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*A Legacy of Civic Engagement:
The Junior League of Saint Paul, 1917–2017*

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These photos show the many ways in which the Junior League of Saint Paul has been actively engaged in the community then, left, and now. Photos courtesy of the Junior League of Saint Paul.

A Legacy of Civic Engagement: The Junior League of Saint Paul, 1917–2017

Yvonne Hundshamer and Abby Sugahara Moeller

In the spring of 1917, three young women saw growing needs in their community and their country, and decided to do something about it. Together, they formed the Junior League of Saint Paul (JLSP). Elizabeth Ames Jackson, a St. Paul native and daughter of the head of West Publishing Company; Elizabeth Skinner from St. Louis, Missouri; and Anne White from Columbus, Ohio, began the 19th official Junior League, of which there are now almost 300 worldwide. Though the faces have changed, a century later, their spirit of voluntarism remains strong in the organization they created and in the city they loved.

The year 1914 marked the beginning of stupendous change, as you know. By 1915 many people throughout the U.S.A. were hectically busy helping the Allies (mostly Belgian, French and British) through local branches of National Relief organizations, as well as being concerned with their local civic obligations. In 1916, after a year of volunteer work as a trained case aide at the Associated Charities, and for various War Relief activities (American Fund for French Wounded, The Fatherless Children of France, and Belgian Relief), I thought the time was ripe for organizing a League. Fortunately, two recently “imported” brides were equally interested, and also knowledgeable about League procedure, having taken part at home in the beginnings of their Leagues. Mrs. William W. Skinner (Elizabeth Crunden) came from St. Louis, and Mrs. Edwin White (Anne Turney) came from Columbus. Their experience, plus my long familiarity with our city combined well for planning and gaining approval from the New York League (established in 1901). So, we were a Trio of Founders.

*Elizabeth Ames Jackson
In a Letter to the League on its
50th Anniversary*

The newly formed Junior League of Saint Paul quickly grew to a membership of fifty women who were willing to commit to three hours of volunteer work each week. They began to establish

contacts with charities interested in helping to train volunteers. Members began working with the Dale Street District of United Charities, Neighborhood House on the West Side, and the Protestant Orphan Asylum on Marshall Avenue.

Little could they have known that, throughout the next one hundred years, members of the Junior League would build a legacy of civic engagement and achievement by developing the potential of women leaders and by improving the neighborhoods of St. Paul through service projects. Those early years proved to be a valuable training ground for a formula that would sustain itself for a century. One hundred years after its founding, the Junior League of Saint Paul continues to operate as a nonprofit, member-driven, volunteer organization that serves the East Metro community.

Early in April, the U.S.A. entered the War. All was turmoil; men enlisting, going to training camps, families disrupted, people moving, the Red Cross being organized, extra jobs on all sides. But we were stout-hearted and had our meeting as scheduled with members signing up for regular jobs and everyone ready to help on ... our first special venture; that of planning and running the first Red Cross Fund Campaign in all the downtown office buildings. Demands on people's time increased daily. Everyone tried to maintain ordinary obligations plus increasing War



Elizabeth Ames Jackson, the founder of the Junior League of Saint Paul, was a visionary woman ahead of her time. Born into the upper echelon of St. Paul society and the daughter of West Publishing Company's President Charles W. Ames, she used her wealth and connections to make her community better for everyone in it. At a time when women's roles were largely confined to the home, she helped create a space for them to develop skills such as leadership and management, and presaged the present day when women of all backgrounds would be welcomed into the League. Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

work activities. Wives moved to be near husbands at far-away camps, and some single girls (myself included) volunteered for work in France.

We all muddled through and came out far more useful and experienced for it all. So the Junior League and St. Paul gained in the long run. The first 50 members progressed to start new activities, became useful board members, etc. You know the rest.

*Elizabeth Ames Jackson
In a Letter to the League on its
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Junior League of Saint Paul: *Then and Now*

50 *50 Charter Members:* The nine initial board members were asked specifically to choose 18 married and 25 unmarried women from a list of candidates to invite to round out their numbers. Married women were listed by their husbands' names (e.g., Mrs. William W. Skinner [Elizabeth Grunden]) and the responsibilities of marriage, it was understood, might mean a woman became unavailable for social service activities. Today, the JLSP has 280 members; marital status is irrelevant to membership eligibility.

8 *8 Debutantes:* The number of young women asked to join the new class in December 1917. Women who had already previously "come out" into society could join by submitting a letter to the Board of Directors. If the Board approved, the entire membership voted on an applicant's admission.

19th *The 19th Junior League:* The Junior League of Saint Paul was the 19th League formed. In 1921, the 30 extant Leagues joined together to form the Association of Junior Leagues of America (AJLA) to provide support for all Leagues. Today, the AJLA has become the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI), supporting 291 Leagues in four countries, with more than 150,000 members.

2 Cents: Cost of a first-class postage stamp in 1917. Correspondence among League members and between Leagues happened mostly by post (although telephone numbers are listed in the 1917 membership directory). One post card in the JLSP archives invites Miss Elizabeth Ames to a monthly meeting to take place at her father's home. She, like most ladies of the time, lived with her parents until marriage. In 2017, postal mail has largely been phased out in favor of electronic communication to notify members of League happenings. For those readers who only ever see "Forever" stamps, the current rate is \$0.49.

2¢

\$5

\$5 Dollars Per Year: The cost of dues in 1917 was \$5, which would be about \$102 in today's dollars. Other leagues charged between \$1-5. The founders made it clear that the organization should be able to run on very little money. Today's dues are \$158 for Active members (including new members), which is on the lower end among Leagues in the US, in an effort to make membership as affordable as possible.



Two "No" Votes: In 1917, two "no" votes from current members would keep a candidate out of the League. Today's candidates must meet a residency requirement (within 50 miles of Saint Paul), pay dues, and undergo training in order to become members, but their names are not put forward for an approval vote by the general membership.

League members have impacted the social, economic, and cultural welfare of the community, and have advocated on behalf of nearly every major community issue in the past 100 years: medical care for the poor, domestic abuse, teen pregnancy, early childhood health screenings, food insecurity, rehabilitation services, women's leadership training, immigrant assimilation, and curricula for gifted children. As an all-volunteer force, the Junior League plays a unique role in St. Paul. Regardless of membership size from year to year, the League brings trained volunteers—women who take the commitment of volunteering seriously—to collaborate and act upon unmet community needs.

