



# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF OLYMPIA

*Women building better communities \**

## 2010-2011 Annual Report

The Junior League of Olympia worked hard this year to expand our understanding and impact in our community. As a small League in our Association of Junior Leagues International ([www.AJLI.org](http://www.AJLI.org)) we manage to do A LOT of work for the number of members in our organization. We deliver a variety of outstanding community projects, build partnerships with a variety of organizations and host magnificent fundraisers which support our work in Thurston County.

Our nine General Membership Meetings boasted compelling examples of the hard realities facing families affected by child abuse and neglect. Our Speakers and topics were as follows:

**DSHS, Former Client** — *Keeping Parents Connected*

**United Way of Thurston County** — *Born Learning: The Importance of Early Childhood Development and Education*

**Madison Elementary, Olympia School District** — *Poverty & Homelessness in Our Schools*

**Parents as Teachers** — *Strengthening Families*

**The Mockingbird Society** — *Advocacy at Work for Youth & Alumni of Foster Care*

**DSHS Foster Child Panel** — *Update from the Kids Themselves*

**Washington Engage** — *How to End Human Trafficking Here in Washington?*

**Family Policy Council** — *Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)*

This past fiscal year, our Fundraisers generated \$69,115, of which \$51,600 was applied toward community programs and projects. We allocated \$18,000 to the developing the potential of women, sending our “executive volunteers” to various trainings, conferences, and development opportunities to support our Vision of *Women leading Thurston County in collaborative community change*.

The end of our League year brought celebration and reflection of a “job well done!” some highlights include:

- \$25,000 donation to the Madison Elementary playground, which will be ready for the 2011-12 school year.
- Dr. Karen Johnson’s commitment and leadership honored with the President’s Award.
- Lynn Ledgerwood’s outstanding organizational support celebrated with the Sustainer of the Year Award.

Congratulations, Junior League of Olympia; it has been a year to remember!

### **Our Mission:**

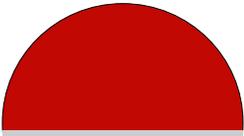
The Junior League of Olympia (JLO) is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

### **Our Vision:**

Women leading Thurston County in collaborative community change.

### **Focus Area:**

The prevention of child abuse and neglect.



## Kids Count

*By: Laura Herman, Kids Count Committee Chair*

### 2010-11 Board

Linda  
Kleingartner,  
President

Heather Emery,  
President-Elect

Liz Davis,  
Immediate Past  
President

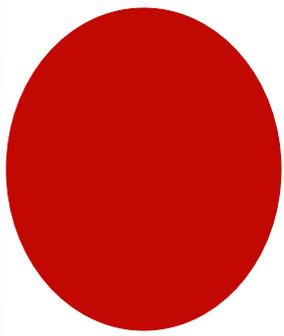
Dr. Karen  
Johnson,  
Community VP

Mary de Jesus,  
Operations VP

Lorraine  
Hamilton,  
Funding VP

Lisa Stock,  
Membership VP

Gail Yamane,  
Sustainer VP



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

### **1. Foster Kids Care Fund**

The Junior League of Olympia funds and administers a grant managed by the Kids Count committee, which enables foster children to apply for reimbursements for their after-school activities, sports equipment, extra clothes, etc. So far this year, we have helped 14 very deserving and motivated children and teenagers, using \$3,093.65.

Some of our grants have provided gymnastics lessons, class supplies, rental of music instruments, swim lessons, and a cap and gown rental for senior graduation. These grants have enabled foster kids to be kids.

### **2. Little Red Schoolhouse Clothing and School Supply Collection and Distribution**

For over 20 years, Junior League volunteers have collaborated with community partners to support many children in preparing for the beginning of school. In 2010, 72 Junior League members served over 2,879 students, 900 families, and 4,791 total individuals in providing school supplies, backpacks, and clothing to help local children go back to school with pride. The project started in June and ended on with a 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 parental deficiencies. These visitations are often a prime indicator of the success a parent will experience towards services and reunification with their child(ren). 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. However, they are stark and ill-supplied. JLO volunteers helped make-over two of these visitation rooms, as well as the observation room in between them, to create a warmer, more homelike atmosphere for the children, parents, and staff. Kids Count members chose themes for each of the spaces, selected and purchased furniture and accessories, finalized paint choices and wall hangings, and ordered interactive toys for use during visitations. A total of 28 JLO volunteers worked almost 200 hours planning, cleaning, painting, building furniture, and staging the rooms.

