

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF OLYMPIA

Women building better communities®

2011-2012 Annual Report

SUMMARY OF A GREAT YEAR

By Heather Emery, JLO President

The Junior League of Olympia (JLO) enjoyed great success this year in pursuit of our mission to develop the potential of women, improve the community and promote voluntarism. Additionally, the board prioritized increasing member engagement and satisfaction, particularly by clearly communicating to our members the impact of JLO's work in our community. Happily, the outstanding achievements of committees across the League made this task easy!

Among their many successes, the members of the Junior League of Olympia:

- Launched a Touch-A-Truck, a compelling community event and promising fundraiser;
- Implemented a rich community project slate, resulting in the contribution of over 1500 volunteer hours to the community;
- Initiated a philanthropic giving project that will result in the contribution of up to \$50,000 into our community in the 2012-2013 League year;
- Invested in our membership by providing professional-level training opportunities to every member, including sending a record number to Northwest Exchange;
- Laid the foundation for next year's community summit, which will sharpen our impact and ensure JLO's continued relevance in Thurston County; and
- Amended our bylaws to provide for extended terms of office for the Vice Presidents of Community, Operations, Membership, and Funding, thereby securing greater organizational continuity and improved relationships with community partners.

Thank you to all the members and friends of the Junior League of Olympia for your unflagging support of this organization and the children and families we serve!

Our Mission:

The Junior League of Olympia is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

Our Vision:

Women leading Thurston County in collaborative community change.

Focus Area:

The prevention of child abuse and neglect

2011-2012 JLO Awards

President's Award:

Jennifer Forster

Sustainer of the Year:

Katie Hurley

Leadership Thurston County:

Cheryl Heinrichs

Champion for Kids:

Vickie Hayes



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www.jlolympia.org

108 State Ave. NW,
Olympia WA, 98501

Live your potential
 MAKE A DIFFERENCE
 FEEL THE IMPACT

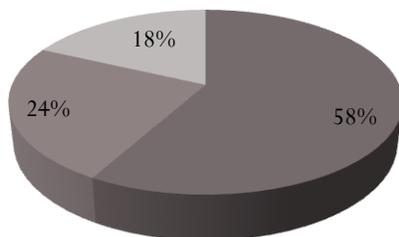
Community Impact

1734 Volunteer
Hours

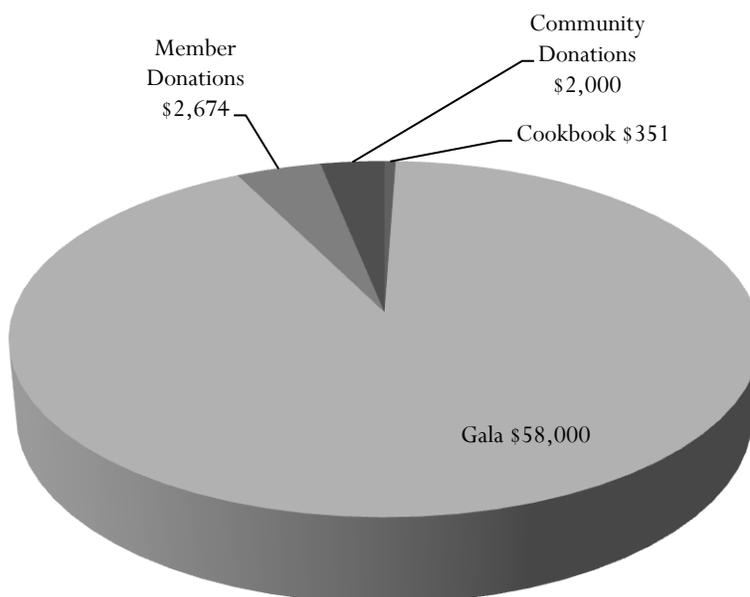
\$21,968.07
Donated

5102 People
served

JLO Funding Allocation



- Improving the Community \$21,968
- Developing the Potential of Women \$9,002
- Administrative Costs \$6,829.19



JLO Fundraising

2011-2012

Board Members

- Heather Emery, President
- Krista O'Byrne, President-Elect
- Linda Kleingartner, Past-Pres.
- Vickie Hayes, Community VP
- Rochelle Barnes, Operations VP
- Kim Schmanke, Funding VP
- Susy Rohrbach, Membership VP
- Susan Manthou, Sustainer VP