Lasting Impact

Throughout its history, the Junior League of Saint Paul has engaged in many community service projects, independently and in collaboration with other organizations. The League's tradition of identifying a community need, creating effective programming, and often handing it off to the community, leaves an amazing legacy of community impact that is still serving St. Paul today.

Founded in 1924, St. Paul's Children's Hospital was operating below its capacity just a decade later, and the Junior League was asked to develop the Children's Hospital Association to support a Free Bed Fund for children in need. Fundraising for the Free Bed Fund became a significant initiative for League members, including a membership drive throughout the city. Donors could designate their contribution at \$3 a day to provide a free bed, or to support costs of the hospital, like maintenance, heating, patient dining costs, and staff salaries. Funding for the Association also relied on the League's innovative fundraising efforts, including sponsoring ice shows, hockey games, and concerts by the U.S. Marine Corps Band.

Today, the Children's Hospital Association (CHA) reflects the League's own philosophy as a volunteer organization raising money to fulfill a need, often for projects or initiatives that would not be able to continue without the Association's funding. In 2016, CHA pledged \$725,000 to Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota (now Children's Minnesota)



For most of its history, the Junior League of Saint Paul lacked a true home of its own. The very first meetings were held at 501 Grand Avenue (now Grand Hill), family home of founder Elizabeth Ames (later Jackson). Meetings continued in various other private homes for a time, and later moved to rented office spaces, most notably the historic Burbank-Livingston-Griggs House at 432 Summit Avenue, where members also served as tour guides. When, during the 1990s, the League could no longer find affordable rental space to meet their needs, they decided to buy. They could tailor the space and at the same time serve as a visible reminder the League was in St. Paul to stay. In an interesting twist of fate, the JLSP headquarters came into being in the very same year, 1917, as the League itself. Initially a three-bedroom home, complete with sleeping porches, it was later rezoned for commercial use. Designed by architect P.J. Linhoff for the Traeger family in the Craftsman style, it offers a warm, home-like feeling for the serious (but usually fun) work done there. The \$160,000 price tag left room in the \$350,000 budget for improvements, including making the building wheelchair accessible. Much of the work, materials, and furnishings, though, was donated by both members and the greater community, reflecting the spirit of service that the League embodies. Sketch by Virginia McBride. All photos in this article are courtesy of the Junior League of Saint Paul unless otherwise indicated.

to continue quality services in children's and pediatric care.

Next the League turned its attention to developing a settlement house program in the Merriam Park neighborhood of St. Paul. The new initiative engaged children and their families in recreational and educational activities. Beginning in 1939 and lasting nearly a decade, the League focused its efforts on establishing the Saint Paul Community Services Program. With an initial investment of \$12,000 from the League and a commitment of \$500 from the Community Chest, Community Services would become a member agency of the Community Chest (now the United Way). Eventually, the Merriam Park Community Center would be constructed to house and grow the initial programs cre-

ated by the League. More than 75 years later, the organization now known as Keystone Community Services is thriving, serving more than 25,000 residents each year with the help of over 2,000 volunteers.

The St. Paul Rehabilitation Center opened in 1948. The League partnered with the Minnesota Society for Crippled Children and Adults, the Amherst H. Wilder Charity, and the Family Nursing Service of St. Paul to address a community need for offering physical, occupational, and speech therapy services to children and adults, and preschool programming to children with disabilities. League members provided funds, volunteers, and publicity for the organization for another eight years. Renamed Lifetrack Resources, the new nonprofit added employment services

Timeline of JLSP Projects

As the League reflects on a century of service, there are many projects where the League's imprint is indelible. What follows is a list of projects many will recognize and remember:

1922: Members established Library Bookmobiles for hospitals.

1923: A convalescent home for women was opened and operated by the League for eight years.

1933: At the request of the Board of Trustees of the Children's hospital, the League formed and financed the Children's Hospital Association, providing free bed care for children in need.

1940: League volunteers assisted professional medical personnel at Well Baby Clinics, an initiative of the Family Nursing Service.

1942: During World War II, the League established a Civilian Defense Volunteer Office as a registration center for volunteers in St. Paul. The organization that promotes and facilitates volunteerism has steadily grown throughout the years, and today operates as Hands On Twin Cities.

1949: The Next-to-New Shop was opened by the League as both a fundraising vehicle for the League as well as an opportunity for neighbors in the community to access reasonably priced secondhand clothing.

1956: At the request of the St. Paul Council of Arts and Science, League members helped to establish a city-wide steering committee to assess public interest in forming a community theater, leading to the creation of Theatre St. Paul.

1961: League volunteers assisted teachers and medical professionals to conduct preschool hearing and vision screening for all four-year-old children in St. Paul.

1965: A cooperative effort of the League and the Science Museum helped to expand and promote the Museum's Nature Center Program.

1970: A predecessor to the United Way's 411, a telephone referral service sponsored by the Junior Leagues of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Leagues of Women Voters, the Minneapolis Urban Coalition, and WCCO Radio helped inner city residents navigate referrals including for day-care, housing, and tenants' issues.

1975: The Bucket Brigade offered one-on-one tutorial to elementary school children struggling to achieve academic success.

1977: To commemorate the League's 60th anniversary, the League raised funds to reforest St. Paul after the Dutch Elm epidemic. Besides planting trees in ravaged parks, 60 trees were planted along Summit Avenue.

1979: The League provided trained volunteers to teach Omnibus, a curriculum for the state's first gifted and talented program.

1980–82, 1984: Members created and produced the Saint Paul Arts Festival, an annual three-day event funded by grants from the St. Paul Companies and featuring both the performing and visual arts in multiple downtown venues. This festival brought to light the issue of defunding of the arts in public schools and brought people to downtown St. Paul during an economic downturn.

1981: The League the lead in the development of a curriculum and the teaching of chemical abuse awareness in elementary schools.

1981–82: The Hmong Art Project helped Hmong women promote and sell their intricate needlework.

1981–85: The "Too Far, Too Fast" was an educational program delivered in middle and high schools to prevent too-early pregnancy.

1992–99: The League developed public awareness and education programs around shaken baby syndrome, including billboards, public service announcements, and a video.

1997: Members promoted awareness of domestic abuse by establishing the Minnesota chapter of Silent Witness and by attending the Silent Witness National Initiative's March on Washington with Senator Paul and Sheila Wellstone.

2003–2007: The League revitalized the physical space and created a volunteer program at the Women's Advocates domestic abuse shelter.

