



06/01/21 - 05/31/22

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ST. JOSEPH

2022 Annual Report

JLSJ

Overview

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.

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.

The purpose of this Annual Report is to provide a summary from each board member in respect to their Junior League responsibilities for the League year. This document will highlight the accomplishments and opportunities for our League members as well as the community through our initiatives.



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
ST. JOSEPH**

TABLE OF CONTENTS :

- By the Numbers
- President Report
- President-Elect Report
- Community VP Report
- Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary Report
- Treasurer Report
- Volunteer Coordinator Report
- Arrangements Report
- Membership Report
- Communications Report
- Cinderella's Closet Report
- Nominating & Placement Report
- Public Issues Report
- Education & Community Outreach Report
- Ways & Means Report
- Sustainer Rep Report
- Member List

BY THE NUMBERS

ACTIVE MEMBERS

31 Members

NEW MEMBERS

6 New Members

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

83 Members

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Over 640 Hours

President

It has truly been an honor to serve the women of the Junior League this year as President. There have been many accomplishments made by our members, which are featured throughout this report. As we still had to navigate through the pandemic this year, our committees and members found ways to be creative and to think outside of the box as we continued to meet our mission throughout the community.

While preparing for this league year, I wanted to offer a variety of ways to engage our members that we may not have explored in the past. We are a diverse group of women who have different perspectives and experiences to bring to the table, so it is important to find ways to fill those wants and needs in an effort to provide an impactful league experience for each member. I started by looking at different potential volunteer opportunities and meeting locations.

Some of the new meeting locations and topics this year included a women's health panel during the October meeting at the Wyeth-Tottle Mansion, a full facility tour of the Bartlett Center, and a focus on Sexual Assault Awareness Month during the April meeting at the YWCA. We also found different ways to give back to our community including a collection for the Holiday With A Hero program, making up Valentine goodie bags for the preschoolers at the YWCA, helping clean up a neighborhood park for Earth Day and providing books to kindergarteners at Hyde Elementary through our new Adopt-a-Kindergarten program, which you can find out more about in the Community Vice President report.



Emily Wearing

President cont.

Though we implemented some new opportunities and meeting locations throughout the year, we also continued to support our already established initiatives. This included the Pony Express Run, dress giveaways at Cinderella's Closet, Hope Totes fundraisers and the Black Out Poverty Initiative. Though these programs are established and known throughout the community, we still felt the effects of the pandemic in our efforts of raising funds. However, we are not going to let this deter our spirits as we look towards the league years to come.

Another focus I took on this year was to make sure the sustaining members felt connected and involved throughout the league year. With the help and support of this year's amazing sustainer representative, Pam Klaus, and our fantastic communications chair, Annelise Puett, we worked to keep the sustainers informed through email and social media posts. This included monthly highlight emails which included the consent agenda, reminders about upcoming events and invites to meetings. Through feedback, it sounded like many of the sustainers appreciated the regular communication and some even attended events throughout the year. I hope this connection can continue as sustainers play such a vital role.

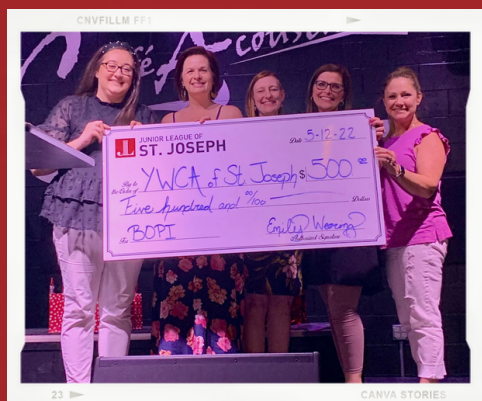
Though there are many highlights throughout the year, one of the biggest and best surprises was being notified by the News-Press that the league had been selected as the Civic Club favorite for the 2022 Reader's Choice Awards. This is such an honor to know that our hard work and dedication was noticed by the community.

