke-Yin to make the event a continued success.



Use this QR code to learn more about the Junior League of Omaha's projects.



www.facebook.com/JLOmaha



[@jломaha](https://twitter.com/jlomaha)



[@jломaha](https://www.instagram.com/jломaha)

Corresponding Secretary report.

This report includes information from June to September 2013.

A ~ Active AA ~ Active Advisory
IA ~ Inactive S ~ Sustainer
SE ~ Sustainer Emeritus
NM ~ New Member
CP ~ Community Placement

Transfers in:

Lauren Bertoldo (A) from
College Station, TX
Dallas Pourchez (A) from
Birmingham, MI
Caitlin Schneider (A) from
Des Moines, IA
Kristen Bladt (A) from Peoria, IL

Transfers out:

Sarah English (S) to Spokane, WA
Mindy Coulter (A) to Wyandotte, KS
M. Jane Black-O'Shea (A) to
Birmingham, MI

Resigned:

Stephanie Gardiner (NM)
Jessica Ingram (NM)

Reinstated:

Deanna Bosselman (S)

Request change in status

Maria Markusen (A) — S

Kate Hansen (A) — AA
Emily Head (NM) — A
Tina Nelson (A) — AA
Brittany Hoebelheinrich (NM) — A
Patrice Ott (A) — AA
Jaime Jensen (NM) — A
Emily Lankhorst (A) — IA
Andrea Johnson (NM) — A
Christy Rooney (IA) — IA
Autumn Long (NM) — A
Erin Swanson (CP) — IA
Sarah Lopez (NM) — A
Kathryn Anderson (NM) — A
Kate McCoy-Jones (NM) — A
Kristin Bieber (NM) — A
Kelly McFarren (NM) — A
Elizabeth Bruening (NM) — A
Andrea Mendlik (NM) — A
Marie Bruening Fraass (NM) — A
Sahar Meyer (NM) — A
Britt Carlson (NM) — A
Melissa Mullin (NM) — A
Alyson Carstens (NM) — A
Julie Olson (NM) — A
Elizabeth Culhane (NM) — A
Alysia Radicia (NM) — A
Meg Dudzinski (NM) — A
Rachel Skradski (NM) — A
Amanda Duensing (NM) — A
Brooke Spencer (NM) — A

Jessica Dugger (NM) — A
Grace Spomer (NM) — A
Amy Erlbacher-Anderson (NM) — A
Patricia Stillmock (NM) — A
Amber Gard (NM) — A
Laura Tennant (NM) — A
Megan Gehrke (NM) — A
Alana Thune (NM) — A
Cynthia Guenzel (NM) — A
Maureen Whalen (NM) — A

Resigned:

Julie Linquata (S)
Kristine Hull (CP)
Laura Stutte (A)

Deceased:

Jean O'Neal Thurmond (SE)

Removal:

Sara Bridges (A)
Kristi Davis (S)
Tracy Britt (A)
Stacey Falk (S)
Kelsey Bugjo (A)
Debbie Fehr (S)
Kelly Christensen (A)
Jennifer Flanagan (S)
Mallory Edwards (NM)
Janice Fonda (S)
Brevard Fraser-Kaplan (NM)
Caye Fulcher (S)

Margie Gazinski (A)
Suzanne Jones (S)
Caryn Holnholt (NM)
Jean Knox (S)
Katie Hsu-Hoberman (IA)
Jennifer Likes (S)
Abbey Jackson (A)
Kimberly Long (S)
Megan Janda (NM)
Lou Ann Patterson (S)
Diana Koger (NM)
Tish Pemberton (S)
Jill Moore (A)
Kendra Quinlan (S)
Elizabeth Power (NM)
Mimi Roe (S)
Shannon Sands (A)
Nola Schettler (S)
Jennifer Wiese (A)
Julie Skradski (S)
Amy Bailey (S)
Deborah Steele (S)
Deanne Bosselman (S)
Christine Steffen (S)
Lynne Boyer (S)
Carol Van Metre (S)
Karen Verdirame (S)

Building a firm foundation

by Phyllis Choat

Junior League of Omaha Foundation President

The Junior League of Omaha Foundation was established in 1996 to provide a permanent source of income to the Junior League of Omaha. Since then, the Foundation has provided considerable income to the League through the generous donations of Sustainers, Actives and friends of the Junior League.

Donations to the Foundation are invested and a portion of the net investment income is distributed annually to the League for the direct support of its mission, projects and other League business.

Sustainers and Actives play an important role in ensuring the League's future. In November, Sustainers will receive the annual Junior League of Omaha Foundation mailing which provides an opportunity to donate to the Foundation. Actives can also be assured that their donations to the Foundation will impact the League for many years to come.

All donations are tax deductible and provide long-lasting benefit to the League. We encourage all League members and friends to remember the Foundation in their estate plans. If you have questions about the Junior League of Omaha Foundation, please contact me at foundation@jlo.org.

Please join me and the other Foundation Board members in making an annual gift to the Junior League of Omaha Foundation. Together we can ensure the legacy of the Junior League of Omaha for years to come. Thank you for your support.





JUNIOR LEAGUE OF OMAHA INC.

12135 Pacific Street
Omaha, NE 68154

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MAIL U.S.A.

Does your daughter love American Girl dolls?

The **Junior League of Omaha** seeks models for its
annual **American Girl Fashion Show**.

March 7-9, 2014

Happy Hollow Country Club | Omaha, Nebraska

Your model will walk the runway in genuine American Girl clothing while carrying a matching doll from the American Girl collection. Models must be of kindergarten age and older.

The American Girl outfits are girl sizes 6-10.

Model applications are available on our League's website.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF OMAHA

www.jlomaha.org

402.493.8818

americangirl@jломaha.org

