



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
DENVER

live the legacy
give • grow • get connected

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



Thank You for Sharing Your Time and Treasure This Year!

Grow:

to increase in size, number or degree.



Carson Maczuzak

Message from the President

As we reflect on the past year, I'm filled with immense gratitude and excitement for all we have accomplished together during our 106th year. This was the first year of implementing our 2024-2029 Strategic Plan. With bold goals and a shared vision, **we embraced new opportunities to further our Mission** to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

Our first strategic goal, **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB)**, has guided every step we've taken this year. We've made intentional strides to infuse DEIB principles into our leadership development, community programming and membership experience. We recognize that belonging is more than participation;

it is the deep feeling of security and support that comes when members know they are accepted, included and valued for who they are. Creating this environment has been a key focus across all levels of the League, ensuring every member feels they have a place and a voice here.

Our second goal, **Organizational Perception and Awareness**, has energized our external presence. We have elevated the visibility of the JLD brand across the Denver metro community, sharing more stories that showcase the incredible ways our members lead, serve and inspire change. Through our media partnerships, fundraising events, Public Policy Council and community engagement, we have amplified the message that the Junior League of Denver is a powerhouse of women's leadership driving meaningful community impact.

Through our third goal, **Leadership Transition and Committee Onboarding**, we worked diligently to ensure every member has the tools and resources they need to thrive. We introduced new training materials, hosted a Rise to Lead leadership series, and provided committee resources to empower our volunteers at every stage of their journey. This investment strengthens not only our committees but also the future of our organization, as more women step into roles where they can grow as leaders.

Our fourth goal, **Intra-League Collaboration**, has brought fresh energy to how we work together. By improving communication and collaboration between leaders, members and staff, we have unlocked creative opportunities and built stronger connections across the League. This spirit of teamwork allows us to amplify our efforts, innovate, and better serve both our members and the community.

As we look back, I invite each of you to consider your personal legacy with the Junior League of Denver. **How do you Give, how do you Grow, and how do you Get Connected?** Whether you give your time, your voice, or your resources; whether you grow your skills, your confidence, or your network; whether you connect through friendships, shared purpose, or service — you are shaping the future of the JLD. Together, we are building an organization where women lead, communities thrive and every member belongs.

continued »

Thank you all for your dedication, your passion, and your belief in the power of women’s leadership. Here’s to another year of growth, connection and impact!

With immense gratitude,



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

Community, Public Policy, Training



COMMUNITY STATS:

- Grants/Cash Donations: \$58K
- Drives & Donations: \$870
- Volunteer Hours: 2,992
- Meals Served: 4,206
- Books Distributed: 3,268
- Children Served: 7,874
- Adults Served: 10,130



TRAINING STATS:

- Total Trainings: 35
- Virtual trainings: 12
- In-person trainings: 23
- Total attendance across all 35 events: 1,513
- Actives Plus Participants: 35
- Leadership Development Program Graduates: 13
- Get on Board Graduates: 33



PUBLIC POLICY STATS

- Named Rep. Lorena Garcia 2025 Legislator of the Year
- Tracked 19 bills and two ballot initiatives
- Level 1’s: 7 (bill package below counts as one)

Level 1 Ballot Initiatives — 2024 Session

- Proposition KK Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax
- Amendment 79 Constitutional Right to Abortion

Level 1 Priority Bills — 2025 Session

- SB25-118 Health Insurance Prenatal Care No Cost Sharing
- SB25-169 Restaurant Meals Program
- HB25-1274, Healthy School Meals for All Program
- SB25-144 Change Paid Family Medical Leave Insurance Program

“Reproductive Care without Barriers” Bill Package

- SB25-129 Legally Protected Health-Care Activity Protections
- SB25-130 Providing Emergency Medical Services
- SB25-183 Coverage for Pregnancy-Related Services

Give:

