



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
PITTSBURGH**
Women building better communities®

LIGHTS

2009-2010 Final Edition

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MESSAGE FROM YOUR 2010-2011 PRESIDENT CHRISTIE SMITH

2010-2011 Executive Board
President: Christie Smith
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Marketing Director: Erin Kienzle Gigis
Fund Development Director: Jennifer Danquist
Membership Director: Karen Rollins-Fitch
Sustainer Director: Brooke McMorrow

Although it is still hard to believe that my tenure as the 88th President of the Junior League of Pittsburgh has begun, I am eager to lead the League in a journey of community impact and member enrichment. We have many reasons to celebrate this year.

The dynamic women of the JLP have varying interests and backgrounds. We range from mothers who work raising children to women who work in various professions. We are teachers, engineers, architects, medical professionals, attorneys, bankers, sales & marketing professionals and directors of non-profits. The common thread that binds us together is our commitment to the community and to becoming trained volunteers. As volunteers, we give of ourselves to give back.

Most recently, our members pulled together for a third annual Touch-A-Truck fundraiser June 5th. The day's raindrops didn't dampen enthusiasm – as the TAT committee's long hours of preparation translated into a well-enjoyed event for hundreds of kids – big & little – as they got to get "hands-on" with fire trucks, dump trucks and cement mixers (that's just to name a few).

Dozens of women have already been working on this fall's American Girl Fashion Show set for November 20 & 21st at Nevillewood. Members' time, effort and energy dedicated to these events will enable us to support the JLP's Healthy Kids Initiative.

When we engage in our current projects – Strong Women Strong Girls, Kids in the Kitchen and Done in a Days – we will promote exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle; educate children and their parents on proper nutrition and touch hundreds of lives through our service to various Pittsburgh organizations.

Of special note this League year, we have a brand new project set to be implemented! The League has joined Huggies' "Every Little Bottom" campaign to address diaper deprivation. 1 in 3 moms in America struggle with diaper needs and the League is meeting this need by creating a diaper bank for our community. I am confident that this project will be very successful and am eager to see it unfold.

On the organizational side, this year we implement a change in our structure, from a 15-member board structure to a 10-member board. Our goal is to streamline the approach to training and communication within our organization. I ask for your patience as we learn together the best way to use this system.

The JLP has undergone numerous changes throughout the last 87-years that have reflected the times, and we will continue to evolve and find relevance in our community. As we work together and begin this new League year, I ask you to remember three words...

Encourage. Engage. Embrace.

Let's engage ourselves and each other by the many opportunities presented to us, let's encourage each other and the community with a servant's heart and let's empower each other and our community to be excited for the challenges we face.

I'd like each of us to think about what she would like to learn and give back not only to the League but also to our community this year. As we work to improve lives, challenge yourself to share your skills, knowledge and excitement with fellow members. You never know just how one positive word can take root and grow.

Not one of us can do everything, but each one of us can do small things. Through all of our individual small things, done with great kindness, we will make a tremendous impact. Let's join together to fulfill our mission and truly make a difference in the lives of others.

Warmly,
Christie Smith

THE 3rd ANNUAL TOUCH-A-TRUCK

The Junior League of Pittsburgh's 3rd Annual Touch-a-Truck event was held on June 5, 2010. The Touch-a-Truck committee promised it would be a success, and that was an understatement. The event had more attendees and participants than ever!

Despite the rain, adults and kids of all ages lined up before the gates opened for a chance to explore trucks and meet the people who serve and protect our community.

"A little rain didn't scare us. We are a rain or shine event and knew that, no matter what, Touch-a-Truck had formed a strong name for itself and people would be there for the fun," said Meghan Booth, Co-Chair for the event.

