

Civic Leader Profile: Letha Whyte

When did you join the Junior League? 1970

Describe some of your Junior League projects and committee work. I worked as a volunteer in the Junior League's Opportunity Shop, as well as served as a placement advisor, probation officer assistant, Chair of the Criminal Justice Committee, member of the Youth Crime Prevention program and Chair of the Program Committee. I also served on the Board of Directors for two years.

How has the Junior League impacted your life? My Junior League experience affected my subsequent community work, in particular by developing my abilities to listen to and accept committee members' opinions, synthesize those views to formulate my own opinions and recommendations, and then translate these into effective action. I have been able to apply these skills in listening, building consensus and bringing out the best in others to create lasting impact on our community.

Tell us about some of your community work outside of the Junior League. I have published articles on governance and received awards for my community leadership, including the Queen's Jubilee Medal for contributions to Canada. I have served on the Board of Directors for various community organizations. As Chair of the North Toronto Community Centre Working Committee, I oversaw the building of the \$18 million North Toronto Memorial Community Centre, which opened in May 1993. I served on the Board of Trustees of Bloorview Children's Hospital from 1988–1993 and chaired the Board for three years. I was invited to sit on the Board again and served from 2003-2010, chairing the Board's Quality Council. I chaired the Board of Wellspring Cancer Support Foundation for seven years. As a member and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Vaughan Glen Hospital, and as a member of the Board of Trustees of The Hospital for Sick Children, I sat on the Finance and Governance Committees and chaired the Quality Council of the Board.