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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**DENVER**

live the legacy  
give • grow • get connected

**Fall Issue**

Volume 2425 — Issue 1

A publication of the Junior League of Denver. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



*League Members Continue to Make an Impact in Denver!*

# Grow:

*to increase in size, number or degree.*



*Carson Maczuzak*

## Message from the President

Dear Members,

As we reflect on the first half of this year, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride for everything we have accomplished together. Your unwavering commitment to the Junior League of Denver's **Mission to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training** has made a difference for our membership and community.

This year marks the launch of our **2024–2029 Strategic Plan**, a roadmap to guide us as we strengthen our impact within the Denver community. Thank you for wholeheartedly embracing this work and taking meaningful steps to bring it to life. From

enhancing our training programs to elevating our community partnerships, your commitment paves the way for a brighter future.

I also want to recognize the **145 New Members** who joined JLD this year! Your energy and fresh perspectives are already making a difference. We are so excited to have you as part of our community and we cannot wait to see the incredible contributions you will make.

We have already celebrated some incredible successes, too! In June, we hosted our **fourth annual Drive for Change Golf Tournament**, and it sold out, maximizing our net revenue. Our **eighth annual L.U.V.S.** (Leaders United in Volunteer Service) day of service in September brought together about 130 members who donated more than 550 hours to nine community partners, along with providing \$9,000 in grants for various projects. Our **45th Annual Mile High Holiday Mart** in November was another triumph, raising essential funds to fulfill our Mission while offering a festive shopping experience that Denver residents look forward to every year.

The second half of the year promises even more opportunities for growth, learning and impact. Save the date for **The Journey 2025 on Friday, March 7**, as we will be coming together at Mile High Station for a Moonlight Masquerade! We will also offer opportunities to engage in the community through our Done in a Day shifts, our **annual Day at the Capitol on March 13**, General Meetings and much more.

Thank you for being the heart of the Junior League of Denver. Your passion and dedication inspire us all, and I am so grateful to be part of this amazing community with you.

With gratitude,

**Carson Maczuzak**  
2024–2025 JLD President  
president@jld.org

# Welcome to our 2024–2025 Board of Directors & Advisory Board



## 2024–2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President:** Carson Maczuzak
- President-Elect:** Emily Thibault
- Treasurer:** Megan Severs
- Secretary:** Fleming Longino
- Communications VP:** Shannon LaBay
- Community VP:** Katie Davis
- Finance & Ops VP:** Barbara Bible
- Fundraising VP:** Alexis McClain
- Membership VP:** Yunnice Webb
- Public Policy VP:** Brenda Garcia
- Sustainer VP:** Kim Tatsch
- Training VP:** Winnie DuBois

## 2024–2025 ADVISORY BOARD

- Communications VP-Elect:**  
Dayna McLaughlin
- Community VP-Elect:** Tiffany Walker
- Fundraising VP-Elect:** Kristina Zwettler
- Membership VP-Elect:** Adair McDonald
- Public Policy VP-Elect:** Ellie Venafro
- Training VP-Elect:** Liz Coolman
- Sustainer VP-Elect:** Edrie O'Brien
- Board Manager:** Maryanne Flynn
- Nominating Chair:** Alyssa Russo
- Immediate Past President:** Claire Juneau
- Brick Campaign Special Committee:**  
Melissa Boucher
- Member Essentials Special Committee:**  
Melinda Fisher & Alicia Wagner

# Give:

*to present voluntarily and without expecting compensation.*



*About 130 members volunteered for our annual day of service.*

## Eighth Annual JLD L.U.V.S. Day of Service



## 2024 L.U.V.S. Partners

The Blue Bench

Brent's Place

Dress for Success Denver

Florence Crittenton Services

Girls Inc. of Metro Denver

MotherWise Colorado

PorchLight — A Family Justice Center

A Precious Child

Reach Out and Read Colorado

Our annual Leaders United in Volunteer Service (L.U.V.S.) themed “Pathways to Progress” was a great success! L.U.V.S. is a day devoted to coming together and supporting our Mission with our nonprofit partners throughout the Denver metro area.

On September 14, approximately 130 members volunteered with nine community partners, demonstrating the power of unity and collaboration. Their collective efforts, contributing more than 550 hours to the community in one day, are a testament to the strength of our JLD community. The League also granted each nonprofit \$1,000.

