



A Message from the President

As I sit down to write my final President's letter, I cannot help but think back to two years ago as I stood before a room full of women, more than a little nervous, to be introduced as President of the Junior League of Scranton. When I joined the League, I wasn't sure I was Junior League material, yet there I was, just a few years later, with two years as President in front of me. It was then I decided I wanted to make sure every woman who joined the League felt like she was exactly where she was supposed to be. I wanted to help members discover their strengths, to challenge themselves, and most importantly to create a place where we could all develop new skills. We all know how busy our League women are, so I also wanted to League to be a place where members knew what to expect, where meetings started on time and ran efficiently, where members knew what their jobs were and felt safe asking for help if they needed it.

We focused on childhood nutrition and hunger and had a hugely successful cross county food drive. The healthy match made from that drive met a need for the community during the COVID pandemic. The League also established relationships with local school districts and delivered hundreds of snack bags for kids to take home with them on the weekend. As always, our partnerships with Lackawanna County Library System, The Ronald McDonald House, Catherine McAuley Center, Friends of the Poor, and NEPA Youth Shelter worked to meet both hunger and nutrition issues in the Scranton Area.

While we have had a tremendously successful two years, it is safe to say the end of this year was not exactly what any of us expected. We hoped to get many more things accomplished, but the world had other plans. While so many things remain uncertain, I sit here sure of one thing: the women of the Junior League of Scranton have what it takes to take action to continue to make great changes in Scranton, Pennsylvania and the world.

So, as I close this letter, I want to leave you all with this: if you feel uncomfortable, good. It is that feeling of discomfort that will propel you into making changes and growing. Grace Hopper, an American computer scientist and a United States Navy Rear Admiral once said, "A ship in port is safe, but that's not what ships are built for." Let's get ready to set sail ladies!

I hope you all have a safe and wonderful summer!

Nicole A. Lance



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10th Annual Blue Ribbon Gala Supported By League Members



The Marley's Mission 10th Annual Blue Ribbon Gala was held on Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020 at the Hilton Scranton & Conference Center. This year's theme was "What Moves You." League members **Gretchen Wintermantel**, **Tami Prall Nasser**, **Maggie Martinelli**, **Val Serine-Langan**, and **Amy Hnat** (who are all former Gala Co-Chairs) served on this year's Gala Planning Committee. Marley's Mission provides Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy at no cost to children and families who have experienced trauma. To date, Marley's Mission, which is based in Newton Township, has treated more than 900 children in a 14-county area. The Gala is Marley's Mission's largest fundraiser. League members pictured are **Tami Prall Nasser**, **Mackenzie Lucas**, **Pamela Anslinger**, **Gretchen Wintermantel**, **Val Serine-Langan**, **Maggie Martinelli**, and **Amy Hnat**.

Ronald McDonald House Meal Prep



On Saturday, February 22, **Tania Stoker**, **Maria Turetsky**, **Mary Luchansky**, and **Heather Burke**, along with some of their relatives, made meals for families staying at Ronald McDonald House in Scranton, in the organization's beautiful, newly renovated kitchen. The Ronald McDonald House provides a home away from home for parents of kids who are in local hospitals receiving treatment. We chose to make a "comfort meal" for families to make them feel even more at home while staying in Scranton. Meals consisted of beef stew with potatoes, carrots, celery, a buttered roll, and a chocolate brownie on the side. While the meals were cooking, volunteers enjoyed a very informative tour of the Ronald McDonald led by Ben Loomis. Meals made that day were shared with families staying at the Ronald McDonald House and extras were brought to the family rooms of the local hospitals.

Snack Pack



On Sunday, March 1, **Noelle Griffiths** hosted League members **Megan Boettcher**, **Yvonne Caudullo**, **Sarah Kane**, **Lindsey Jones**, and **Nicole Lance** at her home to assemble healthy, non-perishable snacks packs. 17-month-old and future Junior Leaguer, Blair Griffiths, also joined the efforts. Supplies were donated by League members at events leading up to the project as well as purchased by JLS, and included granola bars, dried fruit, jerky, nuts, and more. More than 300 snack pack bags with inspirational quotes were donated to Carbondale Area School District's Achievement Program, a special education program serving students in grades K-12.

Teens at the Table



The first Teens at the Table community event was held at the NEPA Youth Shelter on February 28. **Dawn Talley** chaired the event with members **Megan Boettcher**, **Dorothy Grill**, **Amy Hnat**, **Nicole Lance**, **Gina McAndrew**, **Sarah Cruz** and **Janette Scardillo** assisting in the preparation and serving of the taco dinner to the 30 young people in attendance. Dawn Talley's son, Brian, manned the stove and prepared the taco meat. The youth enjoyed the healthy meal and the conversation with League members. The community event was successful, and the members are looking forward to when the League can return to host another Teens at the Table at the NEPA Youth Shelter.

