The Power of Community
Celebrate the Centennial: The Junior League of Saint Paul Project Endowment

In the spring of 1917, three young women met to form the Junior League of Saint Paul (JLSP), the 19th Junior League of now almost 300 worldwide. Through the next nearly one hundred years, JLSP-trained women built an exceptional legacy by promoting voluntarism as an effective means of civic participation, developing the potential of women through leadership opportunities, and improving the Saint Paul community through effective service projects.

**Improving Communities**
Propelling great change
A women’s community for communities

By identifying community needs through research, developing a plan to address the needs, and utilizing members’ time and talents in all stages of project implementation, JLSP has been a pioneer in community improvement. Early involvement in and/or the founding of many important programs and organizations have been hallmarks of JLSP, including:

- WWI Red Cross Relief Campaign (1920’s)
- Neighborhood House (20’s)
- Children’s Hospital Association (30’s)
- Specialty Children’s Theatre Project (30’s)
- Community Chest (40’s) now the United Way
- St. Paul Rehabilitation Center (40’s) now Lifetrack
- Community Arts Center (50’s) later United Arts
- Science Museum of Minnesota (60’s-70’s)
- Community Line (70’s)
- Too Early Pregnancy (80’s)
- The Child Abuse Project (90’s)
- Women’s Advocates (2000’s)
- Junior League Convalescent Home (1920’s)
- United Charities (30’s) later Family Service
- Phalen Park Hospital (30’s) now Gillette Children’s Specialty Healthcare
- Educational radio programming (40’s)
- Merriam Park Community Services (40’s) now Keystone
- Educational programming at KTCA (50’s-60’s)
- Vision & hearing testing (60’s)
- Women’s Institute for Social Change (70’s)
- Saint Paul Arts Festival (80’s)
- Hmong Community Art Project (80’s)
- Silent Witness Project (90’s)
- Building Bonds Through Reading & Play (2010’s)

The legacy continues. With 36% of children in Saint Paul living in poverty, a recent focus has been fighting food insecurity. In partnership with the Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center, JLSP will provide curated Family Food Boxes for 100 families per month during the last week of the month when other food benefits and resources run low. Also, beginning in 2016, the Junior Chef Program will provide teens at the Rice Street Teen Zone with the skills and knowledge needed to prepare healthy meals at home.

**Developing the Potential of Women**
Vision and focus
Where mirrors become windows
And windows, mirrors

Members of JLSP strengthen the community while learning a great deal about themselves. Their JLSP training and skills are valuable when working as leaders, staff, board members or volunteers for other organizations including:
Several JLSP members have been honored by organizations large and small for their commitment to the community. Consistently valued are community service, the skills learned, and the bonds of friendship made possible by membership in JLSP.

To continue to build a better Saint Paul, as its members have done for the past 100 years, JLSP needs a stronger financial foundation.

With careers, families, volunteer commitments and other responsibilities competing for members’ time and energy, the JLSP Project Endowment provides some assurance for financial stability and continued success of JLSP efforts for a better community:

- The endowment will provide an additional and consistent revenue stream for project expenses thereby allowing members to plan for and expand the reach of activities and programs.
- More volunteer hours will be spent directly on helping the community.

Many individuals have generously contributed to the JLSP Project Endowment:

- Through those contributions and prudent investment management, the current value of the fund is approximately $150,000.
- However, the need to increase the endowment for the benefit of the community remains.
- With an additional $100,000, the fund will generate over $10,000 in annual revenue to support JLSP community service projects.

A contribution to the Junior League of Saint Paul Project Endowment is an enduring gift that will continue to grow and give into the future.

"The Junior League of Saint Paul
is an important resource and their collaboration
is highly valued and appreciated in our city.
They have made a tremendous impact in our neighborhoods."

Chris Coleman
Mayor, City of Saint Paul