Reflecting on the day, Catherine Lepie, 2024 L.U.V.S. Co-Chair said, “Leaders United in Volunteer Service (L.U.V.S.) highlights a beautiful commitment to community and collaboration. Dedicating a day to support nonprofits in the Denver metro area demonstrates leadership, compassion, and teamwork in action. It’s inspiring to see so many JLD members uniting for the common good and positively impacting their community.”

Members met at Joy Hill for an after-party to celebrate. Thank you to our 2024 JLD L.U.V.S. Co-Chairs, **Catherine Lepie** and **Molly Grewal**, their entire committee, and ALL members who came out to give the gift of time.

## Anne W. Douden Leaves Lasting Legacy

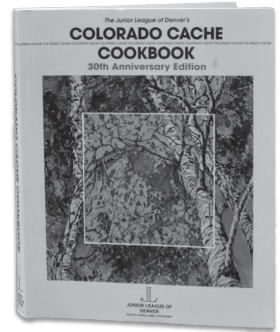
Our hearts ache to inform you that former JLD member **Anne Douden** passed away on August 27, 2024. Anne was the illustrator for our *Colorado Cache* cookbook, creating the gorgeous drawings throughout that are imprinted in the minds of all who use the famed recipes. Released in 1978, *Colorado Cache* is the Junior League of Denver's all-time best-selling cookbook, with 1.1 million copies sold and counting.

Affectionately referred to as Annie, she was an artist and skilled high-altitude gardener. She was known for her empathy, compassion, and kindness to others, making everyone she encountered feel "seen." Annie worked as a professional artist for many years, contributing to exhibits and projects at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Denver Botanic Gardens, and others.

**Marty Segelke**, JLD Past President 1978–79, had this to say about Annie. "What a love! No one was nicer than Annie Douden. It was always so much fun to see her and catch up with her latest activities. No grass grew under her feet. She was active, engaged, committed and enthusiastic about what she chose to do. God created a fine person who was so talented and willingly shared her talents with others. Her art shines in the iconic first Junior League of Denver cookbook, *Colorado Cache*. Its profits spread wide and deep for the benefit of others in the community, something she would like. Everyone loved this sweet and gentle soul. So sad to read that she is gone; I am a better person for knowing her and so thankful she was in my life."



*Anne W. Douden*



## 45th Annual Mile High Holiday Mart a Success!

Thank you to our Mile High Holiday Mart Steering Committee, committee members, JLD Staff members and all 188 volunteers who pitched in League-wide to ensure our largest fundraising event ran smoothly. A huge thank you also goes out to our wonderful 120+ merchants, sponsors and shoppers. We couldn't do it without your support!

Congratulations to our Mile High Holiday Mart Co-Chairs, **Caryne Mesquita** and **Leona Hunter**, as well as their entire team for their hard work on the event! We appreciate and value their time and dedication.

Finally, our Mile High Holiday Mart Preview Party, Libations for the League, was also a smashing success! After expenses, we raised more than \$16,000. Thank you to **Madeline Stull**, Mile High Holiday Mart Special Event Chair, along with her committee and all volunteers involved in bringing such a fun event to life!



*Leona Hunter and Caryne Mesquita with the FIRST Holiday Mart Chair and Past President, Kay Johnson.*

# Get connected:

*join together to provide access and exchange.*



*Brenda & Jalyn Garcia  
volunteering at Brent's  
Place*

## JLD Offers Familial, Community Connection

“Connection” is a word used often by JLD members. This year, the word has special meaning for two of those members: **Brenda Garcia**, our Public Policy VP, and her daughter, **Jalyn Garcia**, one of our 145 New Members. The mother-daughter duo represents both ends of the member status spectrum, one a proud Board member and the other just beginning her League journey.

Jalyn said her mother was obviously a big influence on her decision to join. “She talks so highly about the League and has formed so many great connections. I wanted to be a part of that,” Jalyn said. Brenda shared her excitement to connect with her daughter and said she is “glad to see that Jalyn has joined and will be able to experience an amazing community of women coming together and making a difference in the Denver community.”

Like many members, both mother and daughter joined the League for connection and community involvement. Brenda, a member since 2018, had just moved with her family to Colorado and sought a way to meet new people and make a difference in the community. During her New Member year, she participated in the L.U.V.S. day of service, and the experience made her want to join the committee. She served as L.U.V.S. Co-Chair for two years before joining Public Policy Council.

