The Junior League of Baton Rouge, Inc. 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.

**Mission**

The Junior League of Baton Rouge, Inc. will enhance the quality of life in the Baton Rouge community in the areas of health, education and cultural development.
A Message from Lissa Fry Weston  
President, Junior League of Baton Rouge, 2008-2009

As I look back at my twelve months as President of Junior League of Baton Rouge, it’s hard to believe all we accomplished. Then again, each and every day our 1,800 active and sustaining members amaze and astonish me with their hard work and dedication to building a better community for the men, women and children of Baton Rouge. Today, Junior League is more than 78 years old, yet it is more relevant and vibrant than ever.

Staying true to our mission, this year we again provided our members with real-time, hands-on training in management, strategic planning, marketing, public relations, fund development, research, community activism and more. We know these lessons benefit our members personally and professionally, empowering them as they devote time, talent and treasure to the nonprofit fabric that supports Baton Rouge.

While Junior League members were busy learning, they were also busier than ever raising critical funds through social enterprise projects and supporting our nonprofit partners. During the 2008-2009 calendar year, we raised over $415,000 through Hollydays: Shopping for a Cause and sales of the River Road Recipes-cookbook series. These development efforts and your critical support allowed us to invest in 14 community projects. We also awarded $38,103 through our Community Assistance Fund Grants to another 18 nonprofits. (You can find details of our Community Outreach and Grants within this annual report.) And we didn’t stop there. Our members rolled up their sleeves to volunteer for our partner organizations for more than 37,000 hours, an additional investment in the community of $720,000.

While these statistics are impressive, it is the stories of our impact on the community each and every month of the year that really illustrate what Junior League is all about. I wish I could share all the details, but here are a few highlights: Our Ready Hands committee cooked for a cause to provide hot dinners and peanut butter and jelly lunches for the men, women and children at the Volunteers of America homeless shelter. Ready Hands also made Halloween treat bags for families living with HIV/AIDS, delivered poinsettias and baked holiday treats for the residents at Sunrise Center, and made prom dreams come true through the Cinderella Project dress drives in the spring. The Opening Doors for Autism committee made life easier for families faced with the challenges of an autism diagnosis. They assessed community needs, compiled resources, researched, planned parent and professional seminars, and wrote and distributed a resource guide. And our TLC for Caregivers committee planned social and educational events for those who care for loved ones living with Alzheimer’s. I could go on and on…but I’ll just say I couldn’t be prouder of every member of Junior League for making such a big difference in so many lives.

In addition, I appreciate our Board of Directors’ commitment to tackle issues relating to diversity within Junior League with the assistance of Dr. Katrice Albert of LSU. Following AJLI’s lead, we are researching, planning and developing our first Diversity and Cultural Inclusion committee. Our work in the areas of diversity and cultural inclusion will energize our efforts in the Baton Rouge community.

Thank you for an exceptional year and the gift of working with such gifted and committed women. I can’t wait to see what Junior League has in store for the future.

Lissa Fry Weston
The collective woman-power of the Junior League is incredible. I support them because their ongoing contributions to the arts, education and physical health of this city are invaluable.

– Scott Berg
Vice President Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry and member of Community Advisory Board
In 1901, a 19-year-old NYC debutante with a social conscience founded the first Junior League Chapter. Today there are over 160,000 AJLI members and 292 Leagues in 4 countries. The Junior League of Baton Rouge is the 15th largest league in the world!

Like Junior League members throughout the world, members of The Junior League of Baton Rouge volunteer together to meet the urgent needs of our community. In fact, our surveys tell us the number one reason women join the JLBR is to serve our community and make a positive impact on lives! We should be proud that each year our members provide thousands of hours of valuable time to enhance the physical health, education and cultural development within the Greater Baton Rouge area.

Here are just a few facts that you might not know about today's Junior League of Baton Rouge:

- Hollydays “Shopping for a Cause” Market is visited by more than 12,500 shopping guests a year! The market raises over $415,000 for our community programming, mission-based activities, and has an economic impact to the city of Baton Rouge of more than $5 million a year.
- The River Road Recipes series, first published 50 years ago, has sold 1.97 million copies allowing us to return more than $3 million back to the Baton Rouge community.
- Established in 1999, the current value of our Endowment Fund exceeds $1 million. What an awesome way to “Leave your Legacy” to the Junior League of Baton Rouge!
- 78% of our membership works professionally outside the home, 95% graduated from college, and 46% have obtained graduate degrees. As our membership’s demographics change, the Junior League of Baton Rouge continues to provide our membership with engaging volunteer and training opportunities.
- Last year, while supporting 14 individual Community Projects, we devoted more than 37,000 volunteer hours (a market value of $720,000) and positively impacted 60,000 men, women and children.
- The Community Assistance Fund (CAF), founded in 1980, has distributed over $630,000 since its inception. The Fund assists nonprofit agencies with specific, short-term monetary needs.