I know this league year was not perfect as we experienced some bumps along the way, but I hope our members feel a sense of accomplishment for all they achieved during the year. Again, it truly has been an honor to serve in the many roles throughout my time in the league. I look forward to stepping into my new role as sustainer and cannot wait to see what our members achieve in the years to come.

2022 Reader's Choice Award



End of Year Celebration



#BCPJ Donation to the YWCA



New Member Class



Members Going Sustainer



21-22 Board and Chairs



Presidential Slate



*New Member Award
Emily Lindsay*



*Active Member Award
Gretchen Curley*



*Committee Award
Membership*

President Elect

The 2021-2022 League year has been a year of growth! We have survived a pandemic sticking together, but still 6ft apart, and are walking away so much stronger! As President Elect, I am grateful to be a part of the ad hoc committee to evaluate member engagement. Not only did we approve wonderful changes in our league but I also got to know more women in the league on a personal level.

My favorite part of this organization is the connections we are able to make with one another, the growth opportunities we experience together and the service we are able to provide!



Abby Byers

Community VP

In my role this year, I focused on building up relationships within the League to help us reestablish our identity and commitments to our missions as we continue to re-open post the height of COVID concerns. I designed and sent out JLSJ postcards to current members both encouraging them to reinvest in the League if they have been on the sidelines lately and letting them know how much we notice and appreciate their hard work if they have been strong contributors. This small effort saw positive feedback in reconnecting members to the League after so much separation and isolation.

In my role to support the Vice President, I was a part of the ad hoc committee focused on revising our bylaws and restructuring our organization to reflect the needs of our current members and look forward to more sustainable membership in the future. The resulting proposition of changes was approved and accepted by the League this spring and will shift us into a more service-based approach with attention to spreading out our time lines and encouraging longer membership. I'm excited to see these changes, hopefully, make the League more accessible for members and help us, overall, be more effective in our efforts to meet our goals in the coming years.

I worked with the President and Vice President in making the difficult decision to omit our Community Grants this year due to insufficient funds post COVID and instead put what funds we could towards establishing a scholarship. This scholarship was sent out to Missouri Western State University and Northwest Missouri State University for a female candidate who is going into the education field to help her establish her classroom and/or further her own education because we recognize the significant impact one good teacher can have and we felt like this was the most impactful way to use the small funds available to us this year. We also drafted a scholarship for both graduating high school female seniors going to college and other formal post-



Stephanie Ofsharick

Community VP cont.

so that next year, should we have the funds, our community grants initiatives could go to directly impact supporting our reestablished identity in service-based missions.

I facilitated the JLSJ's nominations for the 2022 YWCA's Women of Excellence Awards. Congratulations to our chosen members:

Andrea Cole - Women in the Workplace

Emily Lindsay - Women in Volunteerism

Tona Williams - Women in Leadership

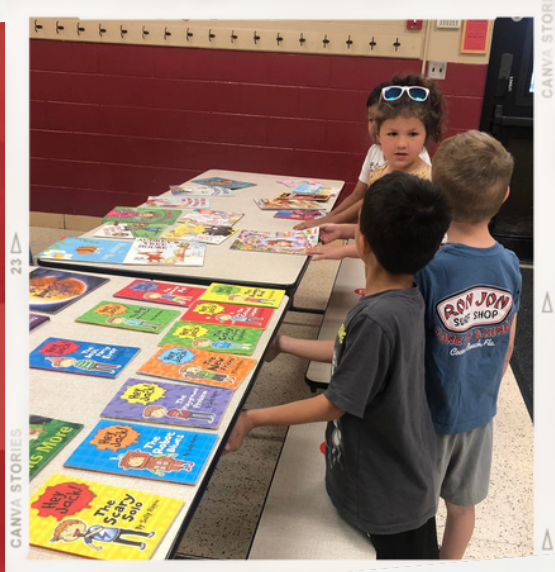
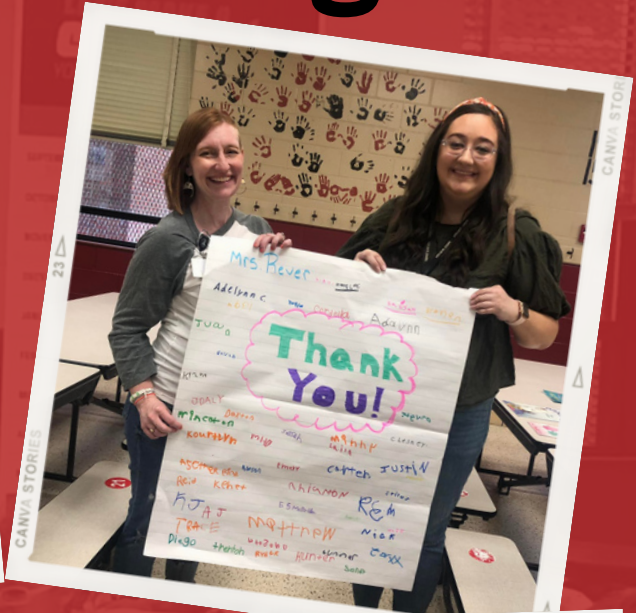
Samijo Mitchell - Emerging Leaders