What made it such a success? "The committee worked diligently for the last year reaching out to parents, children and families through aggressive advertising with

Pittsburgh Parent and Whirl Magazine," stated Marie Elash Co-Chair of the event. "Our committee received feedback from last year's attendees and we were determined to make

it better. We added a 'Craft Corner', including face-painting, and a pasta jewelry station. We also secured balloon artists and a 'Decorate Your Own Cookie' station sponsored by Eat-n-Park."

Along with the expanding activities, the committee reached out in a grassroots effort to contact and utilize local businesses within the strip district as well as the greater Pittsburgh area. Ken Nadeau, an attendee, stated "Admittedly, I had no idea what the Junior League of



Pittsburgh was before Saturday. I took my three-year-old son to the 'Touch-a-Truck' event this past weekend and was blown away. My wife and I are now huge fans of the Junior League and will start supporting your efforts. Great event!! Well done."

The rain eventually cleared on the day of the event, and children and adults alike were found taking pictures next to antique fire trucks, shaking hands with mascots from many local sports teams, having their faces painted, wearing balloon hats and, most importantly,

"I took my 3-year-old son to the Touch-a-Truck event this past weekend and was blown away!"

having a great time. Additionally, there were amazing raffle prizes and gift baskets, including tickets to local sporting events, museums, toys, and even a Pittsburgh Steeler football signed by Heath Miller.

What's on deck for next year? "We can only get better, as we are handing the reigns to the next chairs, Amy Giammatteo and Heidi Gillespie, and we are confident that their excitement will propel us towards another successful year," said Marie Elash. "These last two years as chairs for the event have been both rewarding and memorable," concluded Meghan Booth.

So save the date, next year's Touch-a-Truck event will be held on **May 21, 2011**, at the corner of 15th and Smallman in the Strip

District, from 10 - 2., rain or shine.



(Lots of) STRONG WOMEN STRONG GIRLS !!!

By Christy Stuber
SWSG Committee Chair

As we complete our first year with the JLP's newest Signature Project partner, Strong Women Strong Girls, we can celebrate our successes primarily through our volunteer contributions to the organization. Through 60 volunteer opportunities and 226 volunteer hours this year alone, the Junior League of Pittsburgh has laid a great foundation for an ongoing relationship with Strong Women Strong Girls. During the 2009-2010 year, Strong Women Strong Girls worked with 308 elementary girls at 19 program sites and 100 college mentors from five university partners.

The Strong Women Strong Girls year-end event was "Jump into Spring!" a celebration of everything the girls and mentors accomplished during the year. JLP was a large presence at the event with 19 volunteers, ensuring all aspects of the event were running smoothly. Close to 200 of the girls and families attended along with a keynote speech by University of Pittsburgh Women's Basketball Coach, Agnus Berenato, players from The Pittsburgh Passion, the Holy Trinity Flyers jumping team and Pittsburgh Steelers Charlie Batch, Dennis Dixon and Mike Wallace.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered with Strong Women Strong Girls this year!



EMBRACING DIANA

By Gretchen Smathers
Community Director

It began with a Facebook conversation. Three non-profit professionals – Sue Kerr, Aria Charles and Adrienne Walnoha – started a Facebook conversation

discussing the anecdotes they've heard from women struggling to afford feminine hygiene products and forced to use rags as an alternative. The prohibitive

expensive of these products keeps women's centers and food pantries from stocking them for distribution to women in need.

Sue, Aria and Adrienne saw this as an opportunity to take action with "The Diana Project." Named for the Roman mythological goddess of fertility, "The Diana Project" encourages organizations to donate feminine hygiene products to the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank for distribution to their member agencies and the women who otherwise would not have access to this basic necessity. At the 2010 April General Membership Meeting, League members embraced "The Diana Project" by contributing more than a hundred items of feminine hygiene products. The Done in a Day committee will continue to collect items in collaboration with the Wear After Shop where you can drop off your items and receive community requirements credits.

"On behalf of the over 340 Food Bank member agencies in Allegheny County, we have been thrilled to see the Junior League embrace The Diana Project," Aria Charles said. "Having feminine hygiene items on the Food Bank's donated inventory will allow many more low-income women to access clean and sanitary feminine hygiene items."