#### **4. YWCA/OTHER Bank Hygiene Kits**

YWCA currently operates three main community programs, one of which is THE OTHER BANK. THE OTHER BANK partners with the Thurston County Food Bank and local school districts in their FORKids program, which uses backpacks to provide food to low-income children over the weekend. Since October 2008, THE OTHER BANK has provided monthly hygiene kits for the backpacks. Each kit includes a toothbrush and toothpaste, bar soap, shampoo, and lotion. Junior League of Olympia provided funding to purchase supplies for two months of these hygiene kits. JLO also organized a work party where 50% of our active members came together to assemble these kits.

#### **5. GRuB Seed Sorting Event**

Since 1993, the Garden Raised Bounty (GRuB) Kitchen Garden Project has installed more than 2,000 free raised bed vegetable gardens, helped to establish larger community gardens, and offered an array of workshops for gardeners. To help make all of this happen, each year teenagers in GRuB's employment program organize a volunteer event to sort thousands of packets of donated seeds and prepare them for distribution. The future of this event was facing a significant challenge because a main contributor of seeds was having to scale back their contributions to a fraction of what it had given in the past. That is where JLO stepped in. We provided \$2,500 for the purchase of seeds and also helped host a potluck lunch for the community volunteers (including seven of our own members) who worked during the seed sorting event.

#### **6. 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 23 of our members assembled over 1,200 book bags, including age-appropriate books, literacy materials, and library card applications. These bags were delivered to families in need to help them meet the goal of reading to their child 20 minutes or more each day.

#### **7. Kids in the Kitchen**

JLO partnered with The Hands On Children's Museum in Olympia during the month of May for Kids in the Kitchen. This year we participated in a "Free Friday Night," in which the museum opens its doors to the general public for free on the first Friday of every month. This allows low-income families who normally would not have access to the museum the opportunity to experience all it has to offer.

The focus of Junior League's Kids in the Kitchen is to promote healthy living. We concentrated on three major areas of a healthy lifestyle: exercise, healthy eating habits, and information about what are we eating. To make our message simple, direct, fun, and fast, we organized the event in a carnival game style. We had various games, booths and activities set up around one of the classrooms in the museum. Our event was a special attraction for museum goers and we experienced a high volume of traffic.

# Mockingbird Annual Report

By: Tanya Murray, Mockingbird Chair

*"JLO is so generous. It's so critical to know the community is supporting us." — Robert, foster dad*

*"Every time I think they've outdone themselves—they do more." — Lora, JLO HUB home mom*

*"Today I was telling someone about Mockingbird and they asked who makes it happen. I told them the Junior League supports us. They love us and we love them." — Kim, foster mom.*

During 2010-2011, 89 JLO members volunteered to support the Mockingbird program. 77 of these were a part of the childcare we provide at the monthly family meetings required by The Mockingbird Society. These meetings are critical to the families so the parents can keep each other informed about their children, and also so they can offer each other support and assistance. They also offer a forum for training and allow the children time to bond and enjoy the company of their "extended-family siblings." This is especially important when siblings are placed in different homes within the constellation. Amy, a foster mom, said, "These family meetings are the one place I can relax with adults I trust, share about things I need to share about, and KNOW my kids are safe and having fun. I don't have to worry about them when I'm here." Our members have given their time to play with the kids, make special desserts to celebrate their birthdays, create and organize crafts and activities for the kids, and read special stories to them at story time.

This year offered an opportunity for our League to try a new model for the childcare in these meetings. By turning over each monthly meeting to a committee, or group of committees, we were able 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 more meaningful for everyone. The Mockingbird parents were thrilled about the level of support and number of volunteers we had at each meeting. Because this model was so successful, the HUB home was able to decrease the number of paid childcare providers at each meeting from four to two.

