



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SAINT PAUL

Mission and History The Junior League of Saint Paul (JLSP) 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. For 100 years, JLSP has retained a rich tradition of serving the greater Saint Paul community. Established in 1917 by Saint Paul native Elizabeth Ames Jackson, JLSP was the 19th Junior League created following the inception of the first Junior League in New York City in 1901. Throughout our history, we have engaged in many community service projects, independently and in collaboration with other organizations. The focus of these projects has changed with the evolving needs of the Saint Paul community. Our legacy of community impact includes these active and historical initiatives:

- World War I Red Cross Relief Campaign 1917
- Children's Hospital Association Free Bed Fund 1933
- Keystone Community Services, started by JLSP in 1938
- Saint Paul Rehabilitation Center (now Lifetrack) Co-Sponsor 1948-54
- Eye and Ear Alert Program (now pre-kindergarten screening, a community standard) 1961
- Community Arts Survey resulting in first Arts and Science Center which evolved into the Science Museum of Minnesota and the Saint Paul Arts Council (now United Arts) 1965
- Warner Nature Center development with Saint Paul Science Museum 1965-70
- Bucket Brigade and the Omnibus Program, early tutoring programs in the Saint Paul Public Schools for both students not achieving their potential and for high achieving students 1970s
- Hmong Art Project to help Hmong women promote and sell their needlework 1981-82
- Educational Program for Too Early Pregnancy – "Too Far, Too Fast" 1981-85
- AIDS Speakers Bureau for MN AIDS Project 1990-91
- Shaken Baby Syndrome Public Awareness and Education Project 1992-99
- DreamSacks™ to benefit homeless children in crisis shelters 1996-99
- Silent Witness – Minnesota chapter established by JLSP; League participated in March on Washington 1997
- Partnership with Women's Advocates battered women's shelter to renew their volunteer program 2003-07
- Building Bonds Through Reading and Play – partnership with the City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation 2007-10
- Backpack Buddies with John A. Johnson Elementary School, providing weekend food to students 2010-14
- Family Food Boxes and Junior Chef Program 2015-16

Current Programs Our current initiative, "Healthy Bodies, Healthy Brains" seeks to impact children's readiness to learn as it relates to the issue area of food insecurity and nutrition. In 2015, we introduced Family Food Boxes in partnership with Dayton's Bluff Rec Center and in 2016, the JLSP Junior Chef Program began at Rice Street Teen Zone. Through Family Food Boxes, we curated food boxes for 100 families per month during the critical last week of the month when SNAP benefits and money begin to run low. The Junior Chef Program provides teens with the skills and knowledge they need to help prepare healthy meals at home. Through these programs, JLSP has helped eradicate the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food.

Funding JLSP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our programs and membership activities are supported by membership dues, donations, foundation and corporate grants and partnerships, and our revenue-producing efforts. JLSP seeks support from individuals, corporations and foundations. We conduct fundraisers that build community and further our mission by training volunteers. Current fundraisers include Touch-A-Truck, an event where children of all ages can climb on, learn about and discover their favorite big trucks and vehicles, and an annual Gala, both open to the public.

Outreach JLSP reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism.

Membership Members have the opportunity to develop skills in leadership, development and fundraising, research, public relations and communications, and a variety of other areas — all while building a better community. Members serve on a different administrative, fundraising or project committee each year. This annual change in responsibilities allows members to broaden their experiences, develop new skills as well as new friendships, and to grow personally and professionally.

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For more information about JLSP, visit www.jlsp.org or call 651.291.7377