The JLBR is proud to have “founded” these programs:
- Baton Rouge Speech and Hearing Foundation (1960)
- Magnolia Mound (1977)
- Louisiana Arts and Science Center (1960)
- Battered Women’s Shelter (1980)
- Playmakers (1983)
- Storytime Storytelling (1993)
- Volunteer! Baton Rouge (1988)
- The Food Bank of Greater Baton Rouge....just to name a few!
COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  Mary Kay Brown
EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT  Yolanda Dixon
COMMUNITY  Seallann Longwell
FINANCIAL  Cathy Dardenne
FUND DEVELOPMENT  Charlene Guarisco
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS  Betty Backstrom
MEMBERSHIP  Alice Greer
HONORARY SUSTAINING ADV.  Dede Ferrara & Amy Groves Lowe
AJLI  Jan Breen & Rose Hudson

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HOLLYDAYS  Meg Gerald
RRR  Sara Margaret Downing
RRRI 50TH ANNIV.  Donna Saurage
ADVISORY PLANNING  Frances Monroe
PLACEMENT  Ann Conway
PUBLIC AFFAIRS Committee  Monique Edwards
WAYS & MEANS  Boo Thomas
SUSTAINER RELATIONS  Cynthia Graves
TRAINING  Renee Craft
PROVISIONAL ADVISORS  Ann S. Monroe
ENTRE NOUS  Carol Anne Blitzer
ENDOWMENT  Emily DiStefano
R & D  Kim Morgan
DONOR & GRANT RESEARCH COMMITTEE  Nancy Crawford
ADMISSIONS TRANSFERS  Kathleen Howell

PROJECT
YOUTH UNITE  Sharon Stone
READY HANDS!  Merrill Faye Eglin
PATIENT ACTIVITY DAYS  Michael Ann Crawford
JR. MASTER GARDENERS  Janet Forbes
The money we raise is used not only to financially support the initiatives and programs of our community partners, but also to train and educate our members for effective civic leadership and community service.

Community is our Business! We are: A Training Institution, A Book Publisher/Distributor, A Shopping Center, A Panel of Event Coordinators and A Catalyst for Systemic and Positive Community Impact. We are Women Building a Better Baton Rouge Since 1932.

(*) Includes operating costs of community and fund development programming. Additionally, the JLBR has a Community Reserve Fund of $126,584.64 (as of February 1, 2010) which may be used for community initiatives in the future and/or in the event of the cancellation of fundraising events due to emergencies or natural disasters.
In the League year 2008-09, our members rolled up their sleeves and worked more than 37,000 volunteer hours to enhance the physical health, education and cultural development of the men, women and children of Baton Rouge. According to the Independent Sector (a coalition of organizations working to strengthen America’s nonprofits), the value of The Junior League of Baton Rouge’s 37,000 volunteer hours is equivalent to an investment in the community of Baton Rouge valued at more than $720,000.

This year, Junior League of Baton Rouge proudly championed fourteen community projects. With funding of just over $100,000, we were able to impact the lives of 60,000 men, women, children, friends and neighbors this year and more than 300,000 over the lifetime of these community projects.

**New Projects for 2008-2009**

**APPROPRIATE FOR ALL OCCASIONS** Helping the visually impaired explore the social world! Volunteers worked with students from the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired to increase their interaction skills in social and professional settings by organizing and implementing social events and opportunities.

**FIRST YEAR IMPACT 840 PEOPLE**

**JUNIOR MASTER GARDENERS** Exposing children to the joys of nature and gardening! This program, developed by the University Cooperative Extension Network and held at Baton Rouge’s Hilltop Arboretum, introduced young gardeners (ages 7-10) from all backgrounds and their families to the fun of working and playing in the soil... Our volunteers used the Junior Master Gardener curriculum to teach the fundamentals of gardening as well as the environment and ecology.

**FIRST YEAR IMPACT 200 PEOPLE**

**PATIENT ACTIVITY DAYS** Healing through the arts! Volunteers provided a weekly offering of four activities—music/singing, painting, reading, and creative arts—to pediatric patients from all backgrounds at Our Lady of the Lake Children’s Hospital throughout their hospital stay.

