



100

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIAMI

Developing Women to do a World of Good

Centennial **ANNUAL REPORT**

On Tuesday, July 14, 1925, the first meeting of the Miami Organization of Junior League Girls took place. In 1926, that organization officially became the Junior League of Miami. With ten women in attendance, a movement began that has now led to 100 years of service in Miami-Dade County.



THE ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR LEAGUES INTERNATIONAL

Junior League of Miami, Inc. is one of 296 Leagues in The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. Founded in 1901 by New Yorker and social activism pioneer Mary Harriman, the Junior Leagues are charitable nonprofit organizations of women, developed as civic leaders, making a demonstrable impact on their communities. To this day, AJLI Leagues and members work at the forefront of social reform, tackling the toughest and most critical issues of the day for the purpose of enhancing the social, cultural, and political fabric of civil society.

For more information, please visit: thejuniorleagueinternational.org

Junior League of Miami, Inc. is a 100-year-old, volunteer-run, 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Our 600+ volunteers are committed to improving the lives of women and children in Miami, with a focus of increasing access to food.

ANNUAL REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

Taylor Bailey & Jen Salman, Editors

Michelle Vidal & Kayla Cartwright Miranda, Contributors

Haidy Lu Jensen Photography & SmashPixel Studios, Photography



A message from the President and Executive Vice President



Dear Members, Friends, and Supporters of JLM,

One hundred years ago, a group of visionary women gathered in Miami with a shared conviction: that their commitment to this community would echo across generations. In 1929, President Gladys Moore Gilman captured that belief when she said, “The League is not a temporary organization, but its existence will be perpetual, and it is believed that these functions will continue and its work go on, long after the events of this night have passed into a history of forgotten days.” She was right. **And this year, as we mark our Centennial, we are living proof of it.**



Our Centennial has been an opportunity to pause, honor that history, and celebrate the extraordinary impact our members have made across a century of service.

But a Centennial is not only a moment to look back. It is a starting line. As we step into our second century, we do so with a bold new vision: the Dream Collective. Voted on and passed unanimously by our membership, this signature project marks a multi-year commitment supporting youth and families navigating the foster care system — and brings us full circle to The Children’s Home Society, an organization JLM took under our wing in the 1930s. Nearly a century later, we return as trusted neighbors with deep roots and a renewed purpose.

This League year has been a testament to the talent, energy, and heart of our members. When SNAP benefits were frozen, our members did not wait — we mobilized through the Food & Nutrition Task Force. Our Done in a Day program doubled its output. We grew our membership, exceeded our revenue goals, and strengthened governance by cleaning up our bylaws and member policies.

Our training programs produced Chairs, Vice Presidents, and Board members shaping JLM’s future. Our Centennial events were joyful and robust: from the Bubbly Bus Tour to our history on display at the Philip & Patricia Frost Museum of Science and History Miami, this milestone year felt as remarkable as it truly is.

A Centennial is rare. But what is even rarer is reaching one with this much momentum, this much heart, and this much to look forward to. The events of this year will not “pass into a history of forgotten days” — they will be woven into the foundation of the next hundred years. Because of you, the League’s best work is still ahead.

With deep gratitude and endless pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Vidal".

Michelle Vidal
President, 2025-2026

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kayla Cartwright Miranda".

Kayla Cartwright Miranda
Executive Vice President, 2025-2026

Governance

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors serves as the governing body of the Junior League of Miami. The Board establishes the strategic vision, provides rigorous governance and fiduciary oversight, and defines organizational policy.

President

Michelle Vidal

Executive Vice President

Kayla Cartwright Miranda

Bylaws/Parliamentarian

Meaghan Murphy

President Elect

Vanessa Blanco-Banos

Executive Vice President Elect

Maddie Guillard

Chief of Staff

Brooke Laskin

Recording Secretary

Rhosean Scott Hancock

Director-at-Large

Ela Hernandez

Treasurer

Faequa Khan

Nominating Chair

Heather Woods



EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Executive Management Team drives the creation and execution of an Annual Plan in line with the multi-year Strategic Plan. They oversee day-to-day operations and lead JLM's 24 Committees. This year, the team led an increase in community volunteer opportunities, deepened the leadership bench with robust learning experiences, and strengthened member engagement.

Executive Vice President

Kayla Cartwright Miranda

Vice President, Financial Stewardship

Laura Steele

Vice President, Marketing

Taylor Bailey

Executive Vice President-Elect

Maddie Guillard

Vice President, Fund Development

Tonya Merrem

Vice President, Membership Engagement

Carla Garcia

Vice President, Community Engagement

Roxanna Padron

Vice President, Leadership Development

Christianna Mason

Placement Chair / Nominating Chair-Elect

Stephanie Throckmorton



OUR VISION

is to empower Miami's women, children and families to conquer tomorrow's challenges and to build a united community.



