



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
FRESNO**

Women building better communities®

2011-2012 Community Issue

Our History

Founded in 1948 as the Service League of Fresno, the Junior League of Fresno was established in 1959 upon admission to the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI), which is made up of over 290 Junior Leagues in four countries. The Junior League of Fresno is a volunteer organization for women interested in making a positive impact in their community.

Our Mission

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

Our Focus Area

The focus area of the Junior League of Fresno is **women and children in need** with an emphasis on health and education.

Our Vision

The Junior League of Fresno will serve as an influential and innovative community partner - seeking solutions to make a lasting impact on the quality of life for women and children.

Invitation To Join

The Junior League of Fresno reaches out and welcomes all women who are age 21 or over and demonstrate an interest in and a commitment to volunteerism and community service. For more information, please contact the Junior League of Fresno office or visit the website.

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On behalf of the Junior League of Fresno, we would like to invite you to learn more about our organization and join us for our community events to find out why we are “Wild About Junior League.” It is such an honor to serve as the 54th President for this amazing group of women as we work to build a better community.

We will begin the 2012-2013 year with the introduction of a new community project. We will be partnering, again with the Discovery Center, to develop an **Edible Garden** that will teach children nutrition and gardening skills. We will continue to honor the local high school **Senior Girl Athletes**, provide support and mentoring to foster girls through the **Girl Power!** project, and continue our **Impact Fresno**

projects that benefit our community every month. But, this is only the start of our new season....

Our board of directors is engaging in work to revise the strategic direction of the Junior League of Fresno, making us more relevant, visible, and impactful in the work of our mission.

Promising new partnerships are in development to elevate the profile of the League in Fresno while making the best use of our resources. Over the next year, we will engage in planning and training to solidly steer this amazing organization into a new century.

The primary source of revenue to support our community programs and endeavors comes from our Breakfast at Tiffany’s spring event. The community, as well as our remarkable sponsors, have provided phenomenal support of this fundraiser which helps to ensure the continuation of the JLF mission. We look forward to your continuous and generous support!

As the Junior League of Fresno is called to respond to community needs and improvement, we welcome your passion, ideas and energy toward this effort. Together we must advocate for the improvement of our schools, our neighborhoods, our government and community.

I welcome you to join us on the journey.

Lisa Raven, President 2012-2013



Every ending brings with it a brand-new beginning.

– Oprah Winfrey

I have been truly honored to be the President of The Junior League of Fresno as I continued the journey, by following the path of the women who have served before me as President. The Junior League of Fresno is a group of extraordinary women doing amazing things in our surrounding communities. As you review our 2011-2012 Community Issue you will see our many projects and collaborations with other community organizations.

Junior League of Fresno committed in making 2011-2012 a time of new beginnings, as we enhanced our gifts, talents, and skills to make a difference in our community. We live by our mission. Developing the potential of women, promoting voluntarism and improving the community are the reasons our League is so exceptional.

As the 2011-2012 year approaches an end and 2012-2013 year begins, we will reflect on, and celebrate our past successes while shaping and transforming the League to insure our legacy continues.

Thank you, Junior League of Fresno for “Serving Beyond Measure.”

Lisa Haynes-Scott, 2011-2012 President

Impact Fresno



Impact Fresno is the committee of Junior League that reaches out to our community with short term projects. We set up volunteers to help out with other organizations in Fresno that meet our mission of helping women and children with an emphasis on health and education. Impact Fresno's activities for the 2011-2012 League year included:

Our first project in September was with **Evangel Home**. They are an organization that helps homeless women and children to become active productive members of society. We got our hands dirty with this

opportunity by revitalizing their "Hall of Faith." When the women graduate from the program their name goes up on a plaque in this hall. The hall was dark and dreary and in need of a face lift, they were also running out of room. The members of Junior League took down old plaques patched the walls, painted the walls, a member's husband worked on the light fixtures. It may be a small thing but it made a difference to the women working hard to get their life back on track to see their name on that wall. Donors: Kasparian's Paint Center, Lowes



October is Fair time and also time for **Firefighters Creating Memories**. Once again this year we joined with our fabulous Fresno Fire Fighters to help disabled children and families enjoy a fun day at the fair. This special day gives them and the whole family an opportunity to enjoy a carefree day away from the grind of their daily lives to have fun at the fair with a handsome fire fighter. We assist them by helping the family and managing the group.