**FIRST YEAR IMPACT 500+ PEOPLE**
ATHLETE IN ALL OF US  Keeping up the spirit of athleticism and achievement in our physically disabled and senior citizens! Our volunteers work with the contestants at the Senior Olympics in the fall and the Baton Rouge Wheelchair Tennis Tournament in the spring.  
**ANNUAL IMPACT 8,480**
**IMPACT SINCE INCEPTION 21,980 PEOPLE**

CAPABLE ARTS  Helping all kids have fun! Our volunteers work with McMains Children's Developmental Center to plan and run a one-week summer camp that allows kids with disabilities to learn and grow through the fun of the arts.  
**110 CHILDREN ATTENDED LAST YEAR'S EVENT**
**IMPACT SINCE INCEPTION 880 PEOPLE**

KIDS' KORNER  Instilling lifelong habits of good health! Our volunteers planned and taught fun and educational nutrition lessons on Saturday mornings to children housed at the Battered Women's Shelter.  
**ANNUAL IMPACT 410 PEOPLE**
**IMPACT SINCE INCEPTION 2,460 PEOPLE**

READY HANDS  Addressing our pressing needs! Our volunteers develop and execute grassroots community projects at a moment's notice, responding to the immediate needs of the Baton Rouge community as they arise through the year. This year we participated in or coordinated 30 separate events throughout the Baton Rouge area.  
**ANNUAL IMPACT 21,000 PEOPLE**
**IMPACT SINCE INCEPTION 61,705 PEOPLE**
**SUPPORTING FAMILIES** Providing fun and family time to our community families! Our volunteers worked with the Volunteers of America to plan and host carefree days for the kids in Baton Rouge’s foster care system and their foster parents to provide them with an opportunity to network and have fun.

**ANNUAL IMPACT** 590 PEOPLE  
**IMPACT SINCE INCEPTION** 2,000 PEOPLE

**MID-CITY DANCE PROJECT** Making children’s dreams of stardom come true! Our volunteers work with dancers participating in Mid City Dance Project’s production of the Inner City Nutcracker in December and its spring performance.

**ANNUAL IMPACT** 5,500 PEOPLE  
**IMPACT SINCE INCEPTION** 16,355 PEOPLE

Junior League of Baton Rouge, with its loving volunteers, caring leadership, and great generosity, has enhanced the mission of Mid City Dance Project. This partnership has resulted in positively impacting the lives of hundreds of children and adults in the Baton Rouge area. Mid City Dance Project considers its relationship with JLBR a great privilege.

— Renee Chatelain, Co-founder and Artistic Director, Mid-City Dance Project

**LA BOOK FEST AND FESTFORALL CHILDREN’S VILLAGE** Bringing literature and arts to our community! Our volunteers assisted in the preparation for the Louisiana Book Festival in October. In spring, our volunteers planned and executed the “Children’s Village” at FestforAll in the first weekend in May by organizing storytelling events and other arts and crafts.

**ANNUAL IMPACT** 1,500 PEOPLE  
**IMPACT SINCE INCEPTION** 16,800 PEOPLE
ONGOING COMMUNITY PROJECTS


FIRST YEAR IMPACT 1,380 AUTISTIC CHILDREN, PARENTS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

PREVENT, PREPARE, PROMOTE! Educating our community on the dangers facing our children! The committee researched the best ways to help prevent child abduction and to educate parents on the dangers facing our children in our community.

IMPACT SINCE INCEPTION 15,890 PEOPLE

YOUTH UNITE! Developing leadership and confidence in our teenagers! Volunteers worked with Junior Achievement to plan and run a one-day conference for high school students focusing on career and leadership skills. Volunteers also planned and led a Saturday S.M.A.R.T. conference for girls, with the Boys and Girls Club, designed to instill self-esteem and confidence in middle school-aged girls.

ANNUAL IMPACT 288
IMPACT SINCE INCEPTION 6,590 PEOPLE

TLC FOR CAREGIVERS Healing the spirits of the caretakers of Alzheimer’s patients! Often sandwiched between children and aging parents, caregivers need a chance to unwind and network with fellow caregivers. Volunteers planned and implemented four events over the fall and spring to give the caregivers and their charges a day or night out.

