



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
DENVER

Summer Issue
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A publication of The Junior League of Denver. A 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization.



*May GM Celebrated 2021-2022 Award Winners and
Honored Tradition of Passing the Gavel*

Grow:

to increase in size, number or degree.



Caryne Mesquita

Message from the President

What an amazing year! Our 103rd was quite a journey, with many unexpected twists and turns. Even still, the time flew by, gifting us with so many moments that mattered. I am proud of the thoughtful and deliberate steps we took as an organization this past year. We were all given the opportunity to be impactful, effective and do more together while living our legacy.

When you take a moment to reflect on our 2021–2022 year, I hope that you feel how remarkable it is to be part of the JLD!

- We successfully rolled out and implemented our new community focus, building on our foundation of literacy and expanding our impact as **we work to disrupt the cycle of systemic poverty for women and families in Denver.**
- With our JLD Staff at the helm, we moved out of our home on Delaware. Then, through the diligent work of our Building Committee, we enthusiastically found a new JLD Headquarters, located at **1301 South Washington Street**, fulfilling the requirements defined by our members. We are looking forward to starting renovations this summer!
- Broad changes were made to bring the League into the here and now by cleaning up our Bylaws and Policies, adding Belonging to our DE&I efforts (now DEIB) and changing the title of Provisionals to New Members.
- 105 New Members joined our ranks with joy and a sense of readiness to do more for the Denver community and to take the League to new heights. I am excited to see what each of you will do!
- Sustaining and Active members blazed new trails by answering the call to provide urgent aid to Marshall Fire residents, supporting two Level 1 bills at the Capitol, and hosting fresh and thrilling fundraisers. EVERY council and committee shined in their own right this year! The keys to their success were cross council collaboration, listening and compassion.
- Together, we contributed nearly 3,000 volunteer hours, served almost 10,000 children and adults, granted \$25,000 to two new community partners, BeyondHome and Minds Matter Colorado, hosted eight General Meetings, started a Virtual Training Library, kicked off a 'What's your Why' campaign, and led by our Sustainers, created an ongoing supply drive to benefit The Gathering Place.
- After two years, we were finally able to **celebrate our Sustainer Emeritus members** (80+ years young) in style at our Emeritus Luncheon! This special group of women is a testament to sticking with the League through thick and thin and believing in the JLD Mission with all your heart. They are truly responsible for the foundation of opportunities we have today.

None of this could have happened without our dedicated JLD Staff. Karen, Vanessa, Celeste and Ellen — we wouldn't have made it through this year without your steadfast belief in us, your kindness, encouragement and devotedness to the League.

I would like to offer my sincerest **thanks to the 2021–2022 Board of Directors, Advisory Board and Standing Committee**. I could not be more humbled for the gift of serving as President alongside each one of you.

Finally, it is with heartfelt gratitude to ALL members that I applaud your extraordinary talents and willingness to give back. You taught me more than you know and gave me 12 months that I will always treasure. Your commitment to the JLD is rare and I encourage you to **be uncommon**. Take this year of incredible perseverance and superb accomplishments and use it to launch yourself into our 104th year with eagerness, delight and passion, while continuing to live this exceptional legacy!

With gratitude,

Caryne Mesquita

Caryne Mesquita
2021–2022 JLD President
president@jld.org



Give:

*to present voluntarily and
without expecting compensation.*

Congratulations to JLD's 2021-2022 Award Winners

Outstanding Sustainer
Megan Whelan

Outstanding Volunteer
Tori Rosenblatt

Outstanding Committee
Communications Council

Outstanding Transfer
Angela Marsh

**Outstanding New
Member**
Barbara Bible

Shining Star
Molly Nemer

Shining Star
Jodi Padilla

Shining Star
Jessica Slattery

Spirit of Service
Margaret Ansted

President's Cup
Megan Johnson

Founders Award
New Member Classes of
1954, 1955, 1956

Congratulations to our 2021-2022 Collaborative Grant Recipients

BeyondHome
\$10,000

Minds Matter Colorado
\$15,000

Celebratory May General Meeting

We hosted an uplifting and inspiring End of Year GM on Tuesday, May 24!