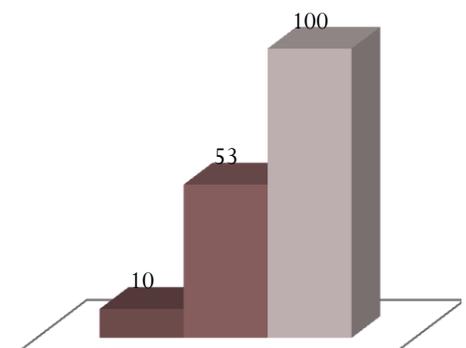
2011-2012

Community Advisory Board

- Annie Cubberly, Executive Director, Child Care Action Council
- Keli Drake, Child Protective Services Intake Supervisor, DSHS
- Nancy Dahlen, JLO Sustainer
- Patti Grant, Program Coordinator, Leadership Thurston County and Sustaining Member JLO
- Judith Hoefling, Foundation & Community Relations Director, BHR, & Councilmember, Tumwater City Council
- Jon Tunheim, Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney
- Brad Watkins, Chief Deputy, Thurston County Sheriff's Office

JLO Membership

- Provisionals
- Actives
- Sustainers



Thank you for your support!

The following lists represent gifts, grants and donations, and in-kind donations received between June 1, 2011 and May 31, 2012.

Patrons \$1000-\$2999

Capital Electric, Inc.

Supporters \$500-\$999

Capitol City Press

Jeffrey D. Hamilton DDS, PS

Panowicz Jewelers

Hands On Children's Museum

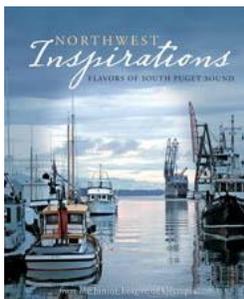
State Farm Insurance



Friends up to-\$499

Beth Berschauer
Christy Berschauer
Lisa Bishop
Windy Bogan
Linda Cordero
Teresa Covington
Liz Davis
Peggy Doebel
Heather Emery
Jennifer Forster
Patti Grant
Kelly Hackney
Melissa Havens
Vickie Hayes
Cheryl Heinrichs
Katie Hurley
Kathryn Adams
Johnson
Penny Keirse
Linda Kleingartner
Mary Kutch
Janet Latta

Lynn Ledgerwood
Lynn Lloyd
Susan Manthou
Kathy McDowell
Dr. Kallie Moore
Marlo Moss
Tanya Murray
Barbara Nickum
Lori Noga
Krista O'Byrne
Melissa Oerman
Andrea Repphun
Susy Rohrbach
Amy Rowley
Bug Ruder
Kim Schmanke
Bri Seeley
Laurie Sorensen & Carroll Bryan
Judy Soward
Wendy Tanner
Laura Theis
Joanna West



Northwest Inspirations, the JLO cookbook, is available for purchase at www.jlolympia.org. Proceeds from this book fund the Junior League of Olympia's mission and community projects focused on the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Junior League of Olympia Council Reports

Future Planning

By: Jennifer Forster, Future Planning Chair

JLO's Future Planning Committee had a very busy year developing exciting opportunities for our League members and the Thurston County community.

Through the efforts of the League's Philanthropy Group, JLO made \$50,000 in funding available to support community improvement projects. JLO designated the funds for non-profit organizations or government agencies with projects that improve the lives of at-risk children and families in Thurston County. Grant applications were due in May 2012 with a targeted project selection announcement by early summer.

This process provides JLO members a unique opportunity to learn about developing and scoring grant applications. Members will evaluate the application using a scoring rubric to ensure the applications meet JLO's project criteria. Our League members are excited to be able to help organizations in our community that are in need!

Another exciting development this year was the initial stages of the development for a Community Impact Summit. Jennifer Forster, the Future Planning Chair researched community needs facing Thurston County. She, along with other league members, also attended meetings with community partners and agencies, to fully understand the many needs our county faces.

In April JLO members and our Community Advisory Board were surveyed to assess how these needs align with JLO's mission, vision and focus. The majority of the responses to the survey favored reducing domestic violence and child abuse, with helping children and youth succeed in school and increasing prevention for at-risk children and youth, close behind. Thriving and successful children and families emerges as the unified focus when analyzing the three needs together. Throughout the summer and into next year, the community summit ad-hoc committee will be working with this focus to plan next year's event. The goal of the community summit is to identify a future set of projects that are truly impactful and rewarding.