*to present voluntarily and
without expecting compensation.*

More Than \$50,000 Raised at The Journey 2025



Left to right: Carson Maczuzak, Katie Woslager, Mekialaya White, Jenny Simpson

On the evening of Friday, March 7, members, friends and sponsors gathered for our 13th annual Journey event at Mile High Station. Attendees enjoyed socializing and an impactful program featuring two community speakers. **Linda Skelley from The Gathering Place** and **Marnie Kamensky from Three Birds Alliance** (formerly Gateway Domestic Violence Services) spoke about our highly impactful partnerships to help Denver residents. Hearing their stories reiterated why the League provides both monetary and volunteer resources to our community partners. Featuring a Moonlight Masquerade theme, attendees wore their favorite masks, and the evening concluded with an afterparty celebration at Iron Works featuring live entertainment from **Wash Park Band**.

A special thank you goes out to The Journey 2025 Co-Chairs, **Jenny Simpson** and **Katie Woslager**, along with all Journey Committee and Fundraising Council members for their tireless work. Thank you to CBS News Colorado's **Mekialaya White** for serving as our wonderful emcee for the evening, along with **Halie Behr** for being our incredible auctioneer.

Thank you to all Board and JLD Staff members who contributed to the event, along with the team of volunteers who signed up to work shifts to ensure The Journey ran smoothly. A huge thank you also goes out to our wonderful sponsors! Finally, thank you to all attendees for purchasing tickets, bidding on silent and live auction items and raising those paddles. We are humbled by your generosity. A wonderful time was had by all, and **we raised about \$54,000 in net proceeds**. Questions? Email journey@jld.org.

Get connected:

join together to provide access and exchange.

Member Spotlight: Jenny Rementer

After moving to Highlands Ranch and newly married in 2014, **Jenny Rementer** joined the Junior League of Denver to find community, give back and discover what she was good at. Eleven years later, she's done all that and more.

"I was looking for like-minded women, but also flexibility—JLD offered that," Jenny shares. Over time, her focus shifted from uncertainty around children's literacy to embracing it fully—especially once she had kids of her own.

One of her most memorable placements was on the *Centennial Celebrations* Cookbook Testing Committee. "We tested recipes three times—I still talk to some of those women," she recalls. Her favorite part? Recipe testing for Cake Night. "We tasted 10 cakes in one night—brunch, breads, desserts—it was amazing!" Beyond taste testing, Jenny dove into the world of publishing, learning the ins and outs of photo shoots and marketing.

Outside of cookbooks, Jenny has grown close with her JLD community. "My New Member group still gets together. We even had a happy hour recently!" she says. "It's nice being around women who are organized, passionate and have varied interests."

Her JLD experience has been very transferable to other parts of her life. A past fundraising co-coordinator for her MomCo group, formally known as MOPS, she credits JLD with teaching her how to fundraise, organize large events and partner effectively with businesses and schools. "I came in knowing how to write a compelling email and how to negotiate a sponsorship."

Jenny also emphasizes the League's flexibility. After having three kids in five years, she temporarily shifted to Sustainer status. "It's okay to take a break and come back when you're ready," she said. "The League is understanding and fluid."

Her advice to fellow members? "League life is what you make of it. It's okay to scale back and return when the time is right. You'll always be welcomed back."



Jenny Rementer & Family

Save the Dates for Upcoming JLD Happenings!

July 15: New Member Application Deadline

September 20: JLD L.U.V.S. Day of Service

October 6: Wine & Ballots

November 14–16: 46th Annual Mile High Holiday Mart





End of Year General Meeting & Awards

Members gathered at Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus, where we held our first GM in September, to celebrate the end of our 2024–25 League year. We recognized members through end of year awards, presented grants to our community granting recipients, passed the gavel to Emily Thibault, our 2025–26 President and more! Congratulations to Carson Maczuzak for completing a very successful year as 2024–25 President.