Active Gold members with 10+ years of service were recognized, along with our 2021-2022 New Member Class. 2021-2022 President Caryne Mesquita and a group of Past Presidents passed the gavel on to Lindsey Talafuse, our 2022-2023 President, who officially took the reins on June 1. We thanked our 2021-2022 Board and welcomed our 2022-2023 Board. Congrats to ALL!

Thank you to our phenomenal members for their leadership and vision this past year. Congrats to this year's award winners for their many accomplishments! Also see side bar for our 2021-2022 grant recipients. JLD will provide both monetary and volunteer support to these incredible organizations in the coming year.



*2021-2022
JLD Grant
Recipients*

JLD 2021–2022 Community Impact

Thank you for supporting our community efforts this past year! The JLD continues to fulfill its Mission by making a strong impact on the Denver community through our signature programs like Done in a Day, Read2Kids and Kids Connect, as well as community partnerships with Reading Partners Colorado, The Gathering Place and many others.

This past year, we adopted a new community focus statement: **The Junior League of Denver focuses on disrupting the cycle of systemic poverty for women and families in Denver.** After three years of research and reflection on our community focus area, we are excited to expand our important work next year and beyond. Thank you for your feedback and support through this important process!

2,895
volunteer hours

9,833
people served (4,481
children and 5,352 adults)

4,820
books

3,458
meals

\$25,000
granted

Support JLD All Summer Long!

This summer, there are so many ways you can support JLD! Stay connected to the League by attending our **rescheduled JLD Garden Tour on Sunday, July 10** from 10 am – 1 pm at Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms. Do you love to golf? Get a foursome together for our **Second Annual Drive for Change Golf Tournament on Monday, July 18** at Hiwan Golf Club in Evergreen. Learn more and register for both events at JLD.org.

Did you know you can give back to the JLD by shopping at King Soopers and AmazonSmile, at no cost to you?

King Soopers: Register for the Community Rewards Program by registering on the King Soopers website. After signing in, click on “My Account” and select “Community Rewards.” Enter BV642 — “Junior League of Denver.” Then, simply use your King Soopers Loyalty Card every time you shop!

AmazonSmile: AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to the JLD - and it's now available on the Amazon app! Just navigate to “Settings”, tap on “AmazonSmile” and follow the on-screen instructions. If shopping via a web browser, select “Junior League of Denver Incorporated” as your charity of choice.

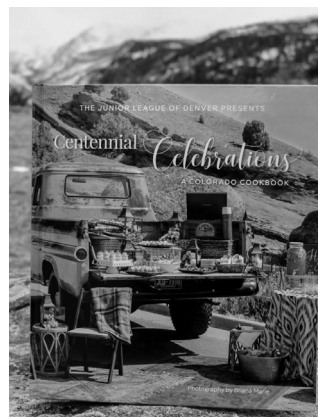
Sign up today and encourage your friends and family to do the same to maximize the rewards for the JLD!

You can also purchase **JLD cookbooks** for summer barbecue recipes, wedding presents, housewarming gifts and much more!

Members receive special pricing for the JLD's six award-winning cookbooks. Please call 303.692.0270 (press zero) or email info@jld.org if you would like to place an order and arrange a curbside or after-hours pick-up at the office. *Colorado Cache* is \$15 and the other five books are \$20. Prices include tax.



*Inaugural Drive
for Change Golf
Tournament*



*Members receive
special pricing on
JLD's cookbooks*

Get connected:

join together to provide access and exchange.

JLD Supported Two Level 1 Bills This Year

For the first time in recent JLD history, the Public Policy Council supported two pieces of legislation at Level 1 (Full League Engagement), both of which passed through the Colorado General Assembly during the Spring 2022 Legislative Session. Both of these bills fit squarely within the JLD's expanded focus to disrupt the cycle of systemic poverty for women and families.