Community Council

By: Vickie Hayes, Community Council Vice President

JLO's Community Council's mission values are improving the community & promoting volunteerism by creating direct service opportunities for our members in the community. For the 2011-2012 league year our members have donated over 1734 hours for direct service to 5 selected and 3 emergent needs projects.

JLO members have served over 5,102 people with passion and commitment to make a difference in improving individual families and futures and assisting in positive changes in our community. With active, new, and sustaining members, we have spent less than \$ 21,191 in showing our community that Junior League women share hope and care building healthy communities. Our members know that when we touch one life, we can multiply the impact factor by many for each person we directly support will impact the lives of those in their immediate circle. Each project impacts the future now.

Kids Count Committee

By: Mary Kutch, Kids Count Chair

The Kids Count Committee was busy this year planning and orchestrating a total of five different community projects for our League. Once again, with the wonderful support and participation from our membership, we were able to make a positive, impact in our community.

1. Foster Kids Care Fund: The League funds and administers a grant source managed by the Kids Count committee that enables foster children to apply for reimbursements for their after-school and enrichment activities, sports teams and equipment. This year, we have had the opportunity to help **27** very deserving and motivated children and teenagers using \$5,500. Some of the grants we have given have provided martial arts, soccer, and cheer uniforms, swim lessons, ballet, and a cap and gown rental for senior graduation. These grants have enabled foster kids to have the memorable experiences of a "normal" childhood.

2. Little Red Schoolhouse: For over 20 years, League volunteers have collaborated with community partners to support many children **preparing for a new school year. In 2011, 61 JLO members served over 3097 students, and 907** families in total providing school supplies, backpacks, and clothing to help local children go back to school with pride. This project started in June and ended on the distribution day in August.

3. DSHS Visitation Room Remodel: When children are removed from their parent(s), supervised visitation is offered to maintain the parent-child bond and to motivate the parent to engage in services to correct their deficiencies. The visitation rooms at Tumwater's DSHS building are adequate for family visitations in that they have a place to sit and meet, and can be observed by professionals outside the visitation room. But they are stark and ill-supplied. JLO volunteers helped redecorate and furnish two of these visitation rooms and the adjacent observation room, to create a warmer, more homelike atmosphere for the children, parents, and staff. A total of **30** JLO volunteers worked almost 200 hours planning, cleaning, painting, building furniture, and staging the rooms to complete this project.

4. SafePlace Craft Kits: At the request of SafePlace, we designed and assembled over 300 craft kits and donated JoAnn's gift cards to entertain the children in the shelter. A variety of ages can enjoy decorating mugs, painting wooden cars, making princess wands, hand puppets, decorating canvas bags, etched art, stickers, and more. Not only does this occupy the children, but gives an opportunity for the mothers to spend creative time with them. Additionally, it puts the mothers into a teaching role rather than a co-victim. SafePlace reports that the children now ask if its craft time yet!

5. South Sound Reading Foundation and Raising a Reader Book Bags: At least two-thirds of all children not reading proficiently by the end of third grade will end up in jail or on welfare. To help ameliorate this problem, the League

partnered with the South Sound Reading Foundation and the Child Care Action Council's Raising a Reader program. Junior League assisted in purchasing materials and 15 of our members assembled over 400 book bags, including age-appropriate books, literacy materials, and a library card application.

6. **Emergent Need Grants:** The JLO's Board approved \$5000 for Community Emergent Needs Projects for the league year. The first Community Emergent Need Project was given to **The Little Red Schoolhouse Project**. **The Little Red Schoolhouse Project** had received less money from donations that usually is used for carry over for purchase of backpacks for the LRS event in August 2012. The board approved \$2000 to purchase 481 backpacks for low income back to school children in September 2012. The second Community Emergent Needs Project was **The Parent Project** request from the *Reasonable Efforts Symposium Workgroup*. The donated \$250 provided final funding for training of mentor parents to be mentors for parents who recently lost custody of their children. The goal is for families to get their children back by learning new parenting techniques and with a good support system helping them. The last Community Emergent Needs Project was given to the YWCA Girls **Without Limits! (GWOL!) Technically Speaking Summer Program for \$2650.00 for scholarships for 10 girls**. This project provides 90 adolescent at-risk girls with awareness and learning opportunities related to the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math. It also promotes civic engagement via career awareness, mentorship with professional women, and service learning projects. There are at least 4 JLO women who are volunteering at the summer program to share in career awareness and mentoring these young girls.