2007–10: Building Bonds Through Reading and Play, in partnership with the City of Saint Paul Parks & Recreation, encouraged relationship-building between children and their parents or other adult caregivers.

2010–14: The Backpack Buddies program provided weekend food to students at John A. Johnson Elementary School who relied heavily on school breakfast and lunch for nutrition.

2015–Present: The Junior Chef Program teaches teens at Saint Paul Recreation Centers how to prepare tasty, nutritious meals for themselves.

to its rehabilitation programming in the 1950s and continues as Lifetrack to this day, providing a therapeutic preschool, children's therapies clinic, and a variety of services to people with disabilities, immigrants and refugees, and people experiencing poverty—helping 40,000 people each year.

Another indelible mark the League has left on the East Metro is the Lee and Rose Warner Nature Center, providing experiential learning on environmental respect, using the care of unique nature-center habitats as teaching tools. A cooperative effort of the Junior League and the Science Museum of St. Paul (the predecessor of today's Science Museum of Minnesota), the League provided much-needed funding in 1965 to the original curator of the environmental habitat, the Trailside Museum, an outlet of the Science Museum. League funding allowed the museum to hire a Chief Curator of Biology and Education. Summer programming at the new nature center began right away that first summer in 1965 and school groups began classes in the fall of 1967. Expansion of the Center continued in recent years with the installation of a natural-bowl, limestone amphitheater and a savannah and prairie restoration project.

Marge Allen, Junior League of Saint Paul President from 1965–1967, led the League's effort to support and celebrate the Science Museum's move to a downtown St. Paul location. Marge's passion for the Science Museum continued throughout her life, earning her the designation "Life Trustee"—one of only four individuals in the museum's 100-year history who have received that honor. Today, the Science Museum of Minnesota impacts over a million people from around the world every year through trips to the museum, school visits, traveling exhibitions, and Omnitheater films.

In 2003, the League focused its outreach efforts at Women's Advocates in St. Paul, the nation's first shelter for women and children escaping domestic violence. Junior League members worked on physical improvements by taking the shelter from a sterile environment to one whose physical space is welcoming and warm. Maybe even more importantly, the League created a volunteer program



Jayne Trudell, left, of the Junior League of Saint Paul and G. Richard Slade, president of the Northwestern National Bank of St. Paul, planted a ginkgo tree in Como Park in June 1977. In celebration of its 60th anniversary, the League raised \$40,500 from corporations and community organizations to plant 350 trees around St. Paul, replacing those ravaged by Dutch Elm disease. A fitting symbol for the long-lasting impact the Junior League has had on the community, ginkgo trees are known for their longevity, even in stressful urban environments. The League worked with the Saint Paul Parks & Recreation Department to plant the trees. If you've ever taken a stroll in Cherokee, Como, Highland, or Mounds Park or along Summit Avenue, then you may have enjoyed one yourself. Mark Morson photo for The Dispatch.

where none had existed previously, and one that today is thriving.

Once a volunteer curriculum had been created, League members naturally began filling volunteer shifts and assignments, bringing programming to the women and children staying at the shelter, including Animal Assisted Therapy, game nights, meal preparation, and outings to local attractions like apple orchards and the Children's Museum. League members have also fulfilled another much-needed role, serving as members of the Board of Directors of Women's Advocates throughout the years since the partnership was first established. The League's efforts at Women's Advocates were truly pioneering for the facility and its clients, and left a lasting legacy. In 2016, 300

volunteers—most of whom were not affiliated with the JLSP—contributed 3,000 hours to the organization.

Driving Change through Cutting-Edge Projects

An important element of the Junior League model is project research. There are many community needs and just as many ways the Junior League could support St. Paul neighborhoods. The decision to tackle a particular community need is determined by a set of criteria that have not changed from year to year: *what is the need in the community, can our involvement as a League make an impact, and can we raise money and provide volunteers for it?*

Partnerships with community organizations have resulted in many ideas for League projects. Some may say the League's reputation precedes it. And although the Junior League has developed a reputation for getting things done, members only tackle projects when they know they can make a difference.

The League has always sought out diversity in the projects that are chosen and has not shied away from addressing issues that, at the time, may have seemed controversial. Rosemary Gruber, President 1989–1990, recalls the Prevention of Too Early Pregnancy initiative in the early 1980s as daring. "There we were, a group of older women, going into the junior and senior high schools to talk about sexuality and help young people think about making good decisions. It was kind of a radical concept, but also necessary for the sake of St. Paul's young people."

When Hmong immigrants began to arrive in the Twin Cities in the early 1980s, the Junior League made a special effort to understand the Hmong culture. With a language barrier and a primarily horticultural background hindering their adjustment to their new country, many Hmong immigrants found it difficult to find employment in St. Paul. This is when the League stepped in to help. Chaired by Kay Knoll, President 1987–1988, the Hmong Art Project helped Hmong women market their intricately hand-sewn textiles.

The League didn't simply hang up a shingle for wares. In traditional Junior League fashion, members immersed

themselves in the issue facing the community. To learn more about the Hmong culture, members sought education from the International Institute and attended informational sessions at the University of Minnesota. Several members on the Hmong Art Project Committee became trained in English as a Second Language (ESL) to facilitate their efforts to support Hmong artists in learning English and tailored the language lessons to help these artists sell their artwork.

The Hmong Art Project found a special place with the League, which has particularly championed issues that help women and children. Many of the Hmong women were in a position of vulnerability inherent to their status as refugees. The project helped approximately two hundred Hmong women market their artwork at community festivals and shops, garnering the attention of local curators

for corporate commissions. The project gave the Hmong women a much-needed source of income and captivated the Twin Cities by highlighting the Hmong culture. Perhaps equally important, the project conveyed the warm, welcoming environment the League is known for, offering the immigrant women unexpected support in their new community.

Each of these projects started with a group of dedicated women, focused on making a difference for women, children, the vulnerable, and those in need in their own community. The women of the Junior League have never let fear of the unknown or challenges stop their drive to make change and solve problems.

"I have worked on projects in the League that I would not have otherwise sought out, issues that I may never have felt passionate about," said Katie Misukanis Pan, President 2011–2012. "We can elevate awareness of an issue as a League, and subsequently, for the community as a whole." And sometimes an issue the Junior League takes on, ends up on the national stage.

