



ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
MAY 31, 2018

The Junior League of Toronto is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

The Junior League of Toronto strives to be the organization of choice for voluntarism and community partnerships.

Charitable Registration Number
11924 0042 RR 0001

JLT Board of Directors 2017 – 2018

President	Emily Beckett Sward
President-Elect	Melissa Ostrosser
Treasurer	Valerie Mines
Board Secretary	Wendy Mclaughlin
Director	Terri Les
Director	Kathy Jaques
Nominating	Jessica Moreno

The JLT membership is made up over 300 dynamic women. The JLT welcomes all women who value our Mission and the JLT is committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations and communities

President's Report

The 2017-2018 Junior League of Toronto ("JLT") year was an enjoyable year filled with many accomplishments including improving our community.

At the start of the fiscal year, Jim Hayhurst, co-founder of Trails Youth Initiatives, gave an inspiring speech about the needs of at-risk youth and how his organization helps develop their potential, allowing them to pursue their dreams and become productive members of society. Trails Youth Initiatives was a 2017 JLT Seed Grant Recipient and the Junior League of Toronto has held multiple Done-in-a-Day opportunities at Trails Youth Initiatives.

Throughout the year, the Community Team was hard at work collaborating with our community partners, including CAMH. They also held a number of Done-in-a-Days ("DIAD") with CAMH and other community organizations, making an impact on the issue of mental health with a focus on children and youth.

Our members participated in our second annual Little Black Dress Initiative fundraiser in November. A number of JLT members wore the same black dress every day for an entire week to bring awareness and fight the stigma of mental health, while raising funds for the JLT and our community programming.

On May 3rd, 2018, we held our first annual Chef's Showcase fundraiser, which offered attendees food samplings and wine pairings from ten exclusive, top chefs from Toronto and the surrounding areas. The successful, sold-out event was hosted by celebrity chef, Christine Cushing and enjoyed extensive media coverage. Through ticket sales, the food-themed silent auction and sponsorships, the event raised over \$20,000 for JLT activities and programs. Due to the great success, the Junior League was able to use a portion of the proceeds in support of a scholarship recipient for George Brown's Augmented Education Program in affiliation with CAMH. The evening was truly magical with exquisite food and we are all looking forward to next year's fundraiser.

Overall, the year showed the grace, determination and strength of our membership who met challenges and brought the JLT to new levels of success. We are truly an organization of women building better communities.

Emily Beckett Sward

History

The Junior League of Toronto (JLT) was founded in 1926 to foster interest among its members in the social, economic, educational and civic conditions of their community and to make their volunteer service efficient. The JLT is a member of the Canadian Federation of Junior Leagues (CFJL) and The Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. (AJLI).

The JLT has been an integral member of the Toronto community for over 90 years. JLT members have contributed over 4 million volunteer hours in expertise, enthusiasm and hard work and over \$4 million to support or initiate over 400 community projects in the Greater Toronto Area, York Region, Mississauga, Etobicoke and Oakville.

The Potential of Women

The heart of the JLT's mission is to develop the potential of its members to become effective civic leaders, which is unique among charitable organizations in the Greater Toronto Area and throughout the world. We provide formal and experiential training in governance, finance, fundraising, community projects and member management in the non-profit sector.

Each year the JLT offers its members a variety of committee placement options, each offering a unique learning experience that provide the member with personal and leadership development and growth opportunities. To ensure each JLT member receives a diversified training experience, the Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and all placement positions rotate each 1-2 year.

Membership – Learn with Us

The JLT accomplishes its mission and all administrative support with one paid staff member and numerous committed volunteers. The JLT is a membership-based organization. Lifelong membership is enjoyed by many.

Membership Categories There are three basic categories of membership:

Provisional: The first year of membership is called the provisional year. Provisional members must complete an orientation program and effectively plan and execute a community project. During the Provisional year, members learn about the JLT as an organization, the communities and community partners that we service and our fundraising work. Provisional members also learn how to become an effective and trained volunteer.

Active: Active members are those members who have successfully completed the provisional member requirements. Membership requirements include annual dues, a yearly commitment to a Committee Placement, and a yearly commitment to fundraising. Over an Active Member's JLT career, a member may elect to develop expertise in such areas of finance, fundraising, communications, training and mentoring through JLT Placements.

Sustaining Member: After 5 years of active membership, a member is eligible to become a sustaining member. These members have a reduced financial requirement and are welcome to attend all meetings, fundraisers and community events but are not required to take a placement.

Dues and other member requirements are outlined [here](#)

JLT Training Program – Grow with Us

The JLT is committed to developing the potential of female volunteers to be leaders in meeting community needs. The JLT provides training and experiential opportunities to enhance or develop civic leadership skills on JLT's committees and projects, through direct-service volunteer roles in the community, JLT training workshops, Organizational Development Institute (ODI) training and international conferences hosted by our parent organization, the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI).