JLO is proud of giving our community with at least 1734 volunteer hours and serving over 5422 people in our work this year! The impact is limitless as Junior League members work to impact tomorrow, today.

Kids on the Block

By: Mary Jo Wright, Kids on the Block Chair

Since 1990, JLO puppeteers have performed more than 350 shows for more than 32,000 students at elementary schools in the Olympia, Tumwater and North Thurston school districts. The Kids on the Block has performed over 12 different programs including cerebral palsy, learning disabilities, ADHD/mental health, multiculturalism, drug and alcohol abuse, gangs and, most recently, stopping school bullying.

As part of JLO's commitment to public service in Thurston County, the KOB program uses puppets to help children understand and appreciate differences in others and themselves. This year, we started the year with two KOB teams – comprised of four members. Unfortunately, two members resigned early in the year. Luckily, we had two new members sign up with KOB and begin their training in September with Mary Jo Wright.

Kim Contris and Mary Jo Wright performed the Anti-Bullying script for four schools starting in January. Due to the snow storm, we were unable to reschedule at our fifth school until next year. The new team, Mary deJesus and Melissa Otterman, began their performances in April through May. They performed 5 times at local elementary schools. Together, the two teams have reinforced and empowered more than 700 children in making a difference in stopping bullying!

We still need new members in this committee to keep the program going. It is a valuable program and contributes a lot to JLO's community outreach efforts. In the evaluation done in 2010, the age of some of the puppeteers was not considered. There may be a limit to the performing "life" of some of the puppeteers as they move further into their 60's.

This program costs JLO very little since we already have a large and expensive inventory of puppets, scripts and equipment. Our Future Planning: a new script, offered by KOB International about obesity. We need to purchase the script package for this but already have the puppets to implement this program.

Mockingbird Committee

By: Windy Bogan, Mockingbird Committee Chair

According to Constellation member and foster care parent, Barbara, *"Everything is so well done [by JLO]. I know and feel the love and support, and it makes me smile. It makes me want to push harder when it feels like 'now tell me why I do foster care?' It makes me feel good knowing that a group of awesome people really care about me."*

During 2011—2012 league year, approximately 47 JLO members volunteered to support Mockingbird Foster Care families. The League supported these amazing families through a variety of ways that told this small group of foster parents they are a treasure for our community's foster children. The Knutson family said it well after they received a special card..."a card with a gift card that said: "to a great family". I cried. Someone out there somewhere thought we were a great family? I was so touched and had been feeling like we were just barely holding on. We are overwhelmed by your generosity and kind words. Thank you does not begin to express our appreciation. For the first time in my five years as a foster parent, I feel truly supported and cared about." Thank you to each JL member who shared in supporting our Mockingbird Program."

JLO provides childcare at the monthly Constellation meetings for six biological, adopted siblings and almost 21 foster care children of the Mockingbird families once a month, so the parents can hold their meetings. This year the JLO continued to turn each monthly meeting over to a committee within the League, in order to increase the number of members able to enjoy this community program. While the Mockingbird Committee was a constant influence and presence at each meeting, the fresh ideas and energy each committee brought, enhanced our meetings and made the experience for everyone more meaningful.

Mary, a Constellation member and foster mom, wrote *"Words cannot express what a wonderful group of women JLO is! What a wonderful experience it has been to get to know all of the women who care so beautifully for our children when Mockingbird has our meetings. I always feel so blessed in knowing my kids are safe and happy, while in your care."*

JLO continued its "Giving Tree" tradition of purchasing holiday gifts for all the Mockingbird families over the Christmas holiday season. We served 26 children and collected more than 85 gifts, family gifts and gift cards. The "Giving Tree" brings joy not only to our special foster families, but it is the perfect beginning of the holiday season for our League members and their families as they share in the gift of giving.

In addition to our "Giving Tree" event, the new member committee of 10 planned and executed an amazing New Member Project, the "Holiday Family Celebration" for our Mockingbird families. Sustainers provided and served a wonderful meal and the new members provided an array of desserts. Families made stain glass ornaments and origami, and cookie crafts/desserts, played games and were treated to a visit by Santa. Each family also received a gift basket filled with several gifts. These holiday events with our Mockingbird families are one of our favorite league events.