ANNUAL IMPACT 210 PEOPLE
IMPACT SINCE INCEPTION 9,100 PEOPLE

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP’S “RIVER ROAD RAMBLERS” Healing the spirit of residents residing at local retirement communities and nursing homes! Over 50 sustaining members of the JLBR bring the joy and hope of song and dance to the Baton Rouge community.

ANNUAL IMPACT 5,000 PEOPLE
The Community Advisory Board is a diverse group of Baton Rouge’s leaders. We count on their expertise and perspective to provide us with direction regarding our community’s needs and where our members’ efforts might have the greatest impact.

Some people talk about making a difference in our community. Junior Leaguers DO make a difference. An excellent leadership training program enables women from all walks of life to make Baton Rouge a better place to live, work and play.

“Some people talk about making a difference in our community. Junior Leaguers DO make a difference. An excellent leadership training program enables women from all walks of life to make Baton Rouge a better place to live, work and play.”

— Jay Dardenne
Secretary of State and member of Community Advisory Board

The Junior League of Baton Rouge empowers women to improve our community through their volunteerism.

“The Junior League of Baton Rouge empowers women to improve our community through their volunteerism.”

— Councilman David Boneno

Mr. Scott Berg
Councilman David Boneno
Dr. Jack L. Breaux
Honorable Michael Caldwell
Senator Bill Cassidy
Mrs. Mary Beth Chevalier
Mr. Jay Dardenne
Mr. Norman Deumite
Mrs. BeBe Facundus
Mr. Derek Gordon
Mrs. Amy Groves Lowe
Ms. Gerri Hobdy

Mr. Julio Melara
Mr. John Miller
Mr. Walter Monsour
Mr. Jake Netterville
Mr. Samuel Sanders
Ms. Peggy Scott
Dr. Christel Slaughter
Mr. Chris Valluzzo
Mrs. Sylvia Weatherspoon

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

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In 1980, Junior League of Baton Rouge established the Community Assistance Fund (CAF) to help other nonprofit organizations in our community with specific, short-term monetary needs. Since its inception, the fund has distributed almost $630,000.00 including this year’s grants totaling $38,103. During the 2008-2009 year, CAF grants were awarded to 18 organizations for projects contributing to our vision of improving physical health, education and cultural development.
After careful review, the committee awarded funding to the following agencies/projects:

**A.C. LEWIS YMCA**  Funding for 35-40 children to participate in the Strong Kids Campaign. **$654.19**

**AMERICAN DIABETES ORGANIZATION**  Underwriting for Choose to Live workshops, designed to educate members of our community diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes. **$2,500**

**AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION**  Supported development of educational materials distributed at the 2009 Go Red for Women Luncheon, encouraging women to become champions of heart and stroke health and prevention. **$2,500**

**BATON ROUGE AIDS SOCIETY**  To purchase and distribute HIV test kits. **$2,500**

**BATON ROUGE CRIME STOPPERS**  To fund an East Baton Rouge public schools’ awareness campaign. **$1,500**

**BATON ROUGE SPEECH & HEARING FOUNDATION**  Purchased therapeutic and educational materials to assist therapists working with children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders. **$1,985**

**CENIKOR FOUNDATION**  Funded expansion of the children’s visitation area at the in-patient addiction recovery facility. **$2,500**

**CENTER FOR PLANNING EXCELLENCE**  Sponsored Summit for Smart Growth, to promote quality planning and design in Louisiana. **$2,500**

**CINDERELLA PROJECT**  Purchased and distributed 30 dresses to make high school prom dreams come true and engender pride and self-esteem in young women. **$2,500**

**COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION FOR THE WELFARE OF SCHOOL CHILDREN**  Purchased materials for Saturday Academy for Mathematics program which tutors students on the math section of the required state standards test. **$2,500**

**FAMILY ROAD**  Funded parenting workshops for mothers and mothers-to-be in those areas of Baton Rouge with the highest infant mortality rates. **$2,500**

**HERITAGE RANCH**  Paid tuition for 24 at-risk teens to attend a week-long camp where they received academic enrichment, life skills training, and counseling. **$1,000**
HOSPICE OF BATON ROUGE  Produced materials to help Hospice counsel families on bereavement. **$2,500**

INTERFAITH FEDERATION  Funded facility improvements including safety repairs such as ramps and grab bars. **$2,500**

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  Purchased 250 uniforms for their Uniforms for Kids program. **$2,500**

UNIVERSITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  Purchased playground equipment for University Terrace Elementary School, a PK-5 public school in Old South BR. **$2,500**

