

OUR HISTORY

The Junior League of St. Joseph is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization founded in 1921 by Mrs. L. Robert Forgrave and 100 other young women ready to serve in improving our community. To this day, our members have remained committed to the original mission of our founders, which is to promote volunteerism, develop the potential of women, and improve the community through the effective action and leadership of training volunteers.

The League has been a staple in the community with involvement in various organizations. In 1938, the League helped with the start of the Family and Children's Bureau, which is now known as Family Guidance. On August 28th, 1963, the League, as a catalyst, started the Allied Arts Council with Mrs. Henry Bradly. The League donated \$5,000 and 1,000 service hours during the two-year probationary period. The League continues to be support the arts in various capacities.

In the late 1980s, the League started a "Tossed and Found" sale as the League's major fundraiser. This helped support many different community projects.

In 2009, the Junior League adopted Cinderella's Closet. The program offers free prom dresses and Military Ball dresses, shoes and accessories to area high school girls.

In 2012, the League started the Pony Express 5K and 10K Run as a fundraiser in conjunction with JDRF, a charitable organization dedicated to funding type 1 diabetes research. In 2013, the race established a partnership with the United Way of Greater St. Joseph, who is a major charitable partner of the race. In 2014, we expanded the race by adding a half-marathon. For more information, visit ponyexpressrun.org.

In 2018, the League adopted the Hope Totes Project in conjunction with the Optimist Club of St. Joseph. This project provides plastic storage totes to local children when staying at/vacating local shelters to hold their personal items in lieu of using a standard trash bag.

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ST. JOSEPH

PO Box 8191

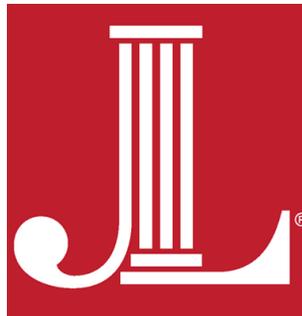
St. Joseph, MO 64508

juniorleaguesj.com

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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ST. JOSEPH



WE ARE MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS,
LAWYERS AND RETAILERS, 291 JUNIOR
LEAGUES AND 140,000 MEMBERS
STRONG. WE ARE THE JUNIOR LEAGUE.

OUR MISSION

We are an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Our purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

OUR VISION

Through the power of association the Junior League of St. Joseph will affect change to better the lives of women and children by embracing diverse perspectives, building community partnerships and inspiring shared solutions.



VOLUNTEERING

Members of the Junior League of St. Joseph give their time and talents through volunteering at numerous organizations and events throughout the league year. On top of their work through league sponsored programs, some of the agencies and events that benefit from their time include:

- Second Harvest Backpack Buddies
- Noyes Home for Children
- YWCA
- Pony Express Museum Pumpkinfest
- Tiny Tot Town
- Second Harvest Turkey Day
- Children's Fair
- St. Joseph School District Care Closet

ADVOCACY DAY

In late winter, members have the opportunity to travel down to Jefferson City for the annual Advocacy Day. All of the leagues throughout the state take to the capital on this day, formally know as Lobby Day, to meet with their representatives and discuss any concerns that may impact their community. The day also includes a lunch featuring a guest speaker and a tour of the state Supreme Court building.



LITTLE BLACK DRESS INITIATIVE

In 2017, the Junior League of St. Joseph joined an initiative started in London to get more people talking about the growing concern around poverty using an iconic dress. The Little Black Dress Initiative is a fundraiser in the spring for the league where our members wear the same iconic "Little Black Dress" for six consecutive days. Social media is used as the main platform to bring awareness of the impact on women in poverty in the community. During the week long event, members wear a little black dress to symbolize that not all woman have a choice to clean clothes or other daily essentials. The iconic and eye-catching dress ignites the conversation. Members wear a button that says "Ask Me About My Dress". Organizations who have benefited from this fundraiser are the St. Joseph School District Care Closet, YWCA and Second Harvest Community Food Bank.



COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS

In the spring, the league's Community Outreach Committee hands out multiple Community Assistance Grants to organizations and agencies throughout the community. Those who have benefited from the grants over the years includes The Grace House, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Social Welfare Board and YWCA.