However, I missed the nomination application deadline so our nominees are not being recognized this year at the Women of Excellence Luncheon, but will be kept for next year's selection process. I feel rotten about this, but that doesn't change the real excellence of these women, our members, that we recognize and acknowledge their leadership and role-modeling of the kind of organization we wish to be always.

With the support of the President, I facilitated a year-long book donation drive with the result of JLSJ adopting a Kindergarten class here in St. Joseph. We are delivering books to the Kindergartners at Hyde Elementary at the end of the school year to congratulate them on their first year of school and to let them choose their own book to take home and read over and over and over. We're really excited about this new effort in our literacy mission and I hope to continue it next year.

It is such a humbling and fulfilling experience to get to be a part of JLSJ because I'm forever seeing the ingenuity, grace, grit, and positive support of its members to and for one another as well as our community despite the obstacles, difficulties, and frustrations set before them. Well done everyone!

Adopt-a-Kindergarten



*Benton Students Who
Helped with the Giveaway*

Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary

What a great Junior League Year!!! This year the roles of Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary were combined. As the Corresponding Secretary, I maintained the league roster on AJLI and continued to send birthday cards to our sustainers. As Recording Secretary, I was responsible for recording our Board minutes and General Membership minutes.

A special thank you is in order to Brittany Hagenhoff for taking notes at meetings I was not able to be in person at. I look forward to what the Junior League has in store and all of the new changes!



Jana Campbell

Treasurer

This was my second year serving as the Treasurer of the Junior League of St. Joseph. The year started off quite busy, as usual, as we collected registrations and sponsorships for the Pony Express Run. Abby Patterson, Terra James, and myself communicated frequently to make sure sponsorships, race registrations, and bills to hold the race were organized, paid, and deposited into our race account. After all of the race expenses were paid, I was able to transfer \$7,000 to our general account to be used for League expenses. The League also donated \$2,500 of our race proceeds to the United Way of St. Joseph at the dinner meeting in December.

The League made the decision to not award Community grants this year.

Due to upcoming changes in the organization of the League, we were delayed in creating the budget for next year until the end of April. There are many changes between the budget for this year and next year to meet the League's new vision and organization.

One of the changes made for the upcoming year was to remove the \$300 race sponsorship requirement for members. Along with this change, the active member dues for 2022-23 have been increased to \$150. I sent out dues invoices on April 1st. The role of Treasurer will be changing to a shared role between a VP of Finance and an Assistant VP of Finance for the next League year.



Marietta Reynolds

Volunteer Coordinator

For the 2021/2022 League year, the Active and New Members of the Junior League of St Joseph contributed over 648, and counting, hours of community service. We were able to volunteer regularly at Second Harvest and the YWCA's GRIT Center. We also had our annual volunteer opportunities through the Pony Express Run and Cinderella's Closet. Our New Members spent countless hours making the Hope Totes project a success.