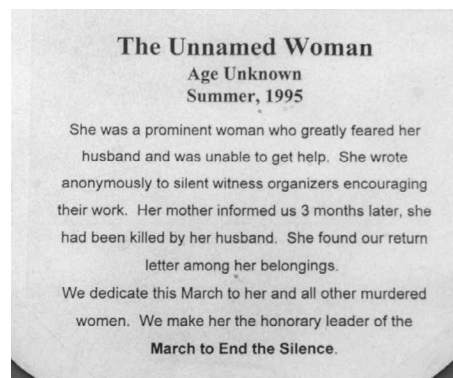
Partners in a Platform for Change

From 1992–1999, the League directed its attention and advocacy work toward a severe, but preventable, form of physi-

cal child abuse: shaken baby syndrome. The League believed it could impact public awareness of shaken baby syndrome and had access to the national expert on the issue. Dr. Carolyn Levitt, director of the Midwest Children's Resource Center (MCRC), a regional center for evaluation and consultation for abused children at Children's Hospital in St. Paul, helped guide the League in developing the project.

The League's public awareness campaign, called *Awareness, Advice & Advocacy: The Child Abuse Project*, propelled the Junior League of Saint Paul to the national stage, and provided the opportunity to affect change throughout the country. This would become one of the League's legacy projects.

In partnership with Dr. Levitt and her team at Children's Hospital, Junior League members helped craft a curriculum that would be presented in sixth grade classrooms at public schools throughout St. Paul. This led to an adult curriculum designed for audiences in Early Childhood Family Education (E.C.F.E.) classes, teen parent groups, juvenile detention centers, adult corrections facilities, and high school health classes. The contribution of trained volunteers who taught the prevention program was an apt example of the League's impactful mission: to promote voluntarism, develop the potential of women, and improve



Junior League of Saint Paul members, along with the leadership of Senator Paul Wellstone, second row, second from the right, and his wife, Sheila, second row, first from the right, joined women from around the country at the National March to End the Silence in October 1997. The life-sized red silhouettes each represented a woman who was murdered by a partner or acquaintance and brought the nation's domestic abuse crisis to the fore. The League established the Minnesota chapter of Silent Witness that year to bring awareness to the issue locally. Photos courtesy of Louise Jones.

communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. The curriculum, which was given the name *Fragile: Handle with Care*, became a full suite of educational tools that included an interactive educational video, facilitator's guide, teacher's guide, and student workbook.

"Back then, very few people had heard of shaken baby syndrome," said Louise Jones, President 1991–1992, and chair of the committee responsible for shepherding the League's development of the project. "Not only were we making a direct-service impact by helping to develop and deliver the curriculum in schools and hospitals, our greatest impact was in elevating this issue as a public health crisis."

Perhaps the most visible piece of the League's efforts to prevent shaken baby syndrome was a public awareness campaign. Billboards, bus stop signage, posters, and other advertisements featured a drawing of a baby rattle along with the phrase: *Shake This, Not A Baby*. The campaign earned the interest of local CBS television affiliate WCCO. The station aired the League's public service announcement for six weeks and was joined by another local station, KSTP, in airing a segment on shaken baby syndrome in the fall of 1992.

The project remains a standout in the institutional memory of the League, even for members who were only just born the year the project launched. The educational video, titled "Portrait of Promise: Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome," was approved by the American Academy of Pediatrics and is still shown in hospitals throughout the United States and across the globe. Available in six languages and closed captions, more than 1.1 million copies of the video have been distributed to childbirth centers, pediatric clinics, and early childhood education and day-care centers.

Strength in Numbers

In 1997, as an 80th Anniversary project, the League established the Minnesota chapter of Silent Witness, an appeal for solutions to the crisis of domestic violence and the increasing incidence of domestic murder. The Silent Witness project began in 1990 in Minnesota when a group of artists came together to exhibit twenty-



*The JLSP showed its true multitasking nature through the production of numerous cabaret shows over the years, which raised funds for League projects. The *Follies* ran from the 1920s to the 1940s; *Razz-Ma-Tazz* was staged in 1958, and *You've Come a Long Way, Baby*, pictured here, in 1969. Members not only planned and publicized the show, solicited sponsorships and advertisers, hired directors and musicians, and sold tickets, but many also sang, danced, and acted (in some cases alongside husbands and professionals) in the productions.*

seven life-sized silhouettes to represent and remember the women who had been killed that year by husbands, boyfriends, or acquaintances in Minnesota.

The image of the blazing red figures, and the magnitude of 500 women marching to the Minnesota State Capitol the following year, captivated League members. Jane Zeller chaired the League's Domestic Abuse Project committee and would go on to bring national awareness to the crisis.

Silent Witness Exhibits were established in all fifty states and three other countries, and the Junior League of Saint Paul was a key influencer in advancing the issue from the local level to a national spotlight. Awareness among legislators that was generated by the initiative contributed to the addition of the Violence Against Women Act provisions to the 1994 Crime Bill passed by the U.S. Congress. More than one hundred Junior Leagues around the country became involved in the initiative.

Zeller and her committee brought the silhouettes to a national stage with the Silent Witness National Initiative's first National March to End the Silence in Washington,

D.C., in October 1997, led by Senator Paul Wellstone and his wife, Sheila. Thirty-eight U.S. states and three other countries were represented at the event.

Member Impact: Developing the Potential of Women

Women today often find themselves seeking a balance between work and family. Many pursue advanced degrees to further their careers, or they seek additional responsibilities within professional associations. In the 1950s, '60s, and '70s, women found a place in the Junior League to apply and enhance their education, managerial skills, and leadership skills at a time when managing a family and societal expectations often kept them from working outside the home. For many women, being a member of the Junior League was, in essence, their professional life. League placements gave women the opportunity to advance their professional skills and relationships. Learning new skills, such as how to prepare a financial statement and manage the bookkeeping



Members of the Ethnic Dance Theatre performed at the "Arts in the Air" Saint Paul Arts Festival in May 1982. The third annual Saint Paul Arts Festival was also a 65th birthday celebration for the Junior League of Saint Paul, which raised funds for and produced the three-day affair. Staged in the midst of a recession, arts funding had been on the decline, so the festival was a boon to both artists and attendees. Revelers enjoyed well-known local music, dance, theater, and storytelling performances; juried visual arts exhibits; and family-friendly activities like face-painting and kite-making in various downtown locations. Photo courtesy of the Saint Paul Area Downtowner.

of, essentially, a small business, would prove useful to members later in life.