GREATER PITTSBURGH
**community
food bank**

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ENABLING PLAY WITH VARIETY

By Gretchen Smathers
Community Director

Play is important for a child's healthy development –

regardless of their physical abilities and limitations. Variety the Children's Charity of Pittsburgh strives to empower, enable and include children with physical and mental disabilities in the world of play and imagination by providing them with mobility devices.

To help make the dream of independent play a reality for more children, the Junior League's membership has awarded

Variety a 2010 Community Grant in the amount of \$2,500 for the purchase of enabling equipment such as mobility devices, assistive

technology devices and communication systems. There will be volunteer opportunities this summer to see Variety and its mission in action. There will be Done in a Days at the Deer Lakes Park Fishing Tournament on July 25 and at the Woodland Summer Camp from August 2 to 6.



2010 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

At the JLP's Annual Meeting, Reshma Paranjpe was pleased to present the 2010 Junior League of Pittsburgh Scholarship Award to Victoria Mikulan, a senior at Shaler Area High School.

Victoria is an extraordinary young woman who has devoted 1,010 hours of service as a volunteer firefighter with the Mount Troy Volunteer Fire Company over the four years of her high school career.

In addition to her volunteer service, she has maintained good grades, obtained a Pennsylvania EMT certification and is currently serving her community as an EMT. Victoria will start college at Robert Morris University this fall with the intent of attending law school afterwards. She plans on a career in public safety, perhaps at the federal level.



THE FUND DEVELOPMENT CORNER

By Jennifer Danquist
Fund Development Director

The Fund Development committee had a fantastic 2nd half of our 2009-2010 year. We had our 3rd annual Touch-a-Truck event on Saturday, June 5th in the Strip District and even with a few downpours we were able to get close to 2000 people to come share the day with us. The Wear After Shop has delighted the streets of Bloomfield with our new window displays, thanks to Bridgette our very stylish employee. We began our 2010-2011 Annual Appeal and Endowment Fund campaigns. The Show House Ad Hoc committee met and worked on a recommendation for this major League event; and we continued our Earned Income Opportunities program.

Where Your Donations Go...

Do you ever wonder when you are asked to donate to the League's Annual Appeal Campaign or our Endowment Fund every year, what those two things actually mean or what the League uses that money for? Glad you asked...I'm here to enlighten you!

Annual Appeal: As the name implies, our annual appeal is a yearly fundraising request made by the Fund Development committee to our members and friends. The request solicits financial contributions during our fiscal year, to provide a college scholarship to an outstanding high school senior for her volunteer efforts and to also supplement our operating expenses. These expenses included leadership conferences, membership trainings and membership services.

Endowment Fund: Our Endowment Fund is a fund of monies donated to the League by our members and friends. This money is invested in the Junior League of Pittsburgh Fund, held at the Pittsburgh Foundation. Our Endowment Fund preserves support for our future needs as it grows and through a limited annual allocation, it allows the League to support current JLP programs.

Hopefully by having a better understanding of these JLP support arms, you will feel better about knowing where your donation is going. Please consider contributing to one or both of these areas, on a yearly basis. We as a League will be able to continue to give back and do all the things we enjoy doing.

Show House Ad Hoc

The ad hoc committee was formed with 20+ enthusiastic and insightful women – from experienced sustainers, to actives and provisionals. We explored the current leadership and management module, talked about the JLP's return on investment as well as had an overall discussion on how to make Show House a viable and successful fund raiser for the Junior League of Pittsburgh. The results of the ad hoc committee's findings are being finalized now. Be on the look out for an upcoming survey, via email, as we would like League members input on a few things to finalize our report. We plan to present our final report to the Board of Directors over the summer and to the membership at the beginning of our 2010-2011 fiscal year.