New JLT members complete an orientation program and a community project in their first year.

A special JLT training session is held each year for incoming Committee Chairs and Assistant Chairs to educate them on responsibilities, running meetings, establishing agendas, setting goals, engaging volunteers, managing conflict and giving feedback.

The JLT also held an interesting, interactive day-long Myers-Briggs training session where members completed an extensive questionnaire before the session and then used the information gathered and their personality "classifications" to discuss how to work collaboratively with different types of people. Members found the training to be useful to improve interactions with their JLT committees, work environments and other areas.

The JLT's affiliation with the AJLI offers opportunities for JLT's members to have access to additional training on-line and at other regional Junior League trainings called Organizational Development Institutes (ODI's). ODI's are designed to help members develop their potential as a leader in the League through workshops that provide tools for success, lectures on thought provoking topics, and networking opportunities to share best practices. In addition, AJLI hosts three conferences throughout the year that are attended by the President and President-Elect. These conferences offer significant leadership development opportunities that strengthen our member's ability to govern in the capacity of league leader. This training is valuable training for developing elite civic leaders.

The AJLI conferences are geared to developing our executive leadership, focusing specifically on skills that include working in a volunteer team environment, understanding community needs and the impact of our organization in the community, and managing the organization's strategic direction (which also includes risk management, governance and other important aspects of the JLT Leader's fiduciary responsibilities). One key aspect of these AJLI leadership conferences is the fact that facilitators are from various non-profits and corporations and the AJLI's leadership team. The conferences also give us an opportunity to work with leaders from other Leagues, sharing best practices and learning how to resolve challenges.

These conferences offer significant leadership development opportunities that strengthen our member's ability to govern in the capacity of League leader, and as such are essential to the development of elite civic leaders. Members have access to over 400

civic leaders within our organization who share their knowledge and experience gained in the JLT and their work on Boards outside the League.

Leaders Amongst Us

One of the benefits of being a member of the JLT is access to hundreds of civic leaders with incredible experience. If the JLT Board or JLT members have questions as result of their work with the JLT or participation in other Boards or volunteer work, they can send a query to the Sustainer Member Committee Chair and find guidance from other members.

Outstanding leaders are recognized at our Annual Awards Dinner. It is an opportunity for the JLT to celebrate the accomplishments of our members. Awards recognize members for extraordinary contribution to the JLT, community, contributions to voluntarism and mentorship. These women have striven for excellence and have made a significant, quality contribution to voluntarism.

Community Action

The JLT supports non-profit organizations delivering programs in the Greater Toronto Area in two ways: we partner with other non-profit organizations to deliver short and long-term projects and we offer seed grants to support innovative new programs.

Programs

The Community Action Program Team (“CAT”) focused on our impact area: to boost self-esteem in youth through initiatives that target physical and mental well-being. We collaborated with Workman Arts and other community partners to bring much needed programming to the residents of the CAMH early psychosis unit.

During the year, CAT shared facts related to our impact area in member newsletters which helped to educate JLT members on our program and mental health awareness.

Daily Volunteer Opportunities (“Done-In-A-Day”)

Done-in-a-Days (“DIADs”) provides JLT members with direct community service opportunities. DIADs also increase awareness of the aims and activities of the JLT within the community. DIADs are intensive half-day to day-long volunteer projects that are open to the entire membership.

In fiscal 2018, the JLT partnered with many wonderful non-profits for DIADs including the following organizations:

- Geneva Centre for Autism
- Youth Without Shelter
- CAMH Gifts of Light
- Trails Youth Initiatives
- Children's Aid Society
- Covenant House

Tea to Help Teens

During the holiday season, young children in need tend to be at the forefront of our thoughts, while teenagers can be forgotten. The gifts provided by the JLT “Tea to Help Teens” are often the only gifts received by many of the teenagers living in the shelters in Etobicoke, Mississauga, and Oakville. Community partners have included: Interim Place, Oakville Community Youth, Eva’s Place, Our Peel Place Ernestine’s Women’s Shelter, Women’s Habitat, and Youth Without Shelter. The 14th annual “Tea to Help Teens” raised over \$20,000 for teens living in shelters in our communities. This brings our total to over \$195,000 in gifts and gift cards to more than 3,800 teenagers.

Guests attending the JLT “Tea to Help Teens” provided a donation or gift card for a teen and then enjoy refreshments, entertainment, and a shopping experience which included a selection of original and inventive items for their holiday purchasing pleasure thanks to a variety of vendors who showcase their wares at our event. Our annual event takes place in November each year and is a social event that involves drinking tea and eating treats while shopping the holiday market, bidding on silent auction items and listening to entertaining musicians.