Junior League members serve on various committees and are able to enhance skills they know well or learn new ones through their choice of work assignments during the League year. Someone who wants to get hands-on experience in budgeting or finance can serve as the League's treasurer-elect and then treasurer. A woman who would like to learn more about the community's needs or develop new programs might volunteer to chair or serve on the Project Research committee. If fundraising seems daunting, a one-year placement on the Fund Development team will de-mystify the process and equip a Junior League member to solicit sponsorships, write grant applications, and plan and execute fundraisers.

The importance of acquiring new skills has, from the beginning of the League, been underscored by the fact that members are supported by one another.

What a member learns in the League she learns by doing, and by having role models who have done it before. Members are encouraged to take risks and take on new responsibilities. Nearly every woman in the League will share a story about breaking out of her comfort zone and doing something different, no matter how intimidating. From chairing a committee to serving as the League's treasurer or even president, members feel supported knowing there are decades of experienced women to walk alongside them.

Molly Varley, President 1997–1998, shared a reflection often heard from members: "I never aspired to a leadership role when I joined." But that's the magic of the Junior League; members begin to see themselves as leaders after they have taken on different responsibilities and have seen other women perform leadership roles. "In the League, people expect you to be a leader, and you expect that of

yourself," said League member Dawne Brown White.

Many women join the Junior League with the expectation of rolling up their sleeves and volunteering to do hands-on work in the community. Most, however, do not anticipate the breadth of what they will learn by doing. In the League, service-learning is experiential, and what makes it special holds as true today as it did 100 years ago: women training one another to seek and implement creative solutions that will positively impact the community.

The Junior League is one of hundreds of nonprofits in the East Metro seeking to improve our community in a variety of service models. "What sets the League apart is its systematic determination of what are the unmet needs and then, what is the best return on our investment of our hard-earned treasury and our well-trained volunteers," said Judy Kishel, President 1986–1987. "League members are trained to think strategically, advocate, network, build coalitions, allocate our resources wisely, and evaluate. Like interest in a savings account, these skills have been compounded exponentially and generously shared with our community over the last 100 years."

"When you think about projects like Silent Witness," said Molly Varley, "where else can you, as a part-time volunteer, immerse yourself in an issue that you are passionate about, help to develop a project from the ground up, work to get community support, and even be invited to the White House to meet with the President and First Lady? That's what the Junior League does best. We develop the potential of women."

Having Fun While Raising Funds

Like any nonprofit, the Junior League of Saint Paul's impact can only go as far as the fundraising efforts that support the organization's annual work. The League supports itself and its work in the community through annual member dues and a variety of fundraising initiatives.

Very early in its history, and reflecting the zeitgeist of the times, the League produced *The Follies*. With a cast of primarily League members, *The Follies* were cabaret-style shows with an elaborate

format of dances and songs borrowed from Broadway. In the early 1920s, St. Paul's own F. Scott Fitzgerald and his wife, Zelda, played a role, with Zelda making her debut as a dancer and F. Scott writing material for the show and attending every rehearsal. *The Follies* continued until the 1940s.

Members proved to have a knack for merchandising when the League began to operate a gift shop in the Saint Paul Hotel throughout the early 1930s. The boutique sold a variety of items, from baby bonnets and toys to pottery and French lingerie. In 1949, those same skills would be put to use in a venture that raised funds for the League while providing a much-needed service to the community. The League's Next-to-New Shop sold used clothing and household items at low cost at several downtown locations and on Payne Avenue. In response to more members working outside the home, in 1985 the League transitioned from a permanent shop to an annual, supersized one-day garage sale at the State Fairgrounds, with bargain hunters lining up at the doors to find hidden treasures.

In 1969, members revived their love of live performances with "*You've Come A Long Way, Baby*"—a throwback to the cabaret shows of the past. Highlighting the League's history through song, dance, and elaborate costumes, members and their husbands provided much of the talent under the direction of a professional New York director, Howard Miller. It proved to be a fun and successful venture: between sponsorships and ticket sales, the two-show run exceeded the League's net goal of \$20,000.

For five years, from 1993–1998, the League brought to life the storied American Girl Doll collection. League members enjoyed involving the young women in their lives, inviting their daughters, nieces, and granddaughters to help put on an annual multicultural fashion show and luncheon. The event appealed to grade school youth and featured the American Girl fashions, dolls, and books from the Pleasant Company.

In addition to corporate and foundation support, the League has partnered with community organizations like *Mpls.St. Paul* magazine and the American Society



The Peeps® car is just one of a variety of vehicles on display at the League's Touch-A-Truck fundraising event at Signal Hills Shopping Center in West St. Paul, presented annually since 2012. Children and adults alike enjoy climbing in and on construction vehicles, blowing the horns of big rigs, petting police horses, and learning about safety and first aid from first responders. Photo courtesy of Dan Nowicki, City of West St. Paul.

of Interior Designers to frequently staff the annual ASID Showcase Home since 2000. And, in 2003, the Junior Leagues of Saint Paul and Minneapolis partnered to publish a cookbook that featured recipes and narratives from members, capturing the taste, style, and spirit of hospitality of the Twin Cities.

Today, the League partners with other local nonprofits and businesses to bring a hands-on experience called Touch-A-Truck to kids and families. Children of all ages have the chance to climb on and learn more about commercial and public safety vehicles, including a fire truck, paving dump truck, tow truck, American Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle and Safety Mobile.

Junior League Creates Leaders

League experience also has propelled many women into high-profile leadership positions. "According to the 1982 JLSP Handbook, 16 nonprofit boards held a seat open for a League member, proving how much the community valued a Junior League-trained volunteer," said Judy Kishel. "Their League training and

experiences turned into great networks and often those networks turned into paid employment. They became executive directors and program officers of foundations, development officers of hospitals and educational institutions, event planners, founded other nonprofits and became top producers in real estate and finance. Some were even inspired to return to school for degrees in theology, MBAs, law degrees, and others ran for school boards and for public office—a state legislative seat and a mayor's race (both won!). They will all say that their Junior League training enabled them to seek and say 'yes' to an opportunity."

Many remarkable women drew on League experience to lead in other capacities in the community. Some notable examples include: Molly McMillan, President 1957–1959, who went on to serve on the Ramsey County Welfare Board and was the first woman trustee elected to the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation Board; Elizabeth M. (Sandy) Kiernat, President 1979–1980, was also elected to the Wilder board and chaired the board for ten years, from 2000 to 2010; and Carolyn Brusseau, President, 1976–1977, who became the

first woman chair of the F. R. Bigelow Foundation Board, 2007–2008, and the first woman President of the Saint Paul Rotary, 2010–2011.