WORKING TO ACHIEVE  Funded job readiness technical training for at-risk teens. **$500**

YOUNG LEADERS’ ACADEMY  Purchased computers and printers for the YLA Homework Assistance Center. **$2,500**
PLATINUM UNDERWRITER
$75,000 & OVER
Guaranty Broadcasting, LLC

GOLD UNDERWRITER
$50,000 - $74,999
Mercedes-Benz of Baton Rouge

SILVER UNDERWRITER
$25,000 - $49,999
Baton Rouge River Center
Clear Channel Radio
Cox Communications
Otey White & Associates Advertising
The Advocate
WAFB 9 News, Louisiana’s News Channel

UNDERWRITER
$15,000 - $24,999
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Baton Rouge Beer
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CONTRIBUTOR
$1,000 - $2,499
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Community Coffee Company, LLC
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Capitol Center
Julie & Travis Dickinson
Lance Hayes Flowers
Lauren Barksdale
Louisiana Nursery
LSU Cheerleaders
Mansurs on the Boulevard
Mestizo Restaurant
Monjuni’s Italian Café and Catering
Robert Roth Jewelers
Ruffino’s Italian Restaurant
Sems, Inc.
Sidney and Sealann Longwell
Southern University Marching Band
Tiotek, LLC
Tom and Re Re Shaw
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Maxwell’s Market
McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC
Pandora Designs
Sammy’s Bar and Grill
Serranos Salsa Company
Sharp’s Restaurant and Sports Bar
Spectrum Fitness
Sunny Tracey – Sunny Bites
Suzanne Plitt

Creative Photography
Taylor Clark Gallery
The Design Studios of Louisiana
The Glass Slipper
The Upper Crust
YMCA
Zoe’s Kitchen
Milioto, Craig
Millender, Micheline
Miller, Ann
Miller, Patsy
Mills, Jerry Lynn
Monroe, Ann
Montanaro, Melanie
Montz, Tina
Moreno, Patience
Murphy, Mitsy
Murray, Lisa
Myer, Renee’
Newbill, Courtney
Ney, Suzanna
Nichols, Leslie
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Olinde, Margery
Paddock, Ginger
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Parks, Ami
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Pike, Jill
Poche’, Laura
Pollard, Glenda
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Pucheu, Tiffany
Purgerson, Blair
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Rasy Granier, Katherine
Rauch, Tracy
Rice, Cindy
Ridge, Jenny
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Ross, Shikira
Roussel, Ashley
Russo, Adelaide
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Saporito, Mary
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Talbot, Christy
Tharp, Gina
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Traxler, Allison
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Van Hook, Catherine
Vidrine, Janet
Waguespack, Amy
Waites, Jenny
Walker, Lauren
Wesley, Erin
Weston, Lissa
Wheeler, Ella Rein
Wilbert, Emily
Wilkinson, Katherine
Willis, Renee
Windham, Jacqueline
Wright, Lauren
Zaunbrecher, Suzanne
9523 Fenway Avenue
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809-1411

Women Building a Better Baton Rouge Since 1932
www.JuniorLeagueBR.org
Endowment Fund
LEADERS, LEGENDS AND LEGACIES
Junior League of Baton Rouge, Inc.

BE A LEADER, BECOME A LEGEND & LEAVE A LEGACY

YOUR HELP NOW WILL ALLOW JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BATON ROUGE TO ENHANCE OUR COMMUNITY TOMORROW.

Since 1932 our corps of women volunteers has been singularly focused on improving life for our friends and neighbors throughout Baton Rouge. But we can’t do it alone. Your gift to the Junior League of Baton Rouge Endowment is a contribution to the future of the women, children and community culture of the Greater Baton Rouge Area.

TO MAKE A GIFT OR FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US AT www.JUNIORLEAGUEBR.ORG

WIN, PLACE, SHOW FOR BATON ROUGE
TRIPLE CROWN
Presented by the Junior League of Baton Rouge, Inc.

TRIPLE CROWN - WIN, PLACE, SHOW FOR BATON ROUGE!

GRAB YOUR HAT AND JOIN US FOR A KENTUCKY DERBY EXTRAVAGANZA

GREAT FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT & OF COURSE MINT JULIEPS

DATE SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2010
TIME 3:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.
TRACK LSU STADIUM CLUB

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT JUNIOR LEAGUE’S MISSION-BASED PROGRAMS

BUY TICKETS ONLINE www.JUNIORLEAGUEBR.ORG