Earned Income Opportunities (EIO)

Earned Income Opportunities are a way for the League to do events with area retailers, independent vendors, restaurants and more. A percentage of our sales, at these establishments, are given back to the Junior League and put towards our Annual Appeal campaign.

THE FUND DEVELOPMENT CORNER, CONTINUED

On **Thursday, July 1st** the League will have a night of baseball at PNC Park as the Pittsburgh Pirates take on the Philadelphia Phillies. Our seats are located in Section 132 and game time will be at 7:05 p.m.; plus all fans will receive a free Pirates T-shirt! Tickets were sold for \$20 and the Junior League of Pittsburgh, Inc. will receive a \$5.00 profit from each ticket. **Let's Go Pirates!**

We also have our lifetime EIO, yes lifetime. A partnership with **Pella Windows & Doors** will give the JLP quarterly donations for every Pella Window & Door purchase. 2% will be given back for each purchase price of a retail installed sales transaction for all orders in a given calendar quarter. For example \$50,000 in orders = \$1000 donation. A customer needs to tell their Pella representative they want their purchase to benefit the JLP. The JLP has been given a personal toll free number and URL for this purpose.

CALL Toll Free: 1-866-416-7081

URL: <http://www.pellafriends.com/jrleagueofpittsburgh>

So when you, a friend, or a family member of yours is thinking about purchasing windows or doors, be sure to use **Pella Windows and Doors** and use the above toll free number and URL for JLP!

Before closing, as Fund Development Director, I would just like to again send a heartfelt "Thank You" to all of the Fund Development chairs and committee members this year for a an incredible job well done. BRAVO – it could not have been done with out each and every one of you – so THANK YOU!!!

Looking Forward to 2010-2011

As our Summer vacations are upon us, the 2010-2011 Fund Development committee chairs are already gearing up for a great year. MARK YOUR CALENDARS - our 3rd annual American Girl Fashion Show will be November 20 & 21, 2010 at the Club at Neville-wood; and our 4th annual Touch-a-Truck will be held Saturday, May 21, 2011 in the Strip District.



We will be working hard over the summer to put together an annual League wide and event specific sponsorship campaign. The goal being to start gathering sponsors and donors on a yearly basis, getting companies and individuals involved in our multiple fund raising events (American Girl Fashion Show, Designer Show House, Touch-a-Truck), programs (Kids In The Kitchen, Strong Women Strong Girls) and the Wear After Shop. The hope is that instead of reaching out to them multiple times a year we will be able to get them involved with more of our opportunities on a yearly basis. If you have any suggestions for companies (such as the one you may work for) or individuals to reach out to for this program, please contact Allison Grotjan, Sponsorship Chair at allison.grotjan@gmail.com.

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!
The 3rd annual
American Girl
Fashion Show
- November 20
& 21, 2010
The 4th
annual Touch-
a-Truck - May
21st, 2011**

2010 ANN D. JOHNSON AWARD WINNER CYNTHIA POTTER



Even in her professional life Cindy Potter is helping others. She is self-employed and provides physical therapy services for children and adults with developmental disabilities. She is also a sensory development consultant with the Allegheny Valley School in Pittsburgh. Here she works with students, parents and professionals.

Cindy has published numerous professional articles and been awarded grant funding for various projects. She is a member of various professional organizations, including the American Physical Therapy Association and the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association. She has held several positions in scientific and professional societies.

Cindy was the 1998 recipient of the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association Service Award. Cindy is the Finance Chair of the Town of McCandless Council and President of the Northland Public Library Authority Board. She also has served on the Allegheny College Alumni Council, North Allegheny School District Foundation for Excellence Board of Trustees, North Allegheny School District Citizen's Advisory Committee, Blueberry Hill Playground Project, and the Ingomar North Recreation and Swim Club Board.