HB22-1055, Sales Tax Exemption Essential Hygiene Products, also referred to as the "pink tax", exempts period products, infant and child diapers, and adult incontinence items from sales and use taxes starting January 1, 2023.

HB22-1295, Department of Early Childhood and Universal Preschool Program, makes early childhood programs easier to navigate for families and provides universal access to a range of high-quality preschool options to Colorado's children. At least 10 hours of preschool services will be provided per week, per child, to all families that want it.

In all, Public Policy considered 14 unique pieces of legislation, supporting six bills at the council level (Level 2). Every bill the council supported passed out of the Legislature, with one going to the ballot box this November. Thank you for reaching out to your legislators in support of these bills this spring!

Other highlights included General Meetings dedicated to exploring housing, homelessness and food insecurity, training events covering pay equity, testifying at the Capitol, redistricting and our cornerstone Day at the Capitol event, where League members met with 24 legislators through the JLD's annual Legislative Breakfast.

Thank you to our Public Policy Council for their hard work during the 2021–2022 year!

*JLD's Day at the
Capitol, March 24*



Sustainer Saturday and Emeritus Luncheon

JLD Sustainers hosted two major events this spring. First up, our **inaugural Sustainer Saturday at the April 23 General Meeting** celebrated our wonderful Sustaining members. Our **annual Emeritus Luncheon, held for the first time in two years on May 11**, honored Sustaining members that are 80+ years young and Helen Daly Peale Society members, those who have chosen to include the JLD in their wills and estate planning.

The April GM featured Lauren Eigner, Laurel Walk, Sonya Cameron, and Amy Johnson as a Human Library Panel. A Human Library is a library or catalog of people (books) willing to share their experience with or expertise in something – maybe a career path, lifestyle, hobby, skill, struggle, etc. — in either a one-on-one or small group setting (readers). The goal is to be a resource for each other and to foster understanding through honest dialogue.

The Sustainer Human Library Panel discussed a broad range of topics related to their unique knowledge and expertise. Subjects included navigating career changes, parenting children with special needs and raising baby whooping cranes. If you're interested in participating in the Human Library to share chapters of your life experience, please email sustainers@jld.org.

Everyone had a wonderful time connecting at the annual Emeritus Luncheon! Sustainers enjoyed catching up with old friends and hearing more about League happenings. JLD President Caryne Mesquita and JLD Foundation President Kali Handford both provided updates and inspiring words to all in attendance. It may have been two years since we could safely gather, but it was WELL worth the wait!



Sustainers Pat Freeburg and Georgene McGonagle at the Emeritus Luncheon on May 17

Save the Dates for Upcoming JLD Events & Deadlines

July 1–31: Member Recruitment Period

July 10: JLD Garden Tour (rescheduled date)

July 12: Recruitment/Connections Event, Happy Hour & Trivia

July 18: Drive for Change Golf Tournament

August 10: Community Council Open House

September 17: Sixth Annual JLD L.U.V.S. day of service

November 4–6: 43rd Annual Mile High Holiday Mart



ink Committee

Shannon LaBay, Editor

Erin Erhardt, Assistant Editor

JLD Staff

Karen Mayo, *Finance & Operations Director*, ext. 109

Vanessa Banker, *Communications Director*, ext. 114

Celeste Sims, *Business Support Specialist*, ext. 100

Ellen Spangler, *Development Consultant*

JLD Headquarters

Junior League of Denver

1720 S. Bellaire St. Suite PH, Denver, CO 80222

phone: 303.692.0270

email: info@jld.org

web: JLD.org

hours: Monday—Friday 9 am–4 pm

Mission

Junior League of Denver, Incorporated, founded in 1918, is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Our purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.



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1720 S. Bellaire Street

Suite PH

Denver, CO 80222



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