OUR MISSION

is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. Our purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

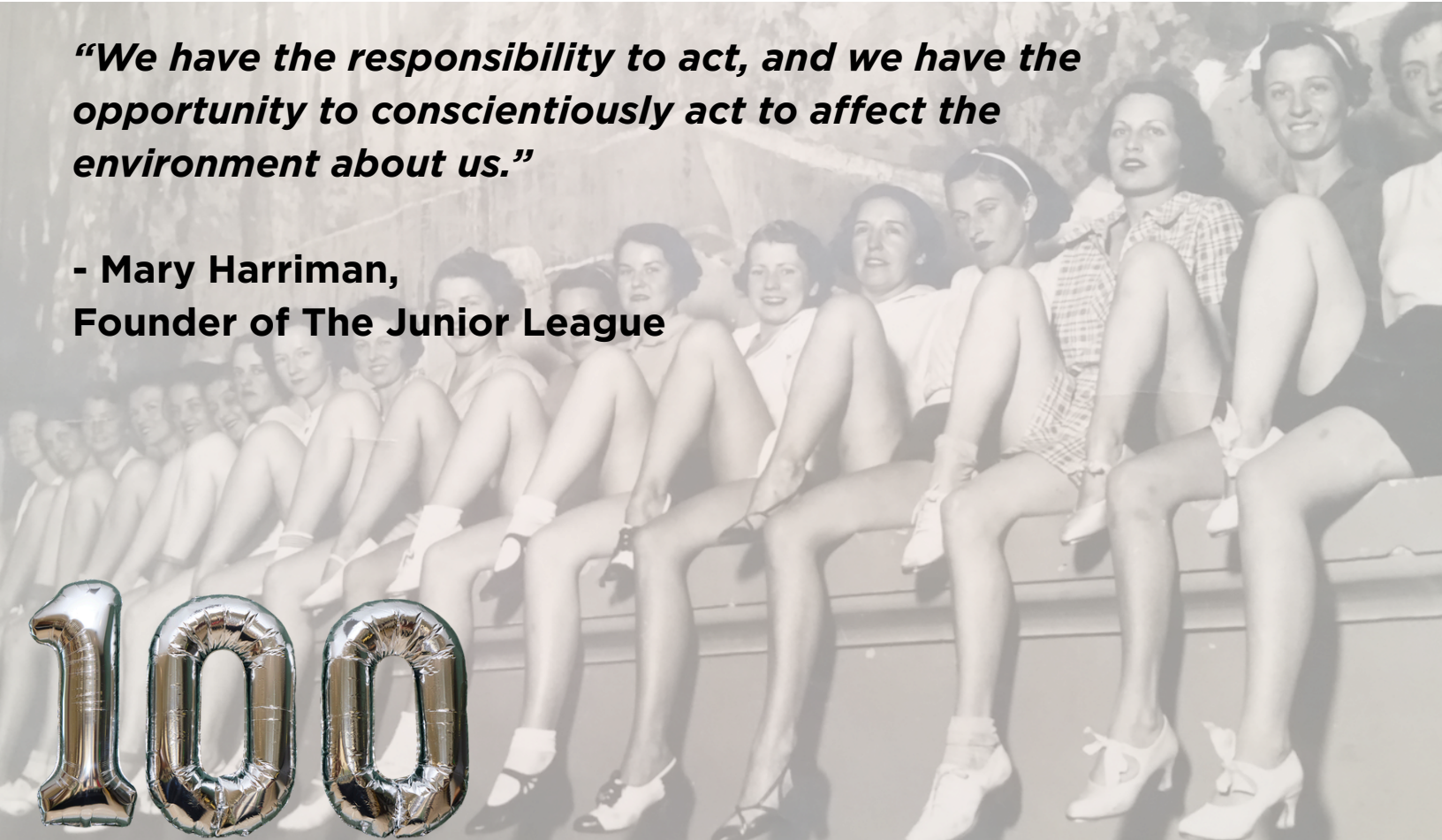


OUR FOCUS

is addressing food insecurity among vulnerable women and youth throughout Miami-Dade County

"We have the responsibility to act, and we have the opportunity to conscientiously act to affect the environment about us."