In addition to childcare, our league also sponsored needed "dinner and a movie" respite for each foster family adults in the form of restaurant gift cards and movie tickets to celebrate our February Mockingbird anniversary. This respite allowed the foster family adults the opportunity to enjoy needed rest and relaxation away from their kids.

The other critical piece JLO offers constellation families is our role as Resource Bank. In this role, our league is able to provide resources to the families in a variety of ways. We have provided two sessions of training on working with children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

To bring our year to a closure, JLO is sponsoring a very special outing for our Mockingbird families. The foster children's extended families, potential adoptive parents, and siblings from other foster families will enjoy a day at Northwest Trek. These are the moments all families need to bond and build healthy families.

Our Mockingbird families have loved over 40 foster care children in their 9 families, during the last four years. With our League, they have celebrated over 48 family meetings and 96 hours of playtime with these wonderful little foster kids. Members contributed over 383 loving hours in planning and orchestrating the special events and monthly meetings. This year has been a full busy year, as we have increased foster parent support, recognized the parents for the selfless work they do, and through the voice of our members, moved our Mockingbird Program into a Mockingbird Project for the coming year.

Membership Council

Training and Advocacy Committee

By: Linda Cordero, Training Chair

This year the Training and Advocacy Committee (Linda Cordero, Training and Melissa Havens, Advocacy) worked together to raise the awareness of the members on how and why to be a strong advocate.

Many materials were handed out throughout the league year: How a Bill Becomes a Law, Policy Advocacy – Bite-Sized, What is Advocacy and Why Should We Do It?, Overview of the Legislative Process and Names/Contact Numbers for the various Representatives and Legislators.

The committee worked closely with JLWS to promote Capitol Days. This is always an empowering event, with various speakers encouraging attendees to learn how to effectively promote the core programs of state-wide leagues.

JLO was well-represented at this event, and each attendee came away better-equipped with the skills needed to meet with and impact Washington state Legislators.

Next, it was off to Northwest Exchange (NW Exchange), hosted this year by Portland, Oregon. One of the best aspects of NW Exchange is getting to meet and exchange ideas with leagues from other cities as well as other states. JLO was able to send nine members this year.

There were terrific speakers, including **Allison Clarke, of Allison Clarke Consulting**. Allison is a professional consultant and author on how to plan for success, making an impact and leaving a legacy. Allison demonstrated how even the most exciting message can sound dull and boring if mannerisms and facial expressions don't reflect excitement and energy. When you speak to someone—either from a podium or one-on-one—remember the following formula: 55% body language, 38% tone of voice and 7% words.

In addition, **Katie Harman Ebner, Miss America 2002**, spoke about “True Beauty” and how everyone has it. She encouraged members to **DECIDE**: Determination – Education – Character – I Can – Discipline – Express Thanks. **Representative Jefferson Smith**, currently a candidate for Mayor of Portland, spoke on Advocacy and working to influence legislators. He gave one of the simplest, best answers to the question “Why Advocate?": **DO IT – Democracy needs you!** Everyone came away recharged and excited to practice the skills they learned.

At the close of the year, Cheryl Heinrichs was nominated as JLO's candidate for the Leadership Thurston County program. This 10-month educational program incorporates many different people from the community to learn how to work together toward solutions for issues facing Thurston County.

Placement and Advisory

By: Judy Soward, Placement & Advisory Chair

The 2011-12 Placement & Advisory Committee (P&A) work was especially intense this year. Our primary focus was to make each member's experience valuable. Understanding the function of Junior League and your placement was the committee's goal for each member. Connecting membership with leadership positions was another goal. P&A took a special interest in the new member class, planning a social event as an opportunity to get to know them better.

The year began with advisors assigned to all members. The advisor is the member's secret weapon. Armed with the understanding that all membership value is not the same and the knowledge that each member will bring something new and different to the league, surveying began early in January for member interest.

The placement committee used the survey, combined with contact by e-mail or telephone calls and any personal knowledge, to help with making placement a satisfying experience. This year a placement fair was held in the form of speed dating - familiarizing each member with all of the options available.

The Placement & Advisory Committee arranged two social events this year. The first event was the second annual 27 Dresses party. The next event was an evening at the Painted Plate with the new member class. Both were enjoyed by those attending. Providing bonding time outside of GMM's is important in forming League growth.