A number of women not only reinvested their leadership skills back into the Junior League of Saint Paul, but they were also elected to lead regionally and internationally. Six League members were elected to serve on the Area IV Council: Janet Muellerleille (1974–1975), Carol Ryan (1976–1977), Sandy Kiernat (1980–1981), Kay Knoll (1985–1986), and Rosemary Gruber (1990–1992). Four members were elected to serve terms as Directors to the Board of the Association of Junior Leagues International: Molly McMillan (1959–1961), Judy Kishel (1988–1990), Carol Kurtz Horsman (1995–1997), and Sylvia Strobel (2014–2017).

Members bring with them the governance and board management training they have developed through their volunteer positions in the Junior League to help lead other organizations big and small. “My Junior League training gave me a foundation of how an effective board is run, and how to raise expectations for members’ contributions,” said

current President Jill Skogheim. “Having that foundation gave me the confidence to speak up and lead change in other organizations where I serve.”

There Will Always Be a Need

Within the last twenty-five years, the Junior League of Saint Paul has continued to research and tackle initiatives that need a champion. “We want to know ‘what is the need? How can we fill that gap?’” said League member Carlon Doyle. “The League offers members something akin to continuing education, not just in ongoing volunteer training, but in helping us know what is missing or needed in our community. What could be made better?” Doyle and fellow League member Ann Jones explained that the Junior League elevates the visibility of issues that need attention in the community. “The more we know, the more effective we are at advocating and taking action,” said Jones.

The League has always sought to develop projects with an issue-based community impact, like child abuse or domestic violence. With 36% of children in St. Paul living in poverty, Healthy Bodies,

Healthy Brains has been the theme for the League’s projects since 2011 and seeks to address the issue of food insecurity—not knowing where your next meal may be coming from—particularly as it affects children. Inadequate nutrition contributes to numerous health issues, including obesity, and affects students’ ability to learn in school. The Backpack Buddies project partnered the League with John A. Johnson Elementary School on St. Paul’s East Side to provide 150 kindergarten and first graders at the school—whose primary source of nutrition is the school cafeteria—with a backpack full of food items each weekend. This helped to fill an important nutritional gap for these youth, and helped ensure their brains were fueled for learning in the classroom.

Last year, at the request of staff at the Saint Paul Parks & Recreation Department, the League provided curated family food boxes for 100 families near the end of each month, when other food benefits and resources ran low. Food boxes were distributed at the Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center.

The current project, called the Junior Chef program, empowers teens to eat healthier by teaching them to grocery shop, plan menus, cook, and enjoy meals for themselves. The project grew out of one created by the Junior League of Calgary called Kids in The Kitchen, focused on younger children. This iteration has different menu items that appeal to teens and shares more advanced cooking skills, allowing for greater participation from both the League and the teens. Through the Junior Chef initiative, the League has moved beyond simply providing food to providing food and the skills needed to turn fresh food into healthy meals and snacks, with limited equipment and no adult supervision necessary. Participants are sent home with a recipe and the food necessary to prepare the meal at home.

“A big driver for us to pilot this program last year was to offer a more hands-on experience with the community,” explained League member Rachel Tierney, who led the effort to develop and implement the program in St. Paul. “Our years of packing backpacks, which were really appreciated by the families who received



Junior League of Saint Paul Presidents past and present gathered for a holiday luncheon in December 2016. Front row, left to right: Jennifer Sampson 2013–14; Judy Kishel 1986–87; Ginger Overbye 1977–78; Carole Olson 1978–79; Molly Bigelow McMillan 1957–59; Jean Hart 1971–72; Carolyn Brusseau 1976–77; Mary Mork Harvey 1975–76; Linda Moore 1984–85; Dianna Peterson 2010–11; and Katie Pan 2011–12. Middle Row, l-r: Beth Nault 2012–13; President Jill Skogheim 2015–17; Dinah Swain 2006–07; Lorelee DiLorenzo 2008–09; Christine Park 1988–1989; Barbara Roy 1980–81; Liz Boyd 2004–05; Paula Soholt 2000–01; Rosemary Gruber 1989–90; Debbie Lee 2007–08; Louise Jones 1991–92; Susan Sorenson 1992–93; Sandy Kiernat 1979–80; Mari Oyanagi Eggum 1996–97; Cindy Werner 1997–98; Carol Horsman 1993–94; Donna Moores 1994–95; Sonya Šustáček 2014–15; Molly McGlynn Varley 1998–99; Elizabeth Streeper 1983–84; and Barbara Westgard 2003–04. Back Row, l-r: President Elect Kimberly Mills 2017–18; Julia Adams 1999–00; Jennifer Swensen 2005–06; Genevieve Freier 2001–02; and Christine Sand 2009–10. Photo courtesy of Catherine Golden.

them, left us a bit detached from the community we served. The membership expressed interest in more hands-on opportunities at the same time that Saint Paul Parks & Rec reached out to us to see if we wanted to partner with them in any way and this, along with the food box program we did last year, was an outcome of those two things coming together.”

“As we celebrate our centennial, we are reminded of the need to stay flexible and open to opportunities for the Junior League of Saint Paul to continue to have impact,” said President Jill Skogheim. “Identify what is the need, determine if it is a fit for our membership, and recognize how we can impact it through trained volunteers. It’s been a relatively simple, but incredibly effective formula, for the last one hundred years.”

Amazingly, half a century ago, the ever-forward-thinking founder still had her vision set on the future. In 1967, she wrote of her hopes for the League of today with startling prescience:

... the fact is that I am more interested in present activities, and hope for continuing growth of understanding modern trends and responsibilities, with greater breadth of outlook. I hope that the Leagues will be more inclusive in their membership, availing themselves of the skills and talents of people of all races. I believe that we should encourage people in other parts of the world to promote volunteer services to fit their needs. Please work for that in the coming years. It would help you to enjoy the 100th Anniversary year as much as I enjoy saluting you during this 50th year. I wish my two lovely Co-Founders were here to join me proudly.

