



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
DENVER

Winter Issue

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*Thank you to our volunteers for planning a successful
in-person 42nd Annual Mile High Holiday Mart!*

Grow:

to increase in size, number or degree.



Caryne Mesquita

Message from the President

Dear Members,

This year started as unpredictably as ever. There have been joyous moments, milestones reached and tremendous loss for each one of us. Through it all, the League has shown its adaptability, optimism and true grit. Author and podcaster Josh Kidney's quote is a reminder of how important our League connections truly are:

*"When women support each other,
incredible things happen."*

Because of you, there are a lot of incredible things happening...

In the true spirit of the season, we ushered in the joy of the holidays with a successful 42nd Annual Mile High Holiday Mart. Once again, Partner Projects held two popular wreath-making events at Birdsall & Co. and our Sustainers connected at neighborhood gatherings. To the delight of our members and their guests, we celebrated our December General Meeting at Empower Field at Mile High. Our very own Sam Boik, a former Denver Broncos cheerleader, gave us a Mile High Welcome. Our steadfast and brilliant JLD Foundation President, Kali Handford, reminded us about the importance of sharing the League's Mission and how fortunate we are to stand on the shoulders of the forward-thinking members who created the Foundation so that we can continue our work in Denver for many years to come.

At the end of 2021, the devastating Marshall Fire jolted the League into action. I cannot thank our Communications leadership enough for their quick response and disseminating vital information so quickly. And YOU — the reaction from our members was extraordinary! By New Year's Eve, Tori Rosenblatt had volunteered her own warehouse to collect JLD donations and created a full plan to ensure those items made it to our fellow Coloradans. The emails, texts and messages volunteering help, organizing neighborhood drives and offering your homes to those in need were plentiful, demonstrating what the JLD does best — rally together to provide for the greatest needs in our community.

We also said goodbye to our former Headquarters at 1140 Delaware on January 28. To those who helped pack and to our JLD Staff who worked tirelessly to ensure that this was a thoughtful and easy operation — thanks is not enough! Moving is never stress-free, but together we made it look effortless. The search continues for a new JLD Headquarters that fulfills the criteria set by our membership. We will keep members updated as we work to find our new home.

With less than 100 days left in this League year, there are many exciting things on the horizon. We continue to move forward with our Strategic Plan initiatives and implementation. I am so proud to work alongside each of you as we continue to make progress:

- Our **Nominating Committee** presented the slate for our **2022-2023 Board of Directors** and **Vice President-Elects**. A very special thank you to all who serve on this committee for dedicating

- your time and talents to select the future leadership of the League. Congratulations to our new leadership team — I know you will be simply marvelous!
- Our **Collaborative Impact Granting Committee** diligently narrowed down granting finalists to three phenomenal organizations. At our February General Meeting, BeyondHome and Minds Matter Colorado were selected to receive grants totaling up to \$25,000 and volunteer placements next year based on member endorsements.
 - **Membership Council** has been hard at work conducting in-person and virtual Placement Fairs, along with setting up Leadership Registration and Spring Lottery to support our members as each of us makes decisions about the next step in our League adventure.
 - **Public Policy Council** is zealously reviewing legislation and planning activities for this spring. They will provide a general legislative update each month — so be on the lookout as to how the League, considering our newly expanded focus, will tackle this legislative session.

Here's to you and all that you do for JLD!

With gratitude,



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

Presenting Our Incoming JLD Leadership

2022–2023 Board of Directors

President: Lindsey Talafuse
President-Elect: Claire Juneau
Secretary: Lisa Weatherbie
Treasurer: Emily Messegee
Communications Vice President: Drew Elsey
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Carrie Kufta
Fundraising Vice President: Bridget D’Angelo
Membership Vice President: Kristina Zwettler
Public Policy Vice President: Angela Visser
Sustainer Vice President: Rebecca Stark
Training Vice President: Maryanne Flynn

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Community Vice President-Elect:
Sally Shaughnessy
Fundraising Vice President-Elect:
Amanda Davis Smith
Membership Vice President-Elect:
Alexandria Hamm
Public Policy Vice President-Elect:
Melissa Boucher
Sustainer Vice President-Elect:
Kathy Borgais
Training Vice President-Elect:
Emily Thibault

Give:

*to present voluntarily and
without expecting compensation.*



Caryne Mesquita, Tori Rosenblatt and Amy Grimm stop for a photo while sorting and organizing donations at Tori's warehouse for residents impacted by the Marshall Fire.

JLD Members Respond to Marshall Fire with Generosity and Service

The Marshall Fire on December 31 devastated the communities of Louisville, Superior and unincorporated Boulder. The most destructive fire in Colorado history destroyed 991 homes, damaged 127 structures and burned 6,000 acres.

Tori Rosenblatt, a first-year Active currently placed on Leadership Institute, opened her home to a friend initially displaced by the fire. Although her friend's home remained standing, several of their neighbors lost homes. Tori and her husband, David, knew they wanted to help. Tori immediately made arrangements to clean out her warehouse to make room. She picked up the phone to spread the word that their warehouse was open for donations.

Donations arrived quickly, including diapers, formula, women's coats, small furniture, luggage, clothing and toiletries, to name a few. With requested items pouring in from donors in Fort Collins to Colorado Springs, JLD partnered with Tori and David to create Done in a Day shifts to help sort items by category and recipient organizations. "I cannot imagine executing at the level that we did without the Junior League of Denver," said Tori. "Everyone involved really displayed a heart of service."

