

CELEBRATING
95 YEARS
1924-2019

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF EVANSTON-NORTH SHORE

Junior League of Evanston-North Shore, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action & leadership of trained volunteers.

2019 - 2020 Year in Review



2020 Annual Award Winners

FOUNDER'S AWARD

Karen Burchell

**SUSTAINER
OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Jeanni McCormick

A Message from the President

Dear JLE-NS Members,

The 2019-2020 league year was a memorable year that ended with unprecedented crisis. Thank you to our amazing members for focusing this year on community impact and the efforts of our COVID Task Force. With the support of our incredible league members, we supported our Thrift House, Fitting Futures, Baby Steps, Purses with a Purpose and numerous Done In A Day projects. This year we organized a Done in a Day service project at each of our general membership meetings with community speakers aligned to the projects. JLE-NS continues on with the vision of 100 by 100, as our membership goal of achieving 100 active members by our 100th anniversary. It has been my honor to have served as your President this past year. Thank you all for your continued commitment to our community and those in need. I give my best wishes to Amber Golegos and Nicole Bogdanovich, and our policy and management boards as they lead us through these difficult times.

Yours in service,

Emily

Emily Coninx

2019- 2020 JLE-NS President

Making Positive Community Impact

This year, we conducted the following outreach programs: Baby Steps, Fitting Futures, Scholarships and Grants, and Thrift House as well as three other “done in a day” projects.

- ◇ **Fitting Futures™** builds confidence and boosts careers of financially challenged women by offering free interview attire and related services.
- ◇ **Baby Steps** is an educational baby shower for low-income expectant mothers in need.
- ◇ **Done In a Day** allowed members to help with numerous additional community projects
- ◇ **Scholarships and Grants** provide financial assistance for college students, local non-profits, and the Uweza Bright Futures Program
- ◇ **Thrift House** is a resale shop in Evanston, offering affordable, gently used clothing and household items since 1940. Thrift House also enables clients of our partner non-profits to shop for needed items at no charge.



In 2019-2020...

- ◆ Our thrift house located on Main Street in South Evanston, continues to be a vibrant place for our communities to shop. We have an outstanding group of team members working in our store and continue to provide volunteer opportunities for other community organizations. Our store continues to partner with our Fitting Futures program to provide a great place for our clients to feel empowered while receiving career attire and accessories.
- ◆ The Fitting Futures Committee partnered with new agencies, and hosted 12 fittings serving more than 12 clients. Through fittings 228 clothing and accessories were distributed with more than 10 JLE-NS members volunteering during fittings.
- ◆ This past year we welcomed 9 new members to our league and 11 active and sustaining transfers from leagues all across the United States. We are excited to continue growing our membership with amazingly talented and gifted women!
- ◆ At our general membership meetings, we welcomed speakers from the community: Kim Hammock, Executive Director at Books & Breakfast, Kathleen O'Connor, President of Forging Opportunities for Refugees in America (FOR A), Katherine Ragnar, Executive Director at Sarah's Circle, Annie McAweeney, President of Fill a Heart 4 Kids, Paula Meyer Besler, VP of Advocacy & Operations for Selah Freedom, and Amanda Stasinski from Junior League Chicago.
- ◆ Our Trivia Night committee hosted another successful event with 200+ attendees and raising over \$12,000 providing \$5,000 towards the new members' Baby Steps Project.
- ◆ Our annual Baby Steps program was hosted by our amazing new member class. The event supported 15 at risk moms at North Shore University Health System's Evanston Hospital through the Perinatal Family Support Center. The mothers were showered with essential items for caring for a new baby and education on the topics of car seat safety, breastfeeding, basic baby healthcare, and postpartum depression. Due to COVID-19, this was moved to a virtual format with educational materials and gifts delivered to hospital.
- ◆ Scholarships and Grants provided \$4,000 in grants. Grants were provided to Rahab's Daughters, Humble Design, Special Gifts Theater, Family Promise, Howard Area Community Center, and Career Resource Center. Over \$2,400 were provided in scholarships to four high school seniors as well as a student from Oakton Community College. Our S&G committee held several fundraising efforts during the holiday season to be able to award additional scholarships this year.
- ◆ Our Done in a Day program continues to expand our community impact. The committee conducted several outreach projects this year. Members volunteered this year to sort books at Bernie's Book Bank and packed 1,800 pounds of food at Northern Illinois Food Bank. Back for its fourth year was the Purses with a Purpose program where over 200 purses were collected, filled with personal items and distributed to several community organizations. League members also collected purses and toiletries at the annual Make a Difference Day in Winnetka. At our GMMs, we prepared 120 care packages for homeless youth for Fill a Heart 4 Kids, wrote notes for Blessings in a Backpack, packed 100 toiletry kits for homeless women for Sarah's circle, and sent cards and journals to trafficking victims helped by Selah's Freedom.
- ◆ In April, we moved all meetings virtual and mobilized a COVID-19 Task Force to be able to readily respond to the needs within our community. Our first mission was a campaign to raise \$7,500 in much needed funds for our Purses with a Purpose partners. Each of the shelters received \$1,500, which include: A Safe Place/Lake County Crisis Center, WINGS Program, Inc., Howard Area Community Center, Sarah's Circle and The Staben House. Next, we gathered over 100 cards and delivered to Clearbrook's Community Integrated Living Arrangement program to brighten the spirits of their group home residents while they are self-quarantining. We also donated food to frontline workers at Glenbrook Northshore (COVID-19 facility) hospital staff and Evanston Police Department.



2019-2020 JLE-NS Leadership

President - Emily Coninx
President-Elect - Amber Golegos

Policy Board

Bylaws Parliamentarian - Melanie Glass
Community Director - Nicole Bogdanovich
Finance Director - Kris Hagen
Member at Large - Carolyn Song-Pegg
Membership Director - Rebecca Garces
Recording Secretary - Nicole Roberts
Sustainer Director - Anna Pappas
Thrift House Director - Paula Danoff

Other Leadership

Personnel Director - Jeanni McCormick
Fundraising & Dues Treasurer - Beth Mikel

Personnel

Office Manager - Lisa Martinez
Thrift House Manager - Geoffrey Martinez

Management Board

Done in a Day Chair - Brittany Tangney
Fitting Futures Chair - Regina Cartright
Fitting Futures Chair Elect - Christine Koval
New Member Chair - Bernadette DeLise
Nominating & Placement Chair- Dina Mead
Recruitment Co-Chairs - Jenn Luczkowiak and Allie Paus
Scholarships and Grants Chair - Lyn Aleshire
Social Chair - Cara Heiser
Thrift House Chair— Elizabeth Osborne
Trivia Night Chairs— Patty Lea and Beth Weissmueller
Marketing & PR Chair—Karen Burchell

Welcome to Our 2019-2020 New Members and Transfers!

Anaga Maira
Carmel Ryan
Eilidh Geddes
Jessica Burdi
Natalie Pesin
