




**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
DENVER**

live the legacy
give • grow • get connected

Spring Issue
Volume 1415 — Issue 3

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

JLD grants \$10,000 to three deserving Denver organizations:

- *The Bridge Project*
- *Bright by Three*
- *Heart & Hand Center*



Grow:

to increase in size, number, or degree.

My League Journey: Lessons in Leadership and Life



I was 34 years old. I had the house, husband, professional degree and promising career. To some it might appear I had the world on a string, but something was missing.

There I sat, in the SEW room of our former Headquarters, listening to women five to seven years my junior, telling me about the League's mission. I knew the value of serving the community. I grew up volunteering! But development of women? What could those young ladies possibly teach me?

In my Provisional year, I was exposed to women with various passions and talents at different points in their lives and careers. I was awed by their accomplishments and loved learning about their

life experiences. It was during this year that I unknowingly learned my first lesson - the awesome power a group of individual women can hold when standing together.

My first Active year was different. My placement was not as I had hoped. I didn't feel like I had enough responsibility and it was not a great social environment. I limped along through the year, reluctantly completing my requirements and doing the bare minimum. Although I didn't know it then, I now know that I learned my second lesson that year. Just like all experiences in life, your League experience will only be what you make of it. It's up to you to decide what will make it meaningful for you.

From the next placement on, I saw myself in a new light and began racking up skills. With each new position and challenge I wanted more. I unwittingly became a mentor, relationship builder and volunteer manager. My exposure to the incredible women on the JLD and JLDF Boards, as well as the amazing women across the League, taught me volumes about the community, about leadership, about life and about myself.

The League's commitment to improving literacy rates opened my eyes to a pressing community need that inspired me to take a deeper dive into this issue. I awakened passions I had long forgotten and identified skills and uncovered strengths I never knew I had. However, learning that the courage to leave my career for a more personally meaningful path was inside of me all along was the greatest lesson of all.

I am a much different woman today than the woman sitting in the SEW room seven years ago. I am humbled by the lessons I've learned. I cannot say everything I know was learned here, but I can say that everything that is important to me at this time in my life, I learned from you and the Junior League of Denver. Thank you for taking this special journey with me.

Carleigh Elkus
2014-2015 Junior League of Denver President
president@jld.org

Building for the Future: Finding our New JLD Home



We have exciting news to share about our search for a new JLD home! Membership will be asked to vote on new building guidelines instead of a specific building. ***We are pleased to announce that the Voting General Meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at Craig Community Hall at Denver University.*** After the guidelines are voted on, our Board of Directors will be entrusted with the task of purchasing a new JLD Headquarters.

Every JLD member should educate herself on this important financial decision by visiting the Building for the Future page at www.jld.org. The information is located on the member side. If you need to request your log in, please email info@jld.org or call 303-692-0270 and press zero. Members may also send questions/comments/suggestions to buildingfuture@jld.org.

Together, we will find a wonderful home where the JLD can continue its important work of developing the potential of women and addressing our community's greatest needs!

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE: GUIDELINES FOR OUR NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

Functional meeting, training and convening space

Including, but not limited to:

- Meeting space for 3 concurrent meetings
- Training space to hold at least 60 attendees
- Office space for President and 5 staff members
- Reception area / common space
- Storage space for documents, program materials, archives, and cookbooks
- Kitchen / kitchenette or ability to add

Address located within Denver

- The ideal headquarters building to be located on, near or adjacent to a major thoroughfare to enable convenient member and guest access
- Must have a Denver address

Accessible to all members and guests

- Headquarters will include accessible features to ensure full integration of all individuals who use our facility as required by law and within the Junior League of Denver's financial capability
- Proximity to alternative forms of transportation, including, but not limited to light rail, bicycle and pedestrian traffic will be considered

Parking

- The ideal headquarters will have sufficient parking (dedicated parking spaces or leased spaces) for JLD staff and President with access to additional parking for members for larger meetings/events

Cost

- Building purchase price of up to \$1.5 million, exclusive of closing costs and related fees
- Any necessary capital improvements a building may require above the recommended purchase price will be funded through grants, gifts, capital campaign, and/or JLD undesignated net assets

Give:

*to present voluntarily and
without expecting compensation.*

JLD 123 Grants Committee Awards \$10,000 in May 2015

By: Katie Doyle, Communications Liaison



The 123 Grants Committee awarded a total of \$10,000 in grants to three deserving community partners this year: The Bridge Project, Bright by Three and Heart & Hand Center.

The Bridge Project: \$2,500

The Bridge Project at Denver University is a program that strives to help children and youth living in Denver's public housing neighborhoods achieve their academic potential and graduate from high school with the resources necessary to succeed as adults. The \$2,500 grant will be used to fund The Bridge Project's GR8 Readers program, a program that works to increase student reading enjoyment, build students' personal libraries and increases literary skills. www.du.edu/bridgeproject

Bright by Three: \$5,000

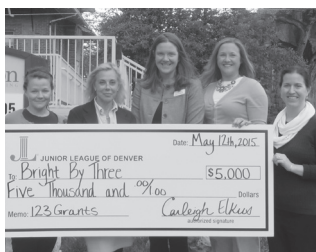
Bright by Three (formerly Bright Beginnings), an organization that works with parents and caregivers of babies to provide a free program to make sure that their little ones get the best start at life, received a \$5,000 grant to fund their verbal pedometer program Denver Talks Back.