Jalyn, a 2024 graduate of CU Denver, was eager to continue the volunteer work she had done throughout her childhood and in high school. She also participated in L.U.V.S. as a New Member in September and was joined by Brenda for the day at Brent's Place. The New Member year is a busy time fulfilling requirements, trying new things, and most importantly, having fun. Brenda's advice for New Members is to “be curious, willing to learn, and resilient in your journey. What you put into it is what you will get out of it.” Jalyn intends to heed her mother's words and over the next few months, as she is looking forward to attending more events and learning more about the League so that she can weigh her options for a future placement.

Jalyn also appreciates the additional opportunity to connect and spend time with her mom as fellow League members. “She's so fun and creates a sense of belonging with anyone she meets,” Jalyn said. As a Board member and League leader, Brenda encourages other members to do the same and foster a community of belonging by being inclusive, thoughtful and open-minded. “Lead with an outward mindset and allow yourself to be vulnerable,” she said.

It's evident that Brenda is a proud mom and hopes the best for Jalyn, and all members, in their League journey. There is a place for everyone in JLD to thrive and grow. Brenda added, “You can always reinvent yourself by trying something new. It's never too late to get involved.”

# THE JOURNEY

## Moonlight Masquerade

**WHEN:** Friday, March 7, 2025  
Event begins at 6 pm

**WHERE:** Mile High Station

**TICKETS:** Visit [JLD.org](http://JLD.org) for details

Featuring a Moonlight Masquerade theme, guests will enjoy drinks, delicious food, live entertainment, and fantastic live and silent auctions. Proceeds support our Mission to empower women to become civic leaders and impactful community volunteers, as well as our community work to disrupt the cycle of systemic poverty for women and families in Denver. Learn more at [JLD.org](http://JLD.org).



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#JLD #TheJourney2025



*Attendees enjoying The Journey 2024*

## The Journey 2025: Moonlight Masquerade

The Junior League of Denver is thrilled to invite you to The Journey on Friday, March 7 at Mile High Station! Now in its 13th year, we're setting the stage for an enchanting evening with a Moonlight Masquerade theme.

Prepare for an unforgettable night of elegance and intrigue as we gather to celebrate our Mission to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

### Your ticket includes:

- Cocktail Hour: Sip on handcrafted drinks and mingle with JLD members and supporters.
- Dinner: Indulge in a delectable meal, with wine provided by Blanchard Family Wines, our JLD Preferred Wine Partner.
- Live Entertainment after a Mission-focused program.

Tickets are on sale now, so secure your spot for this magical evening! All proceeds from The Journey will support our Mission, along with the League's programs and initiatives aimed at disrupting the cycle of systemic poverty for women and families in Denver.

Don't miss the chance to make an impact while enjoying a night of glamour and giving.

Reserve your tickets/tables today and join us for an unforgettable celebration. We can't wait to see you there! Questions? Email [journey@jld.org](mailto:journey@jld.org).

## Save the Dates for Upcoming JLD Happenings

### February 7–8:

Get On Board Training

### February 10–March 3:

Leadership Registration

### February 12:

February General Meeting (virtual)

### March 7:

13th Annual Journey Fundraiser

### March 13:

JLD Day at the Capitol and March General Meeting

### March 19–April 20:

Spring Lottery Registration

**April 5:** Saturday with Sustainers General Meeting

**May 13:** End of Year General Meeting

### June 22:

Fifth Annual Drive for Change Golf Tournament



### **JLD Staff**

*Vanessa Banker, Communications Director, ext. 114  
Lauren Weller, Accounting Director, ext. 109  
Celeste Sims, Operations Manager, ext. 100*

### **JLD Headquarters**

**Junior League of Denver**  
1301 S. Washington St., Denver, CO 80210  
**phone:** 303.692.0270  
**email:** [info@jld.org](mailto:info@jld.org)  
**web:** [JLD.org](http://JLD.org)  
**hours:** Monday thru Friday 9 am–4 pm

### **Mission**

The Junior League of Denver, Inc. (founded in 1918), is an organization of women whose Mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

**Community Focus:** The Junior League of Denver is working to disrupt the cycle of systemic poverty for women and families in Denver.

**Vision:** The Junior League: Women Around the World as Catalysts for Lasting Community Change.

**Values:** Diversity, Collaboration, Community, Empowerment, Leadership, Respect, Service.



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
DENVER**

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