P&A along with the Nominating Chair's early work was focused on the next President-Elect-Elect and the Executive Board Slate. The President-Elect-Elect was identified early in the year. The Nominating Chair led the effort to formulate the 2012-13 Placement & Advisory Committee.

In recent years, the annual JLO Gala has been planned by sustainers. However, the 2010-2011 Placement & Advisory committee was not able to identify a sustainer team to lead the effort. This year, each of the P&A Committee members agreed to take on a second placement as active members of the Gala Committee. The tremendous success of the gala ("London Calling") was due in great part to this amazing group of women, who did it all while being double-placed.

New Member Committee

By: Robbi Kesler, New Member Chair

JLO once again offered one new member training opportunity with classes scheduled October through February.

In early September, prospective members identified from membership inquiries collected over the summer, as well as invited guests, gathered for our Fall Open House at the Schmidt House. The open house was well-attended. Although the attendees were mostly friends of current members, we did have two ladies attend that had found the information about the event on the website.

Twelve ladies applied for membership and began attending monthly new member classes. New member classes were held on the first Tuesday of each month beginning in October and continuing through February.

Along with the overview of League structure and JLO/AJLI history, the new members began working together on a class project. This year's project was to plan a holiday party for the family members of our Mockingbird Constellation. The party was a success and the invited foster children had a really wonderful time. The party was complete with gift baskets procured and assembled by the new members, games, and many take-home crafts and yummy desserts. There was even some cross-council collaboration, as the Sustainers provided food for the evening.

In addition to attending the new member training classes, all ladies were invited to attend General Membership Meetings and to participate in our ongoing JLO community and fundraising projects. One new member actively participated on the ad hoc Gala Committee, and many new members attended the event. All new members have graduated on to the Touch-a-Truck Committee for the rest of the League year. Additionally, all new members have completed their placement surveys for next year and are excited to continue their service within the League.

Funding Council

By: Kim Schmanke, Funding Council Vice President

Kermit Frog is often quoted for having said it's not easy being green. Well, it's not always easy raising the green either. Being on the funding side means making sure the League has enough money to:

- support our community goals,
- provide meaningful education and training for our members and
- cover our very minimal operating expenses.

Overall, the League had a successful fundraising year. Our funding action plan for 2011-12 included corporate sponsorships, an annual campaign, sales of the JLO *Northwest Inspirations* cookbook, the annual gala auction and a new fundraiser, Touch-A-Truck.

Annual Campaign

In November we asked our full membership to make a contribution to our annual campaign. Our goal wasn't a dollar amount. Rather we wanted to have 100 percent response. It continues to be a work in progress. We had 42 active and sustaining members contribute a total of \$2674. One of these members thoughtfully pledged a dollar amount per month for a year. (14 sustainers; 1 nonresident active; 26 actives). We are also grateful for the support of a corporate matching program by State Farm Insurance. Two of our members' volunteer efforts will be matched by a corporate donation, bringing in an additional \$1,000.

Sponsorships

Several years ago, the Board made a conscious decision to bring responsibility for developing sponsorships under the Funding Council to minimize the risk of multiple asks to the same organization. This year, we secured the support of Capital Electric; Jeffrey D. Hamilton, PS, DDS; Panowicz Jewelers and continue to reach out to new potential sponsors.

Cookbook

Our Cookbook committee has the task of continuing to market *Northwest Inspirations* at a time when more and more people are turning to the internet for their daily recipes. Chair Kallie Moore and her committee worked to deepen community awareness of this beautiful collection of recipes at events like the Mushroom Festival, Touch-A-Truck while promoting it within the League to new members.

Gala

We had a phenomenal Gala Auction this year, raising a total of \$58,000 and welcoming 140 plus guests to the event. The event was held at Indian Summer Golf and Country Club with a British-inspired theme of *London Calling*. The League selected two Fund-A-Need recipients: Family Education Support Services and the League's own Foster Kids Care Fund. Bidders donated nearly \$13,000 was raised during the Fund-A-Need live auction item. The Care Fund received \$9375 of the proceeds. The Board approved an additional donation to FESS to round its proceeds up to \$6375.