Jean B. McSpadden, CEO of Bright by Three said, "We believe supporting parents and caregivers during the earliest years of a child's life is an effective way to lay a foundation for lifelong learning. Funding from the JLD will be used to support our intensive language development program called Denver Talks Back. This program provides at-risk and low-income families with one-on-one coaching and access to innovative technology tools to educate caregivers about the essential importance of back-and-forth talking with young children." www.brightbythree.org

Heart & Hand Center: \$2,500

The Heart & Hand Center, a Done in a Day partner, provides a family environment for at-risk youth. The \$2,500 grant will fund the

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2015 One Book 4 Colorado a Success Once Again!

On Monday, April 13th, Governor Hickenlooper and Lt. Governor Garcia held a press conference at Children’s Hospital Colorado to announce the 2015 One Book 4 Colorado book, *How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon?* by Jane Yolen and illustrated by Mark Teague. The event kicked off the book distribution period April 13–27, 2015 at participating libraries, Reach Out and Read clinics and Denver preschools around the state.

The JLD provided a \$10,000 sponsorship to this impactful project again this year. One Book 4 Colorado strives to give away copies of the same book to every four year old in Colorado through public libraries, Reach Out and Read Colorado clinics, and Denver pre-schools. Last year, about 70,000 books were distributed statewide, and the estimates are similar this year. The project also includes events and activities all over the state to engage children and encourage love of reading.

We are proud to support One Book 4 Colorado!
Visit www.onebook4colorado.org for more information.



Photo above courtesy of One Book 4 Colorado



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purchase of e-tablets, which will be used for the center’s literacy programming focused on helping kids improve their reading skills and level. www.heartandhandcenter.org

123 Grants Chair **Julia Lazure** said, “My committee and I are thrilled to be able to utilize JLD grant funding to support these three amazing organizations, all of which are promoting literacy efforts in the Denver metro community in innovative and creative ways.”

Congrats to these three incredible organizations! And thank you to the 123 Grants Committee, led by Julia Lazure, for their hard work. Questions? Email 123grants@jld.org



Get connected:

join together to provide access and exchange.

Left to right:
Carole Adelstein,
Carleigh Elkus,
Beverly Kohnert



Sustainer Garden Party “Champagne in Gatsby’s Garden”

Thursday, June 11, 2015, 5–8 pm

*Governor’s Mansion Carriage House | 750 Logan St., Denver, CO
(southern end of Residence grounds)*

Tickets: \$35, purchase by June 3rd

The annual summer Sustainer Garden Party will be in full swing on June 11th this year, with the timeless theme of “Champagne in Gatsby’s Garden.” This celebration of our Sustainers is taking place at the Governor’s Mansion Carriage House from 5–8 pm.

In addition to catching up with old friends and making new ones, the event will include an awards presentation for the STAR Award and Outstanding Sustainer. Don’t miss this wonderful annual tradition!

Due to venue guidelines, tickets MUST be purchased in advance (we are unable to collect money at the event). See website for parking information.

Purchase tickets:

- Online at www.jld.org (email info@jld.org if you need your log in)
- Mail a check to JLD HQ at 6300 East Yale Ave, Suite 110, Denver, CO 80222
- Call HQ at 303-692-0270, press zero to make phone payment

Questions? Email sustainers@jld.org



2015 Legislator of the Year: Alec Garnett

By: Mamie Ling, Communications Liaison

By: Jessica Grimes, Public Policy VP

Each year, the Junior League of Denver awards an individual, whose dedication to public service as an elected or appointed official, has demonstrated an exemplary level of commitment to the goals and legislative priorities of the League during the year. This award is a token of thanks, a promise of a continued partnership in the future, and recognition of the hard work and support the legislative community has in the advancement of the League's mission.

This year, the Public Policy Council awarded Representative Alec Garnett, a freshman from House District 2 (central Denver), as the Legislator of the Year. This session, he served on the Education, the Finance, and the Business Affairs & Labor Committees.

Alec grew up in Colorado, where he completed a masters' degree in public administration at the University of Colorado Denver. Previously, Alec served as a legislative assistant to Congressman Ed Perlmutter and as Legislative Director for Congressman John Adler.

Alec has focused on early childhood issues, such as prioritizing resources to reduce class sizes and making sure every child is guaranteed the right to a strong public education, during his freshman term. Alec has supported JLD Priority Bills, including co-sponsoring HB 1194 (the General Fund Support for Long Acting Reversible Contraceptive Services) and serving as the prime sponsor of HB 1317, (the Pay for Success bill) and HB 10001 (the Early Childhood Educator Development Scholarships).

Prior to his election, Alec participated in the JLD's Candidate Panel at the October General Meeting. He also attended the JLD Legislative Breakfast after he had been elected.

"Rep. Garnett represents all that the Junior League of Denver strives for, and in particular, he has championed creative funding initiatives aimed at improving our community's access to quality social programming, including early education programs, through private investment," says **Jessica Grimes**, Public Policy Council Vice President. "We honor him at the beginning of his career, knowing that his is a partnership that the League looks forward to growing in the future."



*Representative
Alec Garnett*

The Journey 2015 Fundraising Total

We are proud to announce that The Journey 2015 featuring keynote speaker Martina Navratilova raised more than \$65,000 in net revenue! Congrats and thank you to The Journey 2015 Committee led by **Caroline Gash** and **Kikki Penney** for this phenomenal accomplishment. Thank you to our wonderful sponsors and all that attended and volunteered to support the event. Be on the look out for 2016 Journey information!





ink Committee

Jacqueline Andrews, *Editor*

Helen Lutz, *Reporter*

Brittany Quinn, *Reporter*

To submit content for consideration (article ideas, pictures), please email to ink@jld.org.

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Mission

The 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.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF DENVER

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