Cheers and best wishes to you all,

Your Dowager,

Elizabeth Ames Jackson (Mrs. Norris D)

In a Letter to the League on its

50th Anniversary

“The one thing we have to offer, that no other organization can supply,” said Rosemary Gruber, “is effective volunteers who are willing to lead.” Junior League volunteers are not simply bodies to fill the seats. What League members are really known for is showing up and following through. “We volunteers are striving to make a difference. We are



Junior League of Saint Paul member Sara Nelson teaches teens at the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center how to prepare mini chicken potpies as part of the Junior Chef Program. The program is the latest effort in the League's initiative to combat food insecurity and improve nutrition in the St. Paul area and is an adaptation of the Kids in the Kitchen program developed by the Junior League of Calgary and now in nearly 200 other cities. Both the volunteers and the teens have enjoyed getting to work hands-on in the kitchen through the project, now in its second year. Photo courtesy of Catherine Golden.

striving to give back,” said Judy Kishel. “We are striving to pay it forward and we are striving to be impactful. We are all working hard to make ourselves useful.”

“When I think of our projects, from those on a national stage like Silent Witness to our recent very local level project with Health Bodies, Healthy Brains, I am reminded of a favorite quote by Margaret Mead,” said Dawne Browne White, “‘Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.’ That is the Junior League of Saint Paul in a nutshell. Small, but mighty. Thoughtful and committed. Citizens who are passionate about our neighborhoods and community. And out to change the world.”

The Junior League of Saint Paul celebrates its centennial in 2017. Though much has changed, the model of the organization remains the same as its founder Elizabeth Ames Jackson intended. Indeed, her legacy is renewed every year, with incoming new members, a newly elected board of directors, a project serving the community, and continued support from the families, friends, community partners, and funders who assist and encourage the League in its work of lead-

ing change and transforming the St. Paul community.

A Note on Sources

The authors drew from original source materials, including Junior League of Saint Paul newsletters, communications, marketing, and prepared speeches/talking points, as well as an article written by Garneth O. Petersen and published at the time of the League’s 75th anniversary titled “The Junior League’s First 75 Years: Follies, ‘Friendly Visiting’ and Women’s Changing Roles,” *Ramsey County History*, Summer, 1992, Volume 27, Number 2, p. 4. Additionally, the authors interviewed the following League members: Jean Ambler; Carlon Doyle; Rosemary Gruber; Ann Jones; Louise Jones; Sandy Kiernat; Judy Kishel; Molly McMillan; Sara Nelson; Ginger Overbye; Katie Pan; Barbara Roy; Jill Skogheim; Caroline Stone; Rachel Tierney; Jayne Trudell; Molly Varley; and Dawne Brown White. League records, including administrative, financial and publicity files; project files; special events print books; photographs; membership handbooks; annual reports; and newsletters documenting the history (1917–1991) of the Junior League of Saint Paul, its administration, and activities can be accessed at the Minnesota Historical Society. Additional materials and League records (1917–present) can be accessed at Junior League of Saint Paul headquarters by appointment: call (651) 291-7377.

Yvonne Hundshamer joined the Junior League in 1996. As a lifelong resident of St. Paul, she knows firsthand the impact the League has had on the community. Abby Sugahara Moeller joined the Junior League in 2008 after moving to St. Paul from New York. The friendships she has made, the skills she has gained, and the connections she has formed in the community through the Junior League have made her feel truly at home in Minnesota. Junior League members Mary Sue Godfrey, Louise Godfrey Jones, Judy Kishel, and Mary-Helen Mische contributed to this article.

The Junior League of Saint Paul

Our 100-Year History of Community Collaboration

3M

Allianz Life Corporate Giving

2002, 2003, 2005 • Women's Advocates

American Association of University Women

Saint Paul and Minneapolis Chapters

American Red Cross—Twin Cities Area Chapter

1917 • World War I Campaign

1918–1919 • Belgian & Near East Relief, Armenian Orphans

1943 • War Activities

Amherst H. Wilder Foundation

1979 • Parents Mutual Help Support Groups

Capitol Community Services

1958 • Indian Referral Office

1960 • Friendly Visiting

Catholic Charities of Saint Paul

Children Are People Support Groups, Inc.

1981 • Project Prevention

Children's Home Society of Minnesota

1981–1985 • Prevention of Too Early Pregnancy

Children's Hospital Association

1933 • Free Bed Fund

Children's Hospital of Saint Paul

1939

City of Saint Paul Planning and Economic Development Department

1974 • Edgerton Jenks High Rise

City of Saint Paul Public Works Department

1999 • Harriet Island Information Kiosk

Coldwell Banker Burnet

1999 • Harriet Island Information Kiosk

College of Associated Arts

1940 • Saint Paul School of Art—Gallery Volunteer Service

COMPAS/United Arts

1980–1983 • Saint Paul Arts Festival

Cross Streets Program for Runaway Youth

1986 • Cross Streets Project

Cultural Star Program—City of Saint Paul

1999 • Harriet Island Information Kiosk

2001 • Headquarters Restoration

Dodge Nature Center

1965 • Nature Center Project

Drew Family Foundation

1999 • Headquarters Restoration

Elmer L. & Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation

1998 • DreamSacks (MotherRead)

Extreme Makeover: Home Edition

2007, 2009 • Extreme Makeover Home Project

Family Service of Greater Saint Paul

1920 • Children's Department of United Charities

1992 • Raised Voices

F. R. Bigelow Foundation

1999 • Headquarters Restoration

2016 • Celebrating and Preserving a Century of Service

The Girl Scout Council of the St. Croix River Valley

Hallie Q. Brown Community Center

Hallmark Cards

1984, 1996 • Kaleidoscope

Hoikka House

International Special Olympics

1991 • Family Center

Junior League of Minneapolis

1942 • Radio Institute

1948, 1950 • Look What We Found

1952 • Music Tells a Story

1970 • Community Line

1971 • Arts Central

1985 • Metropolitan Food Drive

1991–1994 • Violence Against Women Coalition

1996 • Kaleidoscope

KTCA Television

1957 • The Art Around Us

1960–1961 • Let's Make Music I, Let's Make Music II

KUOM Radio

1944 • Radio Institute

1948, 1950 • Look What We Found

League of Women Voters

1970 • Community Line

Lao Family Community

1981–1983 • Hmong Art Project

Macalester College

1957 • Creative Dramatics

Magellan Midstream Partners/Williams

1999 • Harriet Island Information Kiosk

Mall of America

1997–2000 • DreamSacks

1997–2004 • Silent Witness

1998–2000 • Magical Playhouses

Martin Luther King Center

1992 • Landscape & Beautification Project

McGlynn Family Foundation

1999 • Harriet Island Information Kiosk

1999 • Headquarters Restoration

2007 • 90th Anniversary Celebration

Melpomene Institute for Women's Health

1988 • Celebrate Life

Merriam Park Community Center / Keystone Community Services

1939 • Founded & Funded Center

Metro Paint-A-Thon

1989–1990 • Metro Paint-A-Thon Projects

Midwest Children's Resource Center, Children's Hospital and Clinics of Minnesota, Saint Paul