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**Please contact us for a free consultation.
Kelly L. Enders, Esquire**

2010-2011 SLATED COMMITTEES

Nominating Chair: Kim Kisner

Nominating Committee:

Lori Trautwine
Gina DeBlasis
Ondrea Robinson
Alicia Andrews
Jen Grossman
Heidi Gillespie
Michelle Smith/Alma Lucas- Co-retention Chairs

Community Director: Gretchen Smathers

Strong Women Strong Girls Chairs:

Leah Worbs and Christine O'Leary

Kids in the Kitchen Chair:

Jessica Nock

Research & Development Chair: Eileen Bundy

DIAD/Grants Chair: Amy Daniel

Marketing Director:

Erin Kienzle Gigis

Internal Communications Chair:

Vicky Guscoff

External Communications Chair:

Kristen Boscarino

LIGHTS Chairs: Kristin Holzer and

Karen Rivetti

Fund Development Director:

Jennifer Danquist

American Girl Chair: Beckey Gable

Touch A Truck Chairs: Heidi Gillespie and Amy

Giammatteo

Show House Research/Show House Chair: OPEN

Income Opportunity Chair: OPEN

Development Chair: Meighan Nalducci

Sponsorship Chair: Allison Grotjan

Membership Director:

Karen Rollins-Fitch

New Member Chair: Sarah Stallings

Membership Committee:

Christy Stuber

Julia Carlson

Eve Turzillo

Jen House

Dawn Patterson

Collyn Evans

Maribeth Thomas

Kristina Fausti

Training Chairs: Shernell Smith and

Julia Carlson

Events Chair: Lauren Santori

Retention Chairs: Michelle Smith and
Alma Lucas

Retention Committee:

Gina DeBlasis: North

Maribeth Thomas: Shadyside & Squirrel Hill

Katie Heinritz: Monroeville/East

Jennifer Grossman: South Hills

Allison Grotjan: Downtown

Jenna Neal: West and Southside

Transfer Advisor: Janet Byrd

Inclusion and Diversity Chair:

Dawn Patterson

CONGRATS TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS, GOLD ACTIVES & SUSTAINERS!

NEW ACTIVES

Andalyn Adrian
Meghan Baker
Kristen Boscarino
Allyson Briney
Allison Carr
Ann Chessen
Elizabeth Chiappetta
Julia D'Angelo
Amy Daniel
Samantha Daniels
Laura Derdenger
Victoria Guscoff

Kristen Hawkins
Erin Higgins
Ashley John
Brooke Kissler
Katie Kozora
Lisa Krall
Elizabeth LaRue
Kristen Laster
Sarah Lee
Meredith Marsico
Lisa McCarthy
Corinne McGinley
Stephanie McLeod

Joni Micklewright
Christine O'Leary
Keshia Pate
Dawn Patterson
Lauren Plate
Gilan Saadawi
Jessica Sandy
Erica Saylor
Katherine Serkes
Lara Shipkovitz
Katherine Skocik
Julie Stevens
Alexis Unkovic

Katherine VanDerSchaaf
Leah Worbs
Rachel Yarbrough

NEW GOLD ACTIVES

Gina DeBlasis
Kristina Fausti
Jen Grossman
Bianca LaCombe
Liz Lombardo
Alma Lucas
Melissa Polachek
Karen Rollins-Fitch

NEW SUSTAINERS

Katie Jones
Linda Hartman
Kathy Ciorra
Martha Wiegand

MEMBER NEWS

Connect on Facebook & Twitter!
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www.twitter.com/jlpgh



**Active Member Meighan Nalducci announces the birth of her daughter:
Theresa Anne Nalducci
Born January 12, 2010
6lbs 12 oz.**

**Do you have news
to share?**

Email:

communications@jlpgh.org

**Active Member Julia Carlson and her husband Andy announce the birth of their son:
Graham Andrew Carlson
Born March 11, 2010
9lbs 1oz**



**Treasurer Jennifer Hart and her husband Tyler announce the birth of their daughter:
Lydia Leanne Hart
Born April 12, 2010
9:50 pm
8 pounds 5 ounces
21.25 inches**



OUTDOOR DECOR.... TIME TO SPRUCE UP THE PATIO

By Cecilia Staniec

Outdoor spaces are one of my favorite areas to decorate, and now is the best time of year to focus on your patio or deck. I had a client recently who said "But it's summer and my patio has been lost in the decorating shuffle!" Even with summer here, it's not too late to whip your outdoor spaces into shape. I'll give you my best designer tips for creating a fabulous patio or deck.....without breaking the bank!