November we feed the families staying at the **Ronald McDonald House at Children's Hospital**. Until one has gone through it, it is difficult to imagine the relief it is to have a warm meal for you at the end of the day when all your energies are spent caring for a child in critical care and you are a long way from



home. Junior League also spent an afternoon with the siblings staying in the home baking cookies, giving them an opportunity to have a little fun and enjoy some sweets.

December was extra busy for the members of Junior League, the members, our families and friends adopted both families and children for Christmas. We teamed up with **Spirit of Women** to help provide gifts for the women and children living there. Christmas morning they woke up to a bag of gifts that Santa had left outside



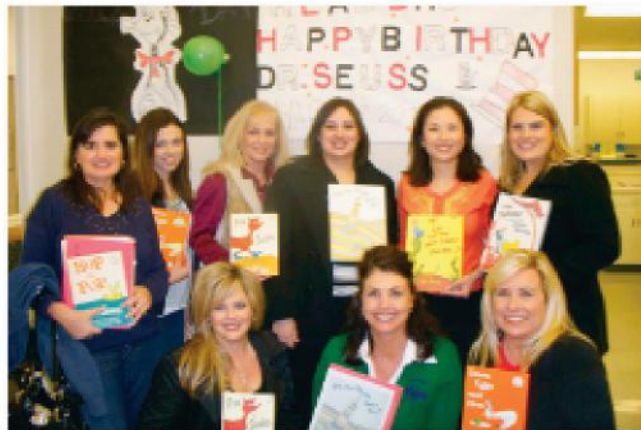
teamed up with **Kirk Elementary** and provided gifts for the children in a very economically depressed area of Fresno. We provided Gift to 23 families and 48 children. Mary the assistant director of Spirit of Women said with Tears in her eyes "Junior League saved Christmas." We also worked with **The Links** organization to help provide volunteers for their one day event they hold every Christmas that feeds, clothes, provide gifts and take home food for 5000 people.

January was time for a **Baby Shower!** **The Spirit of Women** is an organization that takes in women with addictions, convictions and children and retrains them with the skills they need to be a good parent and a sober contributing member of society. Spirit of Women run on a shoestring budget and are constantly finding themselves out of basic necessities like bottles and diapers. The women of Junior League gave them a baby shower. The generosity was overwhelming and it took several car loads to get all the gifts to them.

February we visited **Juvenile Justice Center** and spent quality time with the girls making cards. This may seem like no big deal but to the girls locked up in the Center it is a chance to spend time with women who come from a different walk of life. We sit with the girls making cards and just talk. It is the highlight of their week but more than that it may be the first time an adult spent quality time with them just listening.

March we teamed up with Kirk Elementary to be part of **Read Across America**. Members sat with the children and read books. Kirk Elementary is in one of the roughest areas of Fresno. Many of these children live with one parent or no parents, some are in foster care. One or both of their parents may be incarcerated so having someone take the time to read to them is a rare privilege.

April is time for **Girls Night Out**. We teamed up with the **Boys and Girls Club of Fresno** to kick up our heels and have some fun with the young girls of the club. Every child is paired up with a mentor and they spend the evening together having dinner, socializing, learning some dance moves and making jewelry. It is a great opportunity to make a little girl feel special and influence her to set goals in the future. Junior League of Fresno sponsored this event providing everything needed to make this event a success.



Pencils to Paper: Members collected school supplies and donated them to

Kirk Elementary in August and December. The Vice Principal gave them to children in need and also used them as an incentive for good behavior.