1992–1999 • Awareness Advice & Advocacy: The Child Abuse Project

1993–2003 • First Steps

Minneapolis Institute of Arts

1971 • Arts Central

Minneapolis Public Schools

1950 • Drama

1952 • Music Tells a Story

1971 • Arts Central

Minnesota AIDS Project

1990 • Education for Teens & Parents

Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented

1979–1984 • Omnibus

Minnesota Food Bank Network

1985 • Metropolitan Food Drive

Minnesota Historical Society

1950 • Know Your Minnesota

1968 • Burbank-Livingston-Griggs House

Minnesota Humanities Commission

1997–2000 • DreamSacks (MotherRead)

Minnesota Museum of Art

- 1952 • Craftsman's Market
- 1953 • Fiber, Clay & Metal
- 1959 • Children's Art Festival
- 1984 • Saint Paul Arts Festival

Minnesota Orchestra

- 1952 • Music Tells a Story

Minnesota Special Olympics

- 1990–1991 • Area 12 & State Games

Minnesota Women's Consortium**National Association of Negro Women–Twin Cities**

- 1971 • Drug Education for Youth

National Council of Jewish Women–Twin Cities

- 1971 • Drug Education for Youth
- 1977 • Children's Transitional Care Facility

National Hemophilia Foundation, Inc.

- 1971 • Man Sometimes Conquers

Neighborhood House**Nordstrom–Mall of America**

- 1993 • Grand Opening Gala
- 1994 • Spring Fashion Show

Pioneer Press**Ramsey Hill Association**

- 1992 • Landscape & Beautification Project

The Saint Paul Foundation

- 1999 • Headquarters Restoration

Saint Paul Garden Club

- 1999 • Harriet Island Information Kiosk

Saint Paul Parks & Recreation

- 1977 • 60th Anniversary Tree Project
- 1988, 1993 • Harriet Bishop
- 1992 • Landscape & Beautification Project
- 1997–1999 • Harriet Island Information Kiosk
- 2007–2011 • Building Bonds Through Reading and Play
- 2011 • Kids in the Kitchen
- 2015–2016 • Family Food Boxes, Junior Chef Program

Saint Paul Public Library

- 1922 • Bookmobile for Hospitals
- 1950 • Drama
- 1952 • Creative Dramatics
- 1980–1983 • Saint Paul Arts Festival
- 1985, 1988 • Raising Readers I, Raising Readers II

Saint Paul Public Schools

- 1950 • Drama
- 1952 • Creative Dramatics
- 1952 • Music Tells a Story
- 1959 • Children's Art
- 1961 • Let's Make Music
- 1966 • School Volunteer Project
- 1973 • Communications Skill Library
- 1975 • Arts Awareness
- 1975–1980 • Bucket Brigade
- 1979–1984 • Omnibus
- 1981–1985 • Prevention of Too Early Pregnancy
- 1989 • Harriet Bishop
- 1993–1995 • Fragile: Handle with Care-Shaken Baby Syndrome
- 1999–2000 • Saint Paul Reads
- 2007–2011 • Library Kids
- 2012–2014 • Backpack Buddies

Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation

- 1997–1999 • Harriet Island Information Kiosk

Salvation Army: Saint Paul Citadel Corps

- 1993–1995 • Project Break Through

Science Museum of Minnesota

- 1965 • Nature Center Project
- 1978 • Science Museum of Minnesota Projects I & II

Second Harvest Heartland

- 2012–2015 • Backpack Buddies and Family Food Boxes

Securian Foundation/Minnesota Mutual Foundation

- 1998 • DreamSacks
- 2000 • Headquarters Restoration

Silent Witness National Initiative-Minnesota

- 1997 • March to End the Silence in Washington, D.C.
- 1997–2004 • Awareness Rallies

St. Paul Companies

- 1980–1982 • Saint Paul Arts Festival

St. Paul Rehabilitation Center/Lifetrack

- 1948 • Center for Crippled Children & Adults Project
- 1999–2003 • STEPS (Steps to Employment, Partnering and Success)

Target Foundation/Dayton Hudson Foundation

- 1993 • Project Break Through
- 1993–1994 • Awareness, Advice & Advocacy: The Child Abuse Project
- 1996 • Circle of Giving/Awareness, Advice & Advocacy: The Child Abuse Project

Technology for Literacy Center

- 1986–1988 • Technology for Literacy Center Project

Theresa Living Center

- 1990 • Theresa Living Center Project

TJB Homes, Inc.

- 2007, 2009 • Extreme Makeover Home Project

TKDA Architects

- 1997–1999 • Harriet Island Information Kiosk

United Arts

- 1954 • Coordinated Arts Project
- 1956 • Community Theatre Project
- 1957 • Leisure Time Cultural Activities Survey Project
- 1957 • The Arts Around Us, Cultural Horizons
- 1958 • Cultural Events Calendar
- 1965 • Arts & Science Ball
- 1971 • Arts Central
- 1975 • Arts Awareness

United Way of Saint Paul Area

- 1920 • Community Chest Organization
- 1952 • Creative Dramatics
- 1956 • Senior Citizen Hobby Fair
- 1957 • Leisure Time Cultural Activities Survey Project

Violence Against Women Coalition

- 1991–1994 • Speaker's Bureau

Volunteer Center of St. Paul/Hands On Twin Cities

- 1942 • Founded
- 1974 • Volunteer Services Study
- 1984 • Program for Active Retirement

Waste Management

- 1999–2005 • Next-to-New Sale

WCCO Radio/WCCO-TV

- 1941 • Historical Radio Series for Children
- 1952 • Music Tells A Story Television Program
- 1954 • Coordinated Arts Project Television Program

Western Bank**WMIN Radio**

- 1943 • Swords of the Wilderness
- 1950 • Drama

Women's Advocates

- 2003–2007 • Adopt-A-Shelter

Women of Nations

- 1995–1998 • DreamSacks
- 1997–2003 • Silent Witness

WomenVenture

- 1985 • Women's Economic Development Cooperative Project

YWCA St. Paul

- 1974 • Women's Institute for Change
- 2000–2003 • Peaceful Parenting