In addition to childcare, our League provided needed respite for each family in the form of a \$100 gift card to each. This allowed them the opportunity to enjoy needed rest and relaxation away from their kids. This time to rejuvenate is critical to successful parenting, and is also seen by the parents as a heartfelt thank you for their contributions to the children in our community. Amy, a foster mom, said, "The money JL gave me for respite, allowed me the chance to REALLY get away and relax. I was able to stay a night at a quiet hotel on the coast. I didn't realize how much I needed to rest, until I got away. I returned a new and re-energized mom."

The Memorandum of Understanding we have with the Department of Social and Health Services, and The Mockingbird Society, outlines that our League will offer not only childcare and respite opportunities, but also three family outings. These outings are extremely important to the constellation. They are the moments all families need to bond and get to know each other. They are often experiences the children have never before had the opportunity to enjoy. They offer the children concrete examples that their community loves them and that their families are a unit. This year, our League was able to pay for the families to travel together in the fall to see Disney-on-Ice in Portland. We also provided a family night of pizza and bowling in the spring and we organized and volunteered for a family campout in June. This is something the families have wanted to do for three years! "The kids were mesmerized at Disney-on-Ice. It was a very special experience for our families and we couldn't have had it without JLO," said Lora, HUB home foster mom.

The other critical piece JLO offers these families is our role as a resource bank. In this role our League is able to assist the families in a variety of ways. We have provided training for them, paid for the rental fees for their meeting location, and purchased or procured donations of items they need as parents. This year, our resource bank role became critical to these families. At the end of 2010, foster families lost entirely the previously allotted New Child Fund by DSHS. This money had been given to parents of new foster children to help purchase things like diapers, clothing, school supplies, and other items the children did not often have when placed in a foster home. Our resource bank budget was able to fill in this hole for our families. We saw 21 children in our constellations this year. There was one adoption within the families, and one more is in process. We were able to contribute \$500 towards their new child needs.

During the 2010-2011 year, our New Member Committee of 24 planned and executed an amazing Holiday Celebration for our Mockingbird families. Seven Sustainers provided and served a wonderful meal. Families were treated to a visit by Santa, a DJ, face painting, many games and crafts, and an enormous supply of gifts for the families. The Angel Tree, organized by the Mockingbird Committee, was able to provide each child in the constellation with 5-8 gifts from their Christmas wish-lists, and each parent with a family gift. 30 members purchased gifts for the Angel Tree. In the words of Mary, a foster mom, “[JLO] made our Christmas so special. Junior League is sooo generous!”

Our Mockingbird families have loved over 30 foster care children in their six families during the last three years. With our League, they have celebrated over 36 family meetings. This means our members have enjoyed over 72 hours of playtime with these wonderful little foster kids over the last three years! This year gave our League a chance to build a process for childcare and find ways to include more members in direct service to the families. In addition, we have spent time working on ways to encourage other Leagues to become the resource bank for their local constellations. As The Mockingbird Society evolves we hope to take a larger role in this regard. Each year a stronger bond is forged between our League and these six amazing families. Our services send a strong message to foster care parents and children that they live in a community that supports them and values them.

*“The Junior League of Olympia has been instrumental in the success of the Mockingbird Family Model in Olympia. Through their compassion, commitment and volunteer hours they have provided the added support to foster parents and children to ensure that OUR children and youth in foster care do more than survive but actually thrive. Thank you JLO!” — Jim Theofelis, Executive Director and Founder of The Mockingbird Society.*

## Operations Council

*By: Mary de Jesus, Operations VP*

This was the first year the Junior League of Olympia combined the responsibilities for financial management, event planning and arrangements, public relations, technology, and communications under the management of the Operations Council.

Among the highlights of the Council’s accomplishments: hiring a contract bookkeeper to perform routine reimbursements and deposits; development of the *jlolympia.org* website as the external face of the League; aligning monthly General Membership Meeting themes with the JLO mission. Our Public Relations Chair, Rochelle Barnes, worked on reviewing proposals and making a recommendation to the Board for hiring a PR firm.