**- Mary Harriman,
Founder of The Junior League**



Junior League of Miami Foundation

21 Years of Impact in Miami-Dade County



"The Junior League of Miami Foundation was established in 2004 as a separate nonprofit corporation to provide long-term financial support for the Junior League of Miami and its community programs. From an initial endowment of \$345,000, the Foundation's assets have grown to more than \$9 million, and the Foundation has distributed over \$620,000 to JLM to advance its mission and impact.

During the Junior League of Miami's Centennial Year, the Foundation hosted its annual Wine Walk fundraiser with the theme, Celebrating Women in Wine, generating more than \$45,000 in net revenue and securing over \$50,000 in additional charitable contributions.

The Foundation is supported by nearly **700 donors**. Of those, 160 have contributed \$1,926 or more and are recognized as members of the Foundation's 1926 Society.

In addition, twelve donors have confirmed testamentary gifts and are honored members of the Foundation's Hope Society.

JLM FOUNDATION, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President

Catherine Grieve

Vice President

Amber Seidle Lazo

Secretary

Marianne Devine

Treasurer

Marcia Koo

JLMF Immediate Past-President

Maria Figueroa Byrd

DIRECTORS

Katie Lane Arriola

Vanessa Blanco-Banos

Liz Bodner

Betty Lopez-Castro

Andria Dickinson

Ann Goldman

Laura Van Gorden

Ava Habif

Faequa Khan

Anita Uppaluri

Michelle Vidal



Community Advisory Board

The Junior League of Miami Community Advisory Board (CAB) is a group of trusted, high-level advisors who make the difference in providing additional expert knowledge and finding balanced unbiased answers for important projects. Representing a cross-section of professions and community experience, CAB members worked closely with President Michelle Vidal, President-Elect Vanessa Blanco-Banos, and CAB Liaison Meg Demilia to share their wealth of knowledge and provide guidance and direction for the League.

Sarah Nesbit Artecona

Patrick Morris

Vanessa Tinsley

Andria Dickinson

Tammy Reed

Natalia Zea

Esther Jacobo, Esq.

Cynthia Thiry

Mark Trowbridge, CAB Emeritus

David Lawrence Jr.

Centennial Year Chairs

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COUNCIL

Done In A Day: Tanya Perez + Jackie Durand

Inn Transition: Kylie Banks

Uplift Literacy: Jocelyn Alvarez

Program Development + Grants: Lucy Foerster

Scholarship: Diana Hernandez

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Council Treasurer 1: Carter Sox

Council Treasurer 2: Catherine Manfra

FUND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Annual Giving (Give Miami Day): Maddie Dougherty

Vendor Engagement: Kylie Wang

Donor Relations: Natalia Figueroa

Women Who Make a Difference: Felicia Shtivelman + Chelsea Ambriz

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Advocacy: Yarmilia Tona

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion + Belonging: Wendy Adams

New Member Training: Ashley Ernst

Leadership Training: Mallory Austin

MARKETING COUNCIL

Webmistress + InfoTech: Kitty Lee

Social Media: Aries Hernandez

Centennial Press: Jen Salman

Recruitment: Amy Shelly

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT COUNCIL

GMMs: Helen Quinn

Member Events: Lindsay Kerdyk

Sustainer Liaison: Tonya Merrem

Transfer Liaison: Kim Harty

Centennial Events: Amy van den Dijssel



Junior League of Miami Headquarters, Inc.

THE BENNETT HOUSE

The Junior League of Miami's historic headquarters also celebrated its 100th anniversary this year. Acquired from the Sons of the American Revolution in 1995 and lovingly restored by members, the building remains the League's dedicated home for leadership training and community connection.



713 Biltmore Way is a quintessential Coral Gables building. The building was originally erected in 1925 just as the City of Coral Gables was being established. It was built by Patrick Bennett from a George Fink 'Venetian Palace' design, using George Merrick's Coral Gables Construction and Supply Company. It had been used as a haberdashery, a liquor store, a restaurant, and a hotel before it became the Junior League of Miami's Headquarters.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Jill Fitzgerald