This year our members contributed:

- Just under 128 hours to Second Harvest
- Almost 230 hours to Cinderella's Closet
- 190 hours to the Pony Express Run (which doesn't include the hours put in by our Ways and Means Committee)
- 19 hours to the YWCA

I have greatly enjoyed my time as the Volunteer Coordinator and look forward to seeing the Junior League of St Joseph continue to impact our community in positive ways.



Brittany Hagenhoff

Service In Our Community



Pumpkinfest



Valentine Bags for YWCA



Social Welfare Board Run/Walk



Second Harvest Community Food Bank



Playground Cleanup



Holiday with a Hero Donation



Arrangements

The Arrangements Committee for the 2021-2022 league year was chaired by Erin Ousley with the support of Erica Walker as Assistant Chair. Despite continued concerns about meeting attendance due to the global pandemic, we kicked off the League year with in-person meetings (offering a Zoom option, of course) starting at the United Way in September. In addition to hearing about our partner's important work in the community we also spent some time socializing while stuffing race packets for the 2021 PER.

October's meeting at the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion featured a women's health panel who talked about critical issues such as mental health, Alzheimer's awareness, and women's health services for low-income residents. Other 2021-2022 meetings took us to Interserv, the Bartlett Center, and the YWCA.



Erin Ousley

Meetings



Bartlett Center



Christmas Dinner at the Country Club



Women's Health Panel at Wyeth-Tootle



InterServ



YWCA and Black Out Poverty Initiative

Membership

This was an amazing year for Membership. We have 6 new members this year. They have taken the Junior League by storm. They stepped up in all areas and had a lot of personal growth.

We started off the year thinking of still safe ways to raise money for Hope Totes. The group successfully completed multiple fundraisers at different locations including Panera, Panda Express, Taco John's and Baskin Robbins. We don't have a final total just yet, but we have raised around \$350.00.

These women have set the bar high on volunteering. They attend more events and really gave the other Active Members something to be proud of. When someone needs something, they are the first to jump in to help. You will find them at Cinderella's Closet, The GRIT Center, Second Harvest and many more.

Becoming true best friends and sisters has been a huge part of the success. Each month we do something together. We have been to AR Workshop making art pieces and blankets. At Christmas we decided to make Christmas shirts together. Then the following week we went to dinner at the Ground Round wearing our creations. There were bells, snow globes, and even a Christmas pineapple shirt. We did a gift exchange of random things from our homes we wanted to get rid of. We laughed and just had a blast. The ladies and I do dinner nights and just found ways to connect. Our group text message keeps us informed on meeting dates. We used it to talk about positive things in our lives and send funny things that happen. It's also become a way that when someone needed a pick me up, others were there to help.

These women have stepped up to further the Junior League's mission. They are now taking on offices, getting involved in other community organizations, and showing what happens when women bond together to help each other out. I'm so excited to see what they become in their journeys.



Tana Williams

Activities



best
houses just like the



IN THE
magic
CHRISTMAS

Communications

This past year as the Communications Chair has been nothing short of exciting! From learning more about the League, to pushing my own boundaries and learning what works best to reach our audience on Facebook and Instagram, the word that comes to mind is growth. We have grown our social media following tremendously, and average 500+ views on the majority of our posts (simply put: for a small organization, that's great!!).

Some things I am most proud of this year include: introducing our JLSJ active members through #WHOISTHATJLSJ MEMBER, JLSJ Out & About to showcase what we are doing in the community, helping promoting the new member's fundraising initiatives, and sharing pictures of our involvement over the past year.

It is bittersweet for the 2021-2022 League year to come to a close, but luckily, I'm not going far for '22-'23! I'm excited to continue the social media work into next year as the Public Relations Director (same functions, new name!) for JLSJ!



Annelise Puett



Junior League of St. Joseph

@juniorleagueofst.joseph

Cinderella's Closet

Cinderella's Closet had another amazing year of gifting formal dresses and accessories to local girls. Fall of 2021, we helped 34 girls find dresses, shoes and accessories for the annual Military Ball.