JLT Seed Grants

The JLT provides seed grants to community groups to assist in the development of innovative new programs in our community. Seed grants are available to help fund initiatives that will provide essential services to the Greater Toronto Area. Selection criteria include the development of alternative funding sources that will allow these programs to continue indefinitely.

The Community Action Team awarded three seed grants this year. The following organizations were chosen for their innovative programs, which met the JLT criteria.

The 2018 Seed Grant Recipients were:

- a) Horizons for Youth - The JLT provided funding for their storytelling program -- trained storytellers will lead workshops for clients at homeless shelter to create and share stories.
- b) Merry Go Round Children's Foundation - Their Kids, Cops, and Computers program currently provides laptops to 7th grades without access to computers and offers programming with police mentorship. The JLT provided funding for their new pilot program to build job readiness for kids who have graduated from their Kids, Cops and Computers program and are now looking for their first job. Sessions will help with skill building and job searches.
- c) Women's Centre of York Region - The JLT provided funding for their Making Changes program which serves marginalized and low income women who have experienced abuse, unemployment. They are developing a new life skills program to help women apply the skills they've learned to their lives: self-empowerment, effective communication, and healthy boundaries.

Our former seed grant recipients are listed [here](#).

Financial Statement Review

The financial statements are for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2018. [Click Here](#)

Statement of Financial Position

Cash and short-term investments totaled \$309,475 at May 31, 2018 compared to \$308,622 at May 31, 2017. Of the \$309,475 in cash and short-term investments, \$40,201 represents cash and short-term investments that are designated only for community projects, DIADs and Seed Grants; thus leaving \$269,274 available for general operating expenses. At May 31, 2018, the JLT had sufficient funds for the next few fiscal years.

Prepaid expenses typically represent prepaid building insurance and directors and officers insurance. The accounts receivables were collected shortly after the fiscal year-end and predominantly related to our May fundraiser.

Long term investments of \$108,807 relate to the funds that have been designated for the Endowment Fund. The principal of the fund is held at the Toronto Foundation and interest generated by the fund is used to support the ongoing programs of the JLT. As at May 31, 2018, \$97,798 of the \$108,807 in the Endowment fund is unrestricted.

The land and building at 539 Mount Pleasant Road in Toronto, Ontario have a cost of \$43,702 representing the majority of the JLT's \$45,451 property and equipment. In 2012, the land and building was valued at \$1.4 million.

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities total \$20,633 at May 31, 2018 and predominantly relates to \$7,500 in audit fees accrued and other payables relating to fiscal 2018. The amount in 2017 was higher due to one-time building repairs that were accrued for. Deferred revenue of \$40,298 at May 31, 2018 represents member dues that are collected in May relating to the next fiscal year.

Statement of Operations

For the fiscal year ended May 31, 2018, JLT reported an excess of revenues over expenses totalling \$5,564 compared to a deficiency of \$17,596 in the prior fiscal year.

Fundraising, donation and other revenue totaled \$89,236 in fiscal 2018 compared to \$57,286 in fiscal 2017, an increase of \$31,950, mainly due to our new annual fundraiser Chef's Showcase which increased revenues by approximately \$25,600 compared to the prior fiscal year. The Little Black Dress Initiative and Tea for Teens also had revenue increases over the prior fiscal year.

Investment income decreased \$9,721 year-over-year. In fiscal 2017, JLT's investments had a non-cash fair value increase of \$13,007 compared to a non-cash fair value increase of \$2,777 in fiscal 2018, translating to a decrease of \$10,230 in the non-cash fair value adjustment investment income.

In fiscal 2018, membership dues and rental income from our tenant accounted for 49.2% of our revenue (2017 – 56.3%) and covered 127.1% of our administrative costs (2017 – 105.2%). In fiscal 2018, approximately 40.0% (2017 - 47.0%) of our administrative costs relate to building maintenance costs. The building costs were high in 2017 due to a repair of the building.

Our Statement of Operations does not reflect the thousands of volunteer hours from our committed members on JLT matters and for community projects. It also does not reflect the thousands of dollars of gifts-in-kind that the JLT members obtain, that are used in our community projects or for fundraising initiatives.

Gail Lilley at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP has provided legal counsel to the JLT for many years, pro bono.

Governance and Budgeting

Strategic Plan

Every three to five years the Board of the JLT reviews the strategic plan and updates the plan accordingly. The Members then vote on the updated plan. The strategic plan guides annual Board goals, the Management team's Annual plan and the various committee goals.

Annual Budget

Each year, an annual budget is prepared by the outgoing VP Finance with input from the outgoing Committee Chairs. The Committees in the following fiscal year must operate within their approved budget. During quarterly board meetings, the Treasurer reviews the monthly financial statements against budget.