Touch-A-Truck

As hard as it is to raise money, it's probably even more difficult to take a new fundraising idea from concept to reality. Under the leadership of Debbie Hadley and Teresa Covington, our League did just that. Last July, we held our first Touch-A-Truck on the back of the Target-Sears center in Lacey. The event featured live music and performances, food, a bounce house, children's activities and dozens of specialty vehicles and equipment. We reached nearly 1,000 guests during the day long event. And the feedback was absolutely glowing from our guests. Proceeds did not match projected revenues, and the event had a loss in its first year. The costs were more than anticipated, but the committee has more information about where else to seek in-kind donations or avoid expenditures that don't drive a profitable bottom line. Our co-chairs agreed to continue to lead the event in its second year of planning. It will be July 28, 2012.

Sustainer Council

By: Susan Manthou, Sustainer Vice President

The Sustainer Council had 4 volunteer sustainers working on the committee throughout the League year. There were three meetings held during the year for coordination and discussion of League business and development of Sustainer activities. Two were face to face and one was an on line meeting.

The Council planned several activities for Sustainers and each member took leadership roles on these activities. The activities held and that had attendance were the following: an August Dinner, a November Wine Tasting at Medicine Creek Winery, a Movie and Early dinner at Hearthfire Restaurant in February, Greenhouse visit in April, Gala cocktail event in March, and the Sustainers Tea in May. The Sustainers also assisted with the Mockingbird Holiday party in December by providing food for the families and helping with food service. Sustainers attended meetings for the Speak Ups at the General Membership meeting to provide their point of view and input on various topics. Sustainers provided a wine basket with other items for the Gala which generated \$800.00 in income for the League. Sustainers assisted in securing items for the Gala auction as they do each year.

Activities planned that were announced but did not happen due to lack of attendance were the cooking classes and the fall potluck. The average number of women attending events still remain at about 9 people. The committee had a goal of increasing the attendance at events but did not reach their target goal of 15. Two sustainers that were not on the committee volunteered for leadership for two of the activities planned.

The committee divided up the Sustainers names for contact for the events for more personal communication. They selected among these names people that they personally knew so that the contact would be direct to their friends as well as to other members. E-blasts were used for each event and a separate e blast went out to just sustainers as a follow up. There were two articles in the Communique. At the fall general membership meeting, a hand out was given to members identifying the activities for the League year. A personal invitation was mailed to the current Sustainers and new Sustainers for the 2012 -2013 year to attend the Sustainer tea.

Most all of the goals were met for the 2011 -2012 year by the sustainer committee. Each member continued to remain actively involved with the League not only through the work of the sustainer committee but was active on other League committees to help shape the work of the League for the future.

Operations Council

By: Rochelle Barnes, Operations Council Vice President

The Operations Council is responsible for much of the behind-the-scenes work that keeps the JLO running like a well-oiled machine. The Council is made up of three committees: Finance, Event Planning, and Communications. These committees are responsible for the league's financial management, day-to-day office operations, event planning and arrangements for our general membership meetings, public relations, technology, and internal communications. Each committee has made great accomplishments in 2011-12.

Communications

Thanks to the communications committee, under the leadership of Tanya Murray, JLO will now offer community sponsorships and auction baskets. This is an opportunity to promote our league's work, recruit members, and attract new donors, all while providing our community partners with financial support for specific needs. JLO will provide up to 4 sponsorships each year with a value of between \$50 and \$1000 each, for non-profit organizations with a similar mission to JLO. We will also provide up to 8 auction baskets to local community partners each year for fundraising events with an attendance of 100 people or more. Each basket will contain written materials about JLO and will have either a JLO cookbook or Touch-a-Truck theme.

Finance

This year JLO solicited requests for proposals for a new bank. We were looking for a community bank that had experience working with non-profits, could provide us with automated services to simplify our bookkeeping process, as well as provide exemplary customer service and training to our membership year after year. After reviewing several proposals we unanimously chose Thurston First Bank. We are pleased with our decision and look forward to working with them in the coming years. Other key accomplishments this year, under the leadership of Finance Manager, Carrie Rothman: was the conversion to Quickbooks Online and hiring a new contract bookkeeper.

Events

Due to some changes in rental agreement terms, our event planning team, Amy Rowley and Erica Smith, worked hard to look for a new location to host our monthly general membership meetings. They worked hard to find a space that would meet our needs and stay within budget. We are now hosting our meetings at Middleton Auditorium. This is a great space for JLO and our members applaud the efforts of our events committee. Amy and Erica have also gone to great lengths to use our decorating budget to give back to the community by creating functional centerpieces with items such as books, school supplies, and toiletry items that can be donated to our community partners after our meetings.