Before we reopened for the 2022 prom season, the Cinderella's Closet committee rearranged the space to allow for a better flow of traffic and ease to move through our inventory. We had numerous giveaways where girls made 60-minute appointments for a one-on-one shopping experience with a Junior League member. This allowed our girls to have a true boutique shopping experience. During the prom season, we were able to gift prom dresses, shoes and accessories to 65 girls.

This year we continued our partnership with Maurices, in the East Hills Shopping Center, and the AFL-CIO. Both organizations collected dozens and dozens of dresses and accessories for us over the year. If you have any items you would like to donate, please take them to one of the two locations listed above.



Gretchen Curley



Nominating & Placement

The purpose of my committee is to evaluate and place league members for the upcoming year based on responses and level of interest. The goal is to provide our members with a placement that both benefits the League and maximizes members' experience.

During the first part of the league year, a Fall Interview was conducted to help determine those who are interested in leadership roles for the next year as well as answer some questions and collect feedback to better assist the executive board. Members were encouraged to provide feedback on ways they think the league is succeeding in our efforts through the community as well as how the league could improve in fulfilling the needs of those who we help. These responses are great resources for the President-Elect and Vice-President when planning the league calendar for next year. The obstacle and feedback I was given in collecting this information was that new members were not familiar enough or knew the outstanding members well enough to place and didn't quite understand the process or positions. With the Fall Interview, it was difficult in receiving responses after given ample time and explanations of positions. Other members feedback included not feeling comfortable in making the decision on who should be on the upcoming years executive board.

This year was an exciting one with BIG changes to improve member participation and involvement. Structural changes to member roles, committees and leadership were voted upon and passed to the 2022-2023 league year bylaws. Instead of interviews, members are now allowed to submit their names for a position they want to hold for the next league year. Then in the April GMM, the members vote on which peer would best suit that league position. After the roles were voted on and filled, the members not placed in a leadership role were placed on committees that they were interested in.

With this being my 7th year serving in the League, I have made the decision to go sustainer. It's been amazing being a part of the league's growth and development over the years. I look forward to continuing my involvement and support representing the league as a sustainer. Cheers to all the current and future members and to many more years of momentous accomplishment and milestones in the St. Joseph Community.



Ashley Vidal

Public Issues

This year the Public Issues Committee opted to host a Women's Leadership Panel in lieu of the traditional Wine About Public Issues event.

The event was hosted at Room 108 and was a great success thanks to our panelists: Tammy Killin (President of YWCA), Natalie Redmond (President and CEO of St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce), Kylee Strough (President of St. Joseph United Way), and Terri Modlin (CEO of Felix Street Gourmet and Room 108). The night featured dynamic discussion about what it takes to be a leader, resources women can lean on to expand their leadership qualities, and how we can help support more women in our community into leadership roles.



Abby O'Malley



Education & Community Outreach

This was a great "comeback" year for Junior League's volunteerism as we eased out of COVID restrictions, and I think we did a great job at getting back to being involved in our community! As Community Outreach chair, I was responsible for reaching out to the various partner organizations we work with to determine their volunteering needs or ways we can assist them in the upcoming league year. On a regular basis, our members volunteered at the YWCA GRIT Center and the Second Harvest Food Bank. We also assisted with one-off events like Pumpkinfest, Second Harvest's City-Wide Food Drive, the Social Welfare Board's Giving Hope Fundraiser, cleaning out and organizing the YWCA Childcare Center, and the Outlaw Adventure Run. I greatly appreciated Brittany Hagenhoff's assistance as Volunteer Coordinator as we worked together to set up volunteer opportunities with these partner organizations.

I also chaired the Educational and Development committee, which had a "Blue Zones" focus this year. This year's committee was Andrea Cole, Mindy Paden, and Noreen Derr. In the Fall, we held a book club on Dan Buettner's book "The Blue Zones of Happiness" which highlighted certain areas of the world where people live the longest and are the most healthy. Our group was able to take a lot of ideas from the book for not only our own personal lives, but ways we can use the principles in Junior League and our community. One aspect was social networks and regular activity, so for Spring, we created walking "moais": small groups to meet up each week to walk trails in the community. Not only for our health, but also the social aspect of meeting up with league members away from meetings and volunteering to just socialize and talk with each other. In the future, we hope to bring more aspects of the Blue Zones to the Junior League and our community.

