



**Junior League  
of Rockford, Inc.**

## 2011-2012 Junior League of Rockford, Inc. Fact Sheet

**President:** Nellie Miller

**President-Elect:** Beth Groncki

**Public Relations:** Andrea Kuzniar

**Focus Area:**

Women, Children and Families

**Vision Statement:**

Empowering people to improve the quality of life in our community.

**Purpose:**

Founded in 1930, the Junior League of Rockford, Inc. (JLR) is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving our community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

Junior League of Rockford reaches out to women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism.

**Membership:**

Over 200 members

**Affiliation:**

The Junior League of Rockford, Inc. is a member of an international organization, the Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. (AJLI), comprised of over 155,000 women in 292 Junior Leagues in the United States, Canada, Mexico and England. AJLI supports the local chapters by offering leadership development training, maintaining the AJLI website, facilitating networking with leagues and providing members with discounts on a variety of products and services.

**Activities:**

The Junior League of Rockford, Inc. holds nine meetings each year and a number of social events for its membership. Each active member serves on at least one of the nine committees directed by a Board of Directors and structured into four councils: Membership, Community, Fund Development and Finance. The Project/Fundraiser Research committee is responsible for researching and selecting one specific, long-term project that the membership develops and implements. Upon completion, JLR turns the project over to the community.

**Present Project**

The Junior League of Rockford, Inc.'s current project for 2011-2012 is Girls On Their Way Leadership Mentoring Program where JLR will host a retreat four times per year that is aimed at girls ages 9-13 focusing on leadership training, voluntarism, creativity, inspiration, self-esteem and confidence-building.

**Past Projects**

RAISE (Reaching And Inspiring Students for Education)  
MAYA'S (Mothers And Youth Attaining Stability) House  
Discovery Center Museum  
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)  
Bright Side Adult Day Center  
Stepping Stones  
Rock River Discovery Park  
Domestic Violence Assistance Center  
Youth Services Network  
Washington Park Community Recreation Center  
Ken-Rock Community Center - Our First Project in 1930

**Funding**

Community Projects are funded through generous contributions from JLR members, the public and corporate donors, as well as through various grant opportunities and JLR fundraisers, including:

Dine by Design Kitchen Tour  
Unique Spaces Tour  
Under One Roof Designer Showcase Home Tour  
Eat, Live, Relax Home Tour  
Bob Harper Speaker Event  
Event Extravaganza:  
    1) Artale Wine Tasting Event  
    2) Grand Garage Sale  
    3) Holiday Gifts and Glam Online Auction  
    4) Spring Splendor Online Auction  
    5) Restaurant Fundraiser Events

**Awards and Recognitions:**

2011 Rockford Public Schools Board of Education Certificate of Recognition for the RAISE Program  
2007 Winnebago County CASA Program Appreciation Award  
2006 Discovery Center Museum Founding Partner Award  
2006 YWCA Non-Profit Recognition Award  
2003 Rock River Chapter of American Red Cross Partner Award (MAYA'S House)  
2000 National Society of Fund Raising Executives Outstanding Community Service Award  
2000 Boys & Girls Club Volunteer Award (Patriot's Gateway Homework Helper Program)  
1993 Golden Key Award (Opportunities Industrialization Center)  
1992 JC Penney Golden Rule Volunteer Service Recognition Award (Rock River Discovery Park)  
1990 JC Penney Golden Rule Volunteer Service Recognition Award (STEP-ONE)  
1988 Rockford Register Star Excelsior Award  
1987 WIFR TV-23 Action Award

**Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. Awards:**

2004 "JL" Award - Fund Development for 2003 Designer Showcase Home  
2004 "JL" Honorable Mention - Project Development for MAYA'S House (Mothers and Youth Attaining Stability)

### **81 Years in the Community**

The Junior League of Rockford, Inc., founded on April 11, 1930, has contributed 81 years of service to the Rock River Valley. Throughout its long history, JLR members have received the training and knowledge necessary to build coalitions, identify community needs and develop effective and responsive programs to serve those needs. Junior League of Rockford's first community project, Ken-Rock Community Center, was initiated in 1930 and remains an integral part of the community today, along with many other JLR projects that were developed over the years. As part of its 80th anniversary celebration in 2010-2011, the Junior League of Rockford launched an "8 Gifts to the Community" community service initiative which included eight additional community service projects, all aimed at improving the lives of those in Rockford and the surrounding community. The 8 gifts to the community were as follows:

- 1) Painting Bright Side Adult Day Center
- 2) Kids In The Kitchen, Rockford Public Library
- 3) Halloween Party at Ken-Rock Community Center
- 4) U.S. Marines Toys for Tots Drive
- 5) Girls On Their Way Retreat, Womanspace
- 6) Violence Enders Leadership Workshop, Kennedy Middle School
- 7) Kids In The Kitchen, Discovery Center Museum
- 8) Rock River Discovery Park Clean Up