A pressure washer is your new best friend! Years of hard Pennsylvania winters can wreak havoc on our decks and patios. Spend \$50 to rent a pressure washer from Home Depot or Lowe's and give your space a fresh, clean start. Concrete slab patio still looks unsightly? Solid color concrete stains are a fabulous solution!

Not all outdoor furniture is expensive! Great deals on patio and bistro sets from retailers like Garden Ridge, Pier 1 Imports and Kirkland's aren't hard to find. If you're tight on space, consider a small round breakfast table and a pair of chairs. More room to spread out? A pair of wrought iron benches and a few side chairs will welcome loads of guests. But it's raining! Fabulous Sunbrella outdoor fabrics make pillows and umbrellas a must for outdoor space. The fabric is completely waterproof, so no need to worry if you leave pillows or umbrellas out all the time. Don't be afraid to mix and match colors and patterns either! Pick two complementary patterns and intermingle them on pillows throughout the furniture.

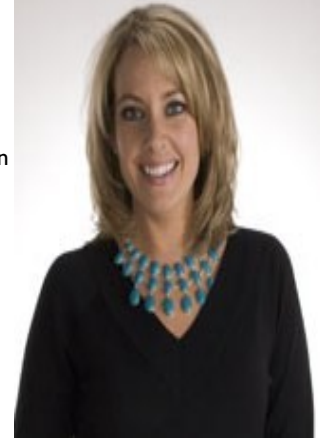
A rug....on my patio? Yes! Polypropylene rugs are specifically made to withstand the outdoor elements. These rugs come in all sorts of shapes, sizes and colors, so you are sure to match a rug to your décor. If you have a large outdoor space, consider using two rugs to designate a sitting area and a dining area.

Let the blooms....bloom! Even the worst of gardeners can manage to keep low maintenance impatiens or marigolds alive! If you don't have the time to devote to a garden full of flowers, use these flowers or green shade plants, like hostas, in patio containers. All you have to do is remember to water! (Make sure to buy large containers for the perennials so you don't have to re-pot for a few years.)

Final touches! No outdoor space is complete without some fabulous accessories! Lanterns of various sizes are all the rage this year – beautiful with candles lit up inside. Pottery in festive colors can pull your whole design together....turquoise, burnt orange or lime green...all big colors for 2010 and sure to bring sparkle to your space. A tea cart or baker's rack can be easily turned into an outdoor entertainment area. Use to hold a mini bar and tasty treats (but be careful, your guests may never leave)!

So there ya have it! Easy tips that will help you create a wonderful outdoor "room". Best of luck with your outdoor decorating projects....let me know how they turn out!

Cecilia is an Active Gold member of the JLP and the owner and principal interior designer for A Darling Room (www.adarlingroom.com). A nationally featured designer for Kirkland's, Inc. (www.mykirklands.com), Cecilia is also a contributing designer on My Perfect Color (www.myperfectcolor.com) and has been featured in numerous media outlets, including Maitland-Smith, Design Trade Magazine, WPXI, Nashville House & Home & Garden magazine, ShelterPop, Houzz, and Ava Living.





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Lights is now biannual.

Look for the next
edition in December.
Please send any news,
announcements and
photos to

communications@jlpgh.org

By November, 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **New Member Social July 18th (Details to come)**
- **New Member Social August 19th (Details to come)**
- **American Girl Fashion Show November 20 - 21, 2010**
- **Touch-A-Truck: May 21, 2011**

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