Secretary

Kristy Quiros

Treasurer

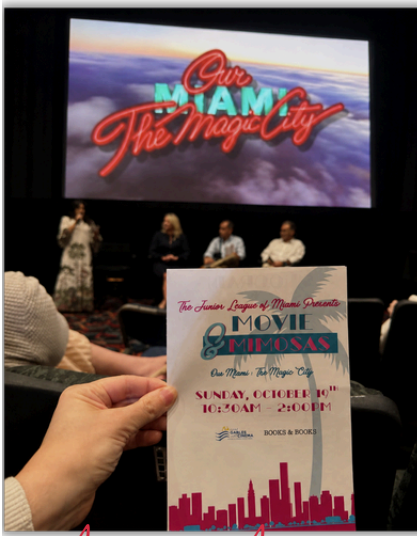
Natacha Metayer

Celebrating at 10+ CENTENNIAL EVENTS



1000

During our Centennial year, we celebrated 100 years of service, leadership, and impact across our community. Highlights included festive kick-off gatherings, our signature Bubbly Bus Tours visiting key impact partners across Miami, and a special Matinee & Mimosas event featuring a re-showing of our 1980s film *Miami, the Magic City*, produced by the League and created by the late historian and author Arva Moore Parks McCabe. Meanwhile, our Centennial Panels Exhibit traveled throughout Miami, sharing our story at Miami-Dade County Public Library, Books & Books Coral Gables, History Miami, and The Philip & Patricia Frost Museum of Science.



Matinee & Mimosas



Bubbly Bus Tours



Kick Off Party at Bodega



Encore Shop Pop Up at Merrick House



Coastal Clean Up with Dome in a Day - Biscayne Nature Center



Centennial Panel Exhibits

WITH GRATITUDE...

TO OUR CENTENNIAL SPONSOR



GROVE BANK & TRUST



[Learn more about our 100 years of impact by clicking here!](#)

This video and upcoming digital museum was made possible by Grove Bank & Trust

Special Thanks to...

OUR HONORARY CENTENNIAL CHAIR

Julia Rae Bianchi



Julia Rae Bianchi *Centennial Legacy Capsule*

In celebration of JLM's Centennial and in honor of the dedication of Julia Rae Bianchi to the preservation of JLM's history, a time capsule is being created including mementos of the centennial year. This is a treasure to be opened 25 years from now, carrying with it the spirit of this remarkable year.

25th Annual Women Who Make a Difference

Women Who Make a Difference

Friday, April 24th at The Rusty Pelican



Maria Figueroa Byrd



Cheryl Goldstein



Shownda Pagan



Rachel Silverstein

\$171,877
RAISED

♥
Thank you for your support!



Marty Steinberger



100 YEARS in *Paradise*

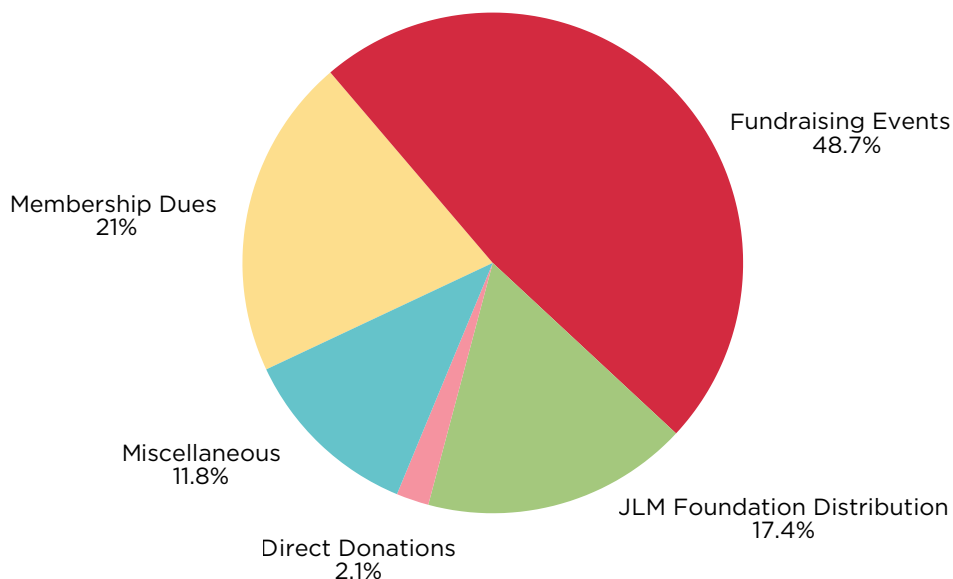


Financials

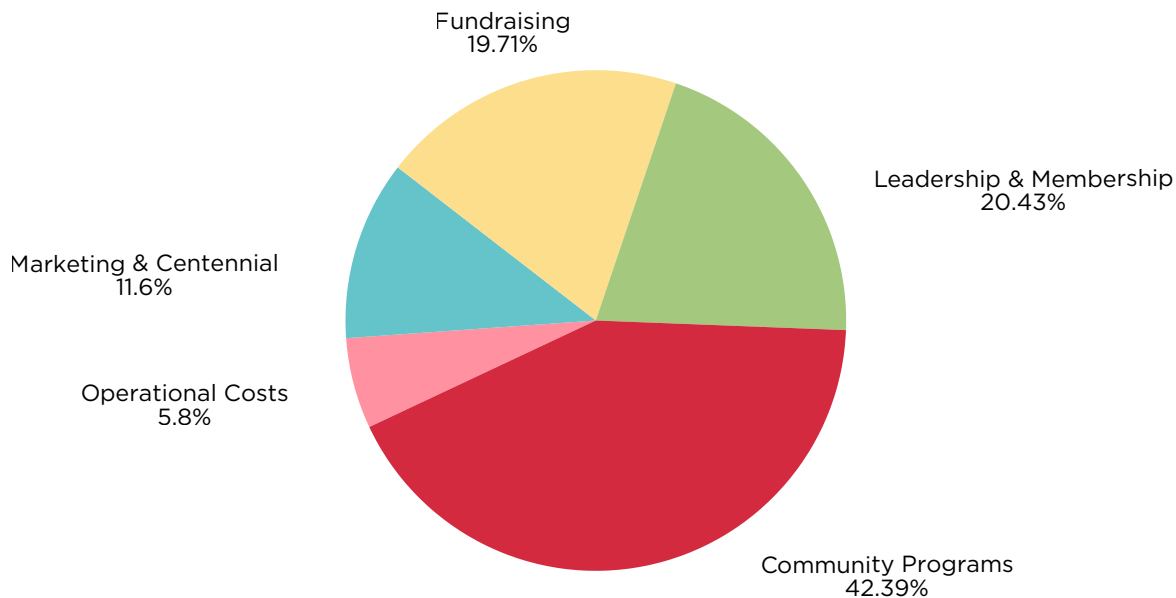
Fiscal Year at a Glance

- The Junior League of Miami, Inc. annual **budget for the Centennial** Fiscal Year (June 1, 2025 - May 31, 2026) **was \$517,295**
- **90% of this budget was allocated to program services;** the remaining 10% to operations & marketing
- JLM is a 100% volunteer-run organization and does not employ any *full-time* staff; As a non-profit, JLM must raise the resources to fund its operating costs each year
- The **primary sources of income** for JLM, Inc. include:
 - Fundraising events including our signature annual Women Who Make a Difference celebration
 - Membership dues
 - Annual Giving Revenue (including donations on Give Miami Day)
 - Gifts from the JLM Foundation
- **Centennial-specific programming** was underwritten by restricted funds generated via a giving campaign launched a decade ago by forward-thinking JLM leaders

REVENUE



EXPENSES



IMPACT

2025-26 *By the Numbers*



\$123,800

**AWARDED IN
COMMUNITY
GRANTS**



**\$25K +
CENTENNIAL
REVENUE**



100%

*of JLM Members surveyed
would recommend
Junior League membership to a
relevant friend or colleague*



**70+
MEMBER
EVENTS &
VOLUNTEER
SHIFTS**



**80+
TRAININGS
OFFERED***

\$65,985

**RAISED ON
GIVE
MIAMI
DAY**



\$1,178.50 **RAISED FROM
THE HOLIDAY BAZAAR**

**Trainings offered by JLM, AJLI, and The Junior League Training Collaborative*

IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY

>10k



Collective Volunteer Hours since June 2025!

5,200+
INDIVIDUALS IMPACTED

600+
FAMILIES SERVED

30+
HANDS-ON COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEER SHIFTS

20
COMMUNITY PARTNERS
ACROSS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

14
INN TRANSITION EVENTS

60+ WOMEN SERVED

60+ CHILDREN SERVED

3,250
DIAPERS DISTRIBUTED



13 DONE IN A DAY
SHIFTS



9 UPLIFT LITERACY EVENTS

Food and Nutrition Task Force (FNTF)

A small and mighty group of Junior League Actives and Sustainers came together to support our community when SNAP benefits became unavailable at the end of 2025. As a proud participant in the County's Food Nutrition for All program, JLM responded quickly to help families—especially children—facing food insecurity.

The **JLM Foundation** provided \$15,000 in funding, supporting grants to nonprofit partners and direct food packaging and distribution efforts. An additional \$5,000 in in-kind donations were received from Gulliver Students, STRANG Design, JLM Past Presidents, Anna Luthra and Grace Zumpano. Together, we mobilized quickly to serve communities all over Miami-Dade County: North Miami Beach, Liberty City, Coconut Grove, Florida City, Little Haiti, Overtown, Little Havana, South Miami Heights, Wynwood and more!

\$14,000 IN GRANTS FED **5000** INDIVIDUALS



\$2,000 IN MEAL PACKAGING FED **400** INDIVIDUALS

\$3,000 IN GROCERIES FED **25** FAMILIES AT ITS



FNTF