The Council is especially proud of our Secretary, Lynn Ledgerwood, a Sustainer, who was named Member of the Month and Sustainer of the Year for her initiative and organization behind the scenes, including setting up the relocated JLO office downtown.

## New Member Committee

*By: Wendy Owens, New Member Chair*

Continuing with last year's success, JLO once again offered one new member training opportunity. 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 Mansion. The open house was very well attended and ultimately, 24 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 huge 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, a DJ playing music, games, a visit from Santa and many take-home crafts and yummy desserts. There was even some cross-council collaboration, as the Sustainers provided a delicious meal for the evening.

In addition to attending the new member training classes, all ladies were asked to attend General Membership Meetings and were invited to participate in our ongoing JLO community projects, such as the DSHS visitation room remodel. In January, all new members were encouraged to participate in the Discover Your Strengths training offered at the mid-year leadership retreat. New members reported that the training was informative and it was a great opportunity to include them in the "developing your potential" component of the JLO mission.

The new member committee was successful this year in reducing printing costs by going paperless. This was achieved by providing flash drives at the beginning of the year with all pertinent documents preloaded onto them. All correspondence for each meeting was e-mailed ahead of time and printed or saved by the new members. Eliminating the printing and binder assembly reduced the committee's workload last fall considerably.

## Kids on the Block

*By: Sherrie Smith, Kids on the Block Chair*

The Junior League of Olympia's 2010-2011 League year began with a celebration commemorating its 20<sup>th</sup> year affiliation with Kids on the Block (KOB). 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 committee performed over 12 different programs about topics including cerebral palsy, learning disabilities, ADHD/mental health, multiculturalism, drug and alcohol abuse, gangs and, most recently, stopping school bullying.

As part of the Junior League'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, JLO's two active KOB teams – comprised of four members – performed for five schools and one PTSA meeting, reaching over 300 schoolchildren with its popular anti-bullying skit.

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After 20 years of service, KOB performers conducted a thoughtful and thorough assessment of the committee's mission, procedures, and effectiveness to determine steps to revitalize the program for the future or, perhaps, to sunset the program altogether. A few of the key steps taken by KOB include:

They worked with the Placement & Advisory Committee to recruit a new performance team and will once again have three active performing teams in 2011-2012.

They met with the JLO President to discuss ways to secure ongoing leadership for KOB. As a result, the Board decided to align KOB as an ongoing, independent project of the Kids Count committee.

They decided to explore the possibility of partnering with others in the community offering similar programs to achieve broader community impact.

These focused efforts resulted in newly invigorated and dedicated performance teams committed to the continuation of the Kids on the Block program. The Kids of the Block members look forward to continuing to positively impact the children in Thurston County and a productive alliance with the Junior League of Olympia.

## Training and Advocacy

*By: Linda Cordero*

This year Training and Advocacy joined to make a single Training/Advocacy committee with Sara Ballard as the Chair. Sadly, Sara passed away in April. She was a wonderful communicator, eagerly sharing ideas and knowledge. Her energy and enthusiasm will be missed by her Committee as well as by League members.

We started in September with an advocacy training seminar sponsored by the Seattle League. We heard from community members on such subjects as positive communication, how to effectively meet with your Legislator, and the importance of being an active participant in community events and developments.

The Training/Advocacy Committee promoted and attended Capitol Days this year. It was an exciting weekend exchanging valuable input and brain-storming with other Chapters. Cynthia Gustafson of the Junior Leagues of Washington State (JWLS) put together a dynamic panel discussion with representatives from the Legislature and we were also able to meet on campus with Senators who have promoted bills on childhood obesity, human/organ trafficking, and aging out of foster care.

The Seattle League hosted Northwest Exchange, and Training/Advocacy again promoted and attended this event. Many great ideas came from the various sessions and, like Capitol Days, a valuable part of the weekend was getting to exchange information with other League members.

Darkness to Light Training was presented by Sara Ballard, Chair. This event educated our members on the signs of child abuse, how to report suspicious activity, and how to deal with potential consequences.