Shining Star Awards

September: Amy Lopez
October: Kailey Petro
November: Haydan Smith
December: Mandy Stahl
February: Michelle Malone
April: Kathleen Maloney
May: Maryanne Flynn

Outstanding New Member

Lia Moran

Outstanding Transfer

Kim Vo

Outstanding Sustainer

Lynn Stout

Outstanding Committee

New Member Recruitment & Course

Spirit of Service Award

Kelly Campbell

Outstanding Volunteer

Haydan Smith

President's Cup

Annual Campaign Committee

10 Years of Active Service

Robin Andersen
 Meagan Burgio
 Melissa Boucher
 Liz Coolman
 Fleming Longino
 Adair McDonald
 Emily Messegee
 Kelsey Rogstad
 Alexis Thompson
 Danielle Touart
 Angela Visser
 Tiffany Walker

Community Granting Recipients

- Dress for Success Denver: \$15,000
- Focus Points Family Resource Center: \$5,000
- Hope House Colorado: \$10,000

Annual JLD Day at the Capitol

JLD's annual Day at the Capitol was a huge success! Our members met up in "the people's house" to talk with legislators, watch debates on the House and Senate floors, learn from political insiders about running for office, and tour the Colorado State Capitol building.

A few highlights from the day:

- Starting at 7:30 am, more than 40 JLD members met with **30 legislators** at our Legislative Breakfast. They advocated for bills supported by JLD, including SB25-129, SB25-130, SB25-183, and SB25-118.
- Our lobbying team, **Aponté & Busam**, also helped several League members join the Senate floor with an amazing introduction of the JLD from Senate President **James Coleman**! Senator **Jeff Bridges** also personally thanked the JLD team for our support of his bills, SB25-118 and SB25-144.
- The March GM was held just a few blocks away! Members took time out of the middle of their day to hear both progressive and conservative perspectives on running for office, thanks to guest speakers **Elena Martinez-Vivot** and **Holly Osborne Horn**. These women inspired us all to contemplate whether we are READY (Realistic, Experienced, Able, Dedicated, and your "Y") to run. Several members then went on a tour of the Capitol, led by Capitol staff.

Special thanks to VP **Brenda Garcia**, VP-E **Ellie Venafro**, the Public Policy Events Committee, Development Committee, and our lobbying partners Aponté & Busam, for all their hard work to make JLD member voices heard! Questions? Email publicpolicy@jld.org.



*Left to right:
Tori Divita, Linden
Northern, Dayna
McLaughlin, Kristina
Zwettler*

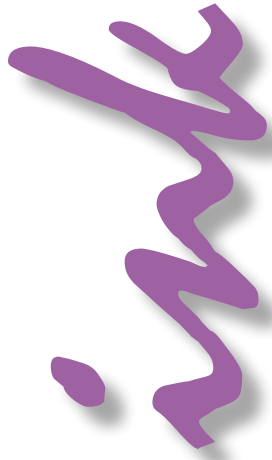
Celebrating the Life of Dana Crawford

Award-winning Colorado developer and preservationist **Dana Crawford** passed away on January 23 at the age of 93. Dana was a member of the Junior League of Denver for a short time in her earlier years, something we are very proud and honored to recognize. She was a young mother with children when she joined the League. Dana spearheaded a JLD bazaar-style fundraiser at University Hills, and it was so successful that for many years she attributed this experience to kick-starting her interest in raising money.

In the 1960s, Dana pioneered the redevelopment of Denver's historic Larimer Square, creating a market area to shop and congregate within neglected and abandoned buildings of Denver's original main street, inspiring hundreds of other communities across the country to do the same. Since the 1960s, Dana redeveloped more than 800,000 square feet of historic property in Denver, later turning her attention to historic districts in Idaho Springs and Trinidad. We mourn her passing and celebrate her incredible legacy. She was a true visionary, and her life's work to preserve Denver's historic architecture will live on for many years to come.



Dana Crawford



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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.



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#JLD

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