Toiletries: This year we donated toiletries collected by our members to **The Spirit of Women** and **Marjaree Mason Center** (Through **Teddy Bear Tea**).



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Community Service Funds

Making a difference in the community is what Junior League of Fresno is all about. Each year, the Junior League of Fresno awards Community Service Funds (CSF) or mini grants to local nonprofit organizations that focus on women and children in need. An organization can receive up to \$1,000 per application. This past year, the Junior League of Fresno was able to award \$2,500 in Community Service Funds. Throughout the year, the Projects Review Board accepted 12 different applications from local nonprofits; we focused our awards on "Women and Children in Need with an Emphasis on Health and Education."

The Junior League of Fresno was pleased to award the following charities with Community Service Funds for 2011-2012:

- **Muscular Dystrophy Association: \$700 – Medical Supplies for Summer Camp**
MDA provides a Summer Camp for patients/children with Neuromuscular Diseases. The Camp allows the campers' caregivers a much needed break. The medical supplies will include but not be limited to a hospital bed, oxygen, wheelchairs, first aid, etc.
- **Resource Center for Survivors of Sexual Assault and Family Violence: \$300 – Bus Tickets for Clients**
RCS services for Sexual Assault and Family Violence Victims provide services that mend the gaps in our health care system. Many clients need transportation and bus tickets will assist.
- **Fresno Metro Ministry: \$500 – Fruit Trees for Neighborhood Garden**
Their Neighborhood Garden allows the community to grow their own food as well as educate them on healthy food choices.
- **Central Valley Children's Partnership: \$500 Culinary Project**
The Culinary Project would work to educate our community's youth on Farm to Table practices. This after school program will target High School Students.
- **Focus Forward: \$500 the Dove Program**
The Dove Program works with children coming out of the Juvenile Justice Center providing workshops on self-esteem and taking care of one's self. JLF's \$500 will provide toiletry kits for 30 women at \$16.59 a kit.

Community Service Funds allow the Junior League of Fresno to put our money where our heart is... making a difference for children in need. Thank you for your continued dedication and support as it is truly appreciated! All local nonprofits that fit within our focus are of "Women and Children In Need with an Emphasis on Health and Education" are encouraged to apply in the 2012-2013 year by visiting our website at www.jlfresno.org

State Public Affairs Committee

The State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC) is the Advocacy Arm for the Junior Leagues of California. Sixteen different Leagues are represented within this volunteer lobbyist organization: Bakersfield, Fresno, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Monterey, Napa Sonoma, Oakland East Bay, Orange County, Palo Alto Mid Peninsula, Pasadena, Riverside, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose and Santa Barbara. Each Junior League sends their delegates to work hard advocating for those in need throughout the state.



The State Public Affairs Committee has made strides on behalf of Junior Leagues throughout the state in the areas of Health, Education, Violence Prevention, and Family Support. We support state and federal bills that are important to the well being of families in California. We have seen our presence and relationships within the capitol transform. SPAC is now sought out by policy makers to support and advocate on behalf of their causes. We have worked on numerous issues that benefit our state: Human Trafficking, School Breakfast programs, and Mother and child maternal health, just to name a few.

As we walk or drive down the street, we see the work of SPAC. Children cannot ride a bike without a bicycle helmet and children are required to be in a car seat until the age of 8. We cannot purchase medicines with DMX on the store shelf. Each one of these amazing pieces of legislation, we are proud to say was thanks to The State Public Affairs Committee.



This year The State Public Affairs Committee is focusing their policy changing efforts on Human Trafficking. This is a pertinent topic pertaining to young children and women. Every city is plagued with this new form of slavery that most people are completely unaware of. It is with great pride that SPAC sheds general awareness and public policy change to the areas

of Public Safety. Currently AB1940 is our current legislation supported by the Junior League of Fresno to help these girls that are enslaved.

The State Public Affairs Committee is a respected, sought after, powerful group of volunteer woman bringing positive change to our community and state. Our Junior League's support and projects are well represented by our 32 state advocates at the capitol in Sacramento.