JLO had an exciting opportunity to send one of our members to the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce "Investing in Community Leaders" program. This 10-month educational program (September-June) is designed to help participants acquire a broad understanding of issues facing the community, build relationships to address challenges, and enhance leadership skills through experiences with established leaders.

## Funding Council

*By: Lorraine Hamilton, Funding Council VP*

This year was another exciting and eventful year for our Funding Council. In spite of the economic climate, we have actually exceeded our annual funding goals. Our success is thanks to the members of our funding committees and the people who generously supported our campaigns, events and sales. It is very satisfying knowing that the funds we raise have such a significant impact on the quality of life in Olympia, continuing to sustain our Mockingbird families with respite and support, and fund projects including the DSHS remodel, YMCA Other Bank hygiene kits, GRuB seeds, Foster Kids Care Fund, Little Red Schoolhouse supplies, and the Kids in the Kitchen event at the Hands On Children's Museum. Our 2010 Gala fund-a-need established an endowment in memory of Paul Grudis, which is now used on a daily basis to provide healthy snacks to children at the Homework Club at Evergreen Vista. It's wonderful to be able to see and feel the impact of our money at work in the community.

### Sponsorships

This year we were successful in securing monetary and in-kind sponsorships from the business community valued at \$4,500. We acknowledge and thank this year's JLO sponsors for their generous support:

**Capital Electric, Inc.**  
**Taller Family Charitable Trust**  
**Joseph Y. de Jesus DDS, PS**  
**Jeffrey D. Hamilton DDS, PS**  
**Small to Tall Pediatric Dentistry**  
**Panowicz Jewelers (in-kind sponsor)**  
**Rodger A. Lawton DMD, PS**  
**Steamboat Animal Hospital**

### Annual Campaign and Corporate Giving

In accordance with our League's plan for long-term financial sustainability, we launched our fifth annual planned giving campaign in October. This campaign included all JLO actives, sustainers, new members and the community at large. Thanks to our generous donors and corporate matching donations, the campaign has raised \$5,245. We acknowledge and thank all who have supported this fund.

Many thanks to: Lori Bame, Shirley Battan, Susan Beatty, Beth Berschauer, Christy Berschauer, Connie Bloom, Windy Bogan, Shon Brewster, Jayme Bruett, Mary Janelle Cady, Dr. Stacy Choczynski-Johnson, Linda Cordero, Teresa Covington, Liz Davis, Mary de Jesus, Peggy Doebel, Heather Emery, Lisa Fenton, Kathy Garrett, Patti Grant, Janelle Guthrie, Dr. Kellis and Alice Hamilton, Lorraine Hamilton, Melissa Havens, Vickie Hayes, Cheryl Heinrichs, Lisa Herrick, Bridget Huennekens, Katie Hurley, Intel Corp., Dr. Karen Johnson, Lisa Jolly, Penny Keirse, Robbi Kesler, Jeff and Linda Kleingartner, Dr. Mary Kutch, Lynn Ledgerwood, Lynn Lloyd, Annie Lynch, Susan Manthou, Kathleen McDowell, Erin Menard, Dr. Kallie Moore, Marlo Moss, Tanya Murray, Barbara Nickum, Dr. Lori Noga, Krista O'Byrne, Wendy Owens, Dr. Kenneth and Marianne Partlow, Cheryl Reeser, Susy Rohrbach, Amy Rowley, Kim Schmanke, Bri Seeley, Melissa Seipel, Laurie Sorensen and Carroll Bryan, Judy Soward, State Farm Insurance Companies, Lisa Stock, Wendy Tanner, and Gail Yamane.

## **GALA**

Our 2011 Every Child Matters Gala was held on Saturday, March 19, 2011, at Indian Summer Golf and Country Club. This was the fourth year that our Gala was held as a separate event, and its success continues to build each year. The Gala Committee, co-chaired by Sustainers Connie Bloom and Cheryl Reeser, met in the fall to begin the process of procurement, decor, planning, and organizing the event. Thanks to the generosity of our community and membership, the committee successfully procured 68 silent auction items and 29 live auction items. Over 125 guests enjoyed the evening and raised a record amount of \$19,150 for our Fund-A-Need focus, Madison Elementary's playground replacement. Combined with additional donations after the event and supplemental funds approved by the Board, JLO was able to present a \$25,000 check to Madison Elementary at the Olympia School Board meeting on April 18, 2011.