Donor recipients included **WeeCycle, A Precious Child, Coal Creek Elementary, FlatIron Crossing Mall, Reach Church, and Colorado Pet Pantry**. Luggage was donated to an individual conducting a drive when he recognized a need for that specific item. Families affected by the fire needed suitcases and bags to transport items from short-term to longer-term housing. Finally, some items, like mattresses, went to individual families with that particular need.

Thank you to everyone who donated items, funds and their time to support fellow Coloradans. Our Community Action Team is planning ways to provide support in the coming months — stay tuned! If you would like to contribute to the Boulder County Wildfire Fund, please visit commfound.org.

The Journey Welcomes Sarah, Duchess of York, on March 11

Our 10th Anniversary Journey fundraiser will be held Friday, March 11 at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center. The Journey is an evening celebration for our members and their guests. It's one of the League's largest fundraisers and supports our Mission to train women to become civic leaders and impactful community volunteers.

The event begins with a cocktail hour, where members and guests will have the opportunity to peruse live and silent auction items featuring incredible goods and services from local businesses. Our keynote speaker this year is Sarah, Duchess of York. As a philanthropist and founder of Sarah's Trust, The Duchess has been committed to supporting children's and wellness causes with a focus on education on an international scale. Recently, she launched a daily YouTube storytime show called "Fergie & Friends", where she reads a series of different children's books to help keep kids entertained.

In addition to our keynote speaker, attendees will enjoy dinner, an inspiring program and a paddle raise called by our good friend, Reggie Rivers, Founder and President of The Gala Team. This year, we'll be jamming late into the evening with DJ Bella Scratch!

Thank you in advance for supporting The Journey 2022. In addition to our Mission, proceeds also support our newly expanded community focus, disrupting the cycle of systemic poverty for women and families in Denver.

Tickets are available at JLD.org. Questions? Email journey@jld.org.



Sarah, Duchess of York, 10th Anniversary Journey Keynote Speaker

JLD Hosts Successful 42nd Annual Mile High Holiday Mart, November 12–14

After going virtual in 2020, our members organized and executed an incredible Mile High Holiday Mart at Gates Field House on the DU campus. Attendees shopped select merchants with high-quality merchandise in a festive environment. We were able to raise more than \$100,000 and everybody had fun getting into the holiday spirit.

Thank you again to co-chairs Bonnie Keyes and Lauren Perkins, as well as their entire team for their hard work on the event! Ladies, we appreciate and value you.



Bonnie Keyes & Lauren Perkins, 2021 Mile High Holiday Mart Co-Chairs

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Save the Dates for Upcoming JLD Happenings!

February 15 – March 8:
Leadership Registration

March 11:
10th Anniversary Journey

March 23 – April 15:
Spring Lottery Registration

March 24:
JLD Day at the Capitol

April 23:
Sustainer Saturday
10 am – 12:30 pm
The Dome at AMG
6295 Greenwood Plaza Blvd.
Greenwood Village, CO

Please join us for a very special General Meeting to celebrate our JLD Sustainers. All members welcome and encouraged to attend this inaugural Sustainer Saturday event! More details coming soon. Make a reservation via the member calendar. Questions? Email sustainers@jld.org.

May 24:
End of Year General Meeting

Annual JLD Day at the Capitol, March 24

Public Policy Council is thrilled to announce that our annual JLD Day at the Capitol is back on Thursday, March 24!

The day will commence with a Legislative Breakfast attended by JLD members, legislators and their staff. The event gives members the chance to meet legislators and ask questions about issues that are important to our League work.

In the afternoon, join the Public Policy Council at the March General Meeting for a panel on food insecurity featuring our League partners. This is a great opportunity to see what is happening at the Colorado state legislature and learn more about JLD's newly expanded focus! The meeting will take place from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm at First Baptist Church of Denver.

We look forward to seeing you there. Visit the member calendar for more details. Questions? Email publicpolicy@jld.org.



The Legislative Breakfast offers members access to legislators and their staff

Get connected:

join together to provide access and exchange.

December General Meeting at Empower Field at Mile High

The Holiday General Meeting took place at Empower Field at Mile High, home of the Denver Broncos, on December 9. The meeting was held in the Ring of Fame Room and included an optional behind-the-scenes tour of the stadium. It was the first time a GM has been hosted at Empower Field and all feedback was overwhelmingly positive!

JLD Active Sam Boik, a former Denver Broncos cheerleader, spoke at the event and gave an official “Mile High Welcome” to all members and guests. Caryne Mesquita, JLD President, provided an update on the sale of JLD Headquarters and progress on finding a new location. She also shared that the JLD raised \$15,423 on Colorado Gives Day. JLD Foundation President, Kali Handford, provided an overview of the JLD Mission, Board members, history and assets.

Thank you to the Training Council and General Meeting Committee for creating a fun, engaging holiday meeting! And a special thank you to General Meeting Step-up Chair, Ashley Yuan, for making it happen.



JLD Board members connect during a behind-the-scenes tour of Empower Field



Members enjoy spending time together at the meeting



ink Committee

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JLD Staff

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

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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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