Overall, I greatly enjoyed this league year and think everyone really worked together to re-start programming, volunteering, and bring in new members so we can begin to rebuild after COVID. I am looking forward to where this next year takes us!



Barbara Ford

Ways & Means

The 2021-2022 Ways and Means Committee consisted of Abby Patterson (Chair), Terra James (Assistant Chair), Samijo Mitchell (Assistant Chair), MyChi Le, Jen Lewandowski, Nicole Messick, and Taylor Weese.

This year we hosted our annual Pony Express 5K and Half Marathon run on September 25, 2021. We had 150 runners who participated in either our in-person or virtual run. Runners started and ended their run at the Pony Express Museum. We received a lot of positive feedback from the runners, and they said they enjoyed all the cheering and encouragement from the volunteers along the race routes. Our packet pick-up was held at our Junior League space and our after-party was held at The Angry Swede Brewing Company. We also held a Cinnabon fundraiser through Auntie Anne's. We almost raised \$14,500 from sponsorships, runners, and the Cinnabon fundraiser. We donated \$2,500 back to the United Way of Greater Saint Joseph. Please look forward to our 2022 race on Saturday, September 24!

During the month of December, we held a gift-wrapping fundraiser on Saturday, December 18 at our Junior League Space. We raised a little over \$300. We hope to do this fundraiser again this upcoming league year and possibly have two dates for people to choose from.

I want to thank the League for allowing me to serve as the Ways and Means Chair for 2021-2022. It was a challenge to plan and organize a race during the pandemic, but we were able to have a fun and safe in-person race. I appreciate all the hard work from all the League members and especially all the hard work from my committee.



Abby Patterson

Pony Express Run

Saturday, September 25, 2021



Gift Wrapping



Sustainer Rep

I loved the opportunity to re-engage with the League this year! What an amazing group of ladies leading the League. Our community is fortunate to have women willing to share their time and talent to empower and improve the lives around us.

I am thankful for Emily Wearing and appreciate her leadership. When she asked me to be the Sustainer Rep, I felt a sense of pride but also nervousness - nervous I might not be able to live up to the expectations of the incredible ladies both past and present.

This year, I worked to keep sustainers informed and engaged with regular communication. Lots of positive feedback. As sustainers, we truly appreciate being included and involved. I also attended as many board, general meetings, and events (Christmas gift wrap saved me!) as I could.

We attempted to have a Fall social. We quickly realized Friday nights are NOT the night! Luckily, we rebounded with a Bingo Brunch February, 12. With my partner in crime, Abby Byers, the Brunch was a huge success and so much fun! We had awesome prizes and delicious food. Bingo cards brought in \$367, and Jake's Steakhouse generously donated \$200.

I believe we accomplished a lot and had some fun along the way! We had great success moving the League forward in 2021 - 2022, and it has been my pleasure serving as the Sustainer Rep.



Pam Klaus

Sustainer Event

Saturday, February 12, 2022



Members

Elisa Amspacher
Abby Byers
Jana Campbell
Andrea Cole
Gretchen Curley
Noreen Derr
Barbara Ford
Teresa Groshong
Brittany Hagenhoff
Stephanie Hartley Ofsharick
Terra James
Allison Kreifels
MyChi Le
Jen Lewandowski
Nicole Messick
Samijo Mitchell
Abby O'Malley
Erin Ousley
Mindy Paden
Abby Patterson
Annelise Puett
Marietta Reynolds
Metchel Rosemolen
Holly Rucker
Mindy Speer
Ashley Vidal
Erica Walker
Emily Wearing
Taylor Weese
LaTonya Williams
Tona Williams



New Members

Emily Lindsay
Traci Magee
Stefanie Mears
Megan Murray
Janelle Neczypor
Kristina Nicholson

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ST. JOSEPH

PO Box 8191

St. Joseph, MO 64508

juniorleaguesj.com

Facebook: Junior League of St. Joseph

Instagram: Junior League of St. Joseph