The evening was a great success and much fun for all who attended. Thanks to all who contributed to this wonderful event which raised over \$60,000 to support the ongoing projects of the Junior League of Olympia. We look forward to next year's Gala which will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2012, at Indian Summer Golf and Country Club.

## **COOKBOOK**

*By: Jennifer Plichta*

The Cookbook Committee, chaired by Joanna West, made it a priority to increase the awareness and expand the sales territory of our cookbook, Northwest Inspirations.

This past year the committee marketed and sold our book at several community events including holiday bazaars at Briggs YMCA, State Farm Insurance, River Ridge High School and in the Gift Shop at Christmas Forest. The book was also sold at Junior League Northwest Exchange in Seattle, Capital Days and a general membership meeting of the Junior League of Seattle. In addition, Katie Hurley taught a cooking class at Bayview Thriftway to promote the cookbook, featuring several of our great brunch recipes.

Our JLO cookbook continues to sell well through numerous local vendors including Drees, Bayview, Vivala and Thompson's Furniture, as well as a gift shop in Whatcom County. As well, it is being sold through our distributor at Barnes & Noble and Borders Books. Sales on Amazon.com have also been steady, and result in our cookbook being shipped all across the country! In addition to the great recipes, our cookbook is an excellent source of information about our Olympia community, our projects at our League.

Thank you to our very dedicated cookbook committee members for the hours they spent selling and sampling cookbook menu items. Thanks to active members: Kallie Moore, Krista O'Byrne and Joanna West and sustainer members Katie Hurley, Jennifer Plichta and Laura Theis. Thanks also to all members who have promoted our cookbook or purchased cookbooks this year. It has been a very successful year!

## **Touch a Truck**

*By: Teresa Covington and Debbie Hadley*

The Touch a Truck fundraiser is a new venture for Junior League of Olympia this year. Our first goal for this event will be to build a strong foundation (blueprint) for our new annual fundraiser that will involve the community and be built upon in years to come.

The Touch a Truck event will be held on Saturday, July 30, 2011, at South Sound Mall parking lot in Lacey from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Regular admission will be \$5, with children two years and under free. The event will also include live local entertainment and memorabilia. We have partnered with Capital Development Company and Sears, who have donated their parking lot for the event, as well as all South Sound Mall Merchants in advertising.

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The Junior League of Olympia's Touch a Truck event will offer children of all ages a hands-on opportunity to explore construction, emergency, recreational, community, military, and specialty vehicles and to meet the people who build, protect, and serve Thurston County. Attendees will be able to interact with trucks of all sizes, guided by professionals who will explain the equipment and the work it accomplishes.

Our second goal will be to make the Junior League of Olympia more visible in our community through advertising and community involvement, while inspiring the community to participate in our first annual fundraiser. We are also partnering with community groups to volunteer and provide free interactive activities at the event. The Girl and Boy Scouts of America have also agreed to participate.

We have enlisted the services of a PR firm, The Silver Agency, to develop marketing materials such as public service announcements, newspaper articles, posters, and more. Our Touch a Truck Logo was created and states, "presented by Junior League of Olympia," to help create a strong association between the event and our League.

In addition, we will be attending upcoming community events where we will advertise and distribute information to inspire participation and attendance. These events include the annual Warbirds Air Show at the Olympia Regional Airport in June and Lakefair in July. We have also contacted several members of the community to join us by becoming a participant or event sponsor.

Our third goal will be to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities to League members at this community event. Several volunteer opportunities have been identified and members have already signed up for shifts. The event will enable members to interact with one another and the community and will provide new training opportunities.

Our final goal is to have a minimum of 1,000 attendees and to ensure that we are branded as annual event for increased attendance yearly. We look forward to a successful event and thank everyone for their help in making our groundbreaking first year a League achievement we can all share.

## **Sustainer Council**

*By: Gail Yamane, Sustainer VP*

The goals set for the Sustainer Council this year were quite similar to those from the year before: gather information, plan and host Sustainer social events, and increase Sustainer participation in League activities.

A survey was sent to all sustaining members in the fall asking about their interest in Sustainer activities and for any Yearbook updates they would like to have made in our Closerware database. Instructions for posting new information in Closerware were also included. Several members returned forms for the Sustainer VP to post to Closerware and many more made their own additions and/or corrections.

Although response to the survey was limited, participation in the scheduled events was enthusiastic. Sustainers enjoyed a lunch and fashion show on a very wet day in November, an early-bird dinner in January, and two cooking classes taught by two talented chefs from a local country club. Sustainers once again hosted Speak-ups in their homes, and the annual fundraising Gala in March was coordinated by two of our Sustaining members. Many Sustainers met for a nice social hour preceding the end-of-the-year General Membership Meeting. The annual Sustainer Tea to welcome new Sustainers was scheduled to be held in a member's home in June.

Eighteen Sustainers assumed Active placements in the League this year. Many of these were very demanding — planning the fundraising Gala, coordinating and sending the Communiqué, and taking over much of the technology committee responsibility when needed. In December our Sustainers provided a delicious meal for the Mockingbird Family Holiday Party. Two of our Sustainers attended the party to serve the meal and enjoy the celebration that was so beautifully planned by our new member class. As we have seen decreases in the number of Active members in the past several years, it has become important to use our Sustainer resources to accomplish some of our League goals. This year our Sustainers stepped up to the plate with outstanding support.

## Placement and Advisory

*By: Kim Schmanke, Placement & Advisory Chair*

The 2010-11 Placement & Advisory Committee worked especially hard this year to make sure our members had a valuable League experience.

We began the year by surveying members about their future placement interest, anticipated level of commitment and potential for accepting a leadership role. Next, we connected each new member with an advisor at the beginning of their League training. Recognizing that not everyone will remember faces and names, we added photos of each advisor to the name tag board for GMMs. This way, advisees could connect a face with their advisor, instilling a better sense of comfort.

In January, the committee again surveyed the membership about interest in the upcoming placement process. Using a combination of e-mail, phone calls, and in-person contacts, the committee received answers from nearly every active member. These results were used as the basis for starting the placement work.

The committee made multiple contacts with each member throughout this process. This included calls and e-mails to confirm the tentative placements would be satisfying. The process culminated with individual "final placement" letters (by e-mail), resulting in no requests to change placements.

In the fall, the Nominating Chair began work on the Board slate. The President-Elect-Elect was named in early 2011. The Nominating Chair also led the effort to place the 2011-12 Placement & Advisory committee.

The Placement & Advisory committee arranged two different social opportunities outside the League meetings. The first was a social in January at a local restaurant. The second was a themed event – 27 Dresses – at a member's home. Many members asked that we plan another 27 Dresses event in the future.

## Community Advisors

Thank you to our 2010-2011 Junior League of Olympia Community Advisors, a group of community leaders who provide invaluable wisdom and guidance to JLO as we strive to best serve the people of greater Thurston County.

- **Annie Cubberly**, Executive Director, Child Care Action Council
- **Keli Drake**, Child Protective Services Intake Supervisor, Department of Social and Health Services
- **Nancy Dahlen**, Sustaining Member, Junior League of Olympia
- **Patti Grant**, Program Coordinator, Leadership Thurston County, and Sustaining Member, Junior League of Olympia
- **Judith Hoefling**, Foundation & Community Relations Director, Behavioral Health Resources, and Council-member, Tumwater City Council
- **Jon Tunheim**, Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney
- **Brad Watkins**, Chief Deputy, Thurston County Sheriff's Office

JLO appreciates your generous and unwavering commitment to our organization and community!

## Junior League of Olympia Calendar of Events

### Our Mission:

The Junior League of Olympia (JLO) 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.



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF OLYMPIA**

Women building better communities™

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### July

13-17 Lakefair

30 Touch-a-Truck

### August

15-17 Little Red Schoolhouse (sorting and organizing clothes)

18 Little Red Schoolhouse (distribution day)