Food Donation to Catherine McAuley Center



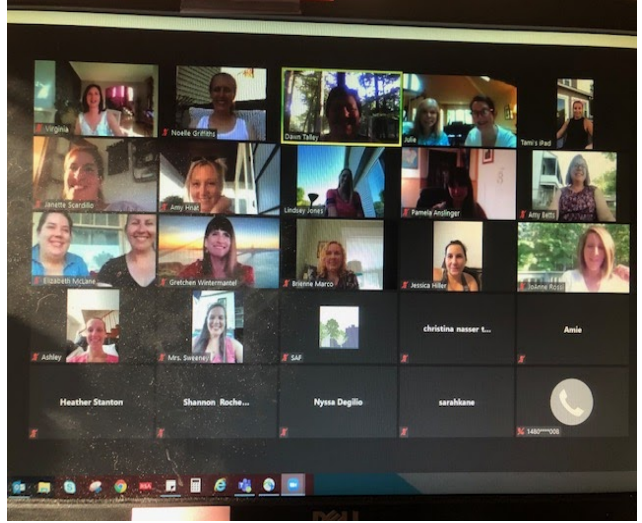
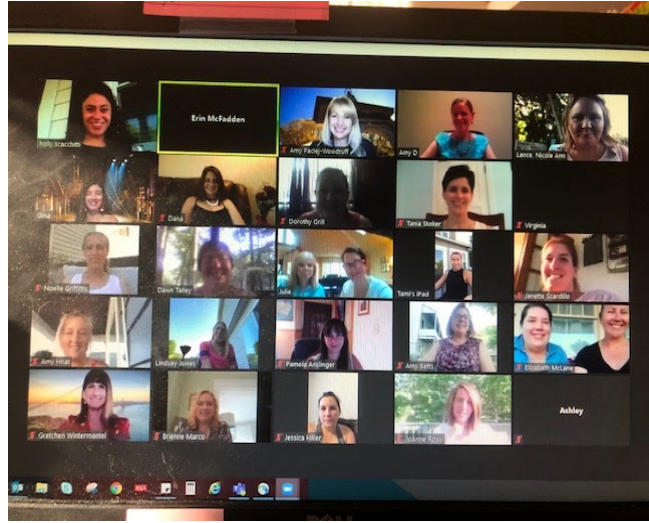
League members have been working on finding ways to address the needs of food insecurity, hunger, and nutrition for the last five years. This has been done through Kids in the Kitchen Events held at local libraries, through Teens at the Table events in partnership with the NEPA Youth Shelter, and a variety of other events with community partners. Last year we held a wildly successful food drive and donated all of the goods collected to several local food pantries. This year, we matched all of the healthy food collected and made a donation to the food pantry at Catherine McAuley Center. We want to thank Schiff's for helping us with the ordering and delivery. Schiff's is a small family owned business that is always willing to go the extra mile to work with a non-profit.

Junior League of Scranton Discretionary Fund



This year the Junior League of Scranton Discretionary Fund Grant was awarded to Friends of the Poor. With the grant, Friends of the Poor and the Family to Family Food Basket program held its eighth weekly COVID-19 Emergency Drive-Thru Food Giveaway on May 6, at the YMCA in Dunmore. More than 100 volunteers were on hand to assist with unloading trucks, set up, preparing the food bags for distribution, registration of families, distribution of food bags, break down, and clean up. Friends of the Poor were able to serve over 1-thousand families. The weekly giveaways will continue until restrictions are lifted and work/social activities return to normal. The Junior League of Scranton Discretionary Fund Grant was used to purchase fresh produce for families.

2020 Annual Dinner



The 2020 Annual Dinner was like no other in our League's history. As we were in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we did our best to honor the traditions and had dinner together, but apart. Members were able to order dinner from Posh at the Scranton Club and join the meeting from their home.

Several members were honored throughout the evening. President, Nicole Lance, and Parliamentarian, Amy Betts, visited all of the members who were entering Sustaining status before the meeting to deliver flowers and thanks for their years of service from the Board. Those members are Amie Talarico, Shannon Roche Cusick, Amy DiChiara, Christina Nasser Thomas, Leandra Nasser and Dana Ward.

The 2020 award winners were also surprised at the Tripp House with their awards and flowers.

2020 Mary Harriman Award Winner



Tania Stoker

2020 Margaret L. Richards Award Winner



Dorothy Grill

2020 Sustainer of the Year, Val Langan



Finally, the League welcomed several new members to Active Status. These members are pictured below from left to right, **Sarah Cruz, Janette Scardillo, Brienne Marco, Jessica Hiller, Lindsay Pasquale, Heather Stanton, and Heather Burke.**



Congratulations!!!!

Rebecca Schoonover welcomed her twin daughters, Rose and Sophie, born February 24, 2020.

Leandra Nasser and her husband, Gerald, welcomed their son, Gerald, born March 21, 2020.

Ashley Nasser Tuckey and her husband, Josh, welcomed their daughter, Adela, born May 2, 2020.

Ashley DeAngelo and her husband, Jeff, welcomed their daughter, Filomena, born May 19, 2020.

Stephanie Adamec and Tommy Hughes welcomed their daughter, Celia, born June 19, 2020.

Lindsey Jones and her husband, Matthew, welcomed their daughter, Lucille, born June 23, 2020.

Erin McFadden married her husband, Corey Mitchell, on May 8, 2020.

Dawn Talley graduated on May 15, 2020 with a M.A. of Ministerial Leadership with an Education Specialization from United Lutheran Seminary. She also received DSP-1 certification from the National Association of Direct Support Professionals.

Yvonne Caudullo graduated with a Hospitality Management Degree from Lackawanna College.

We would like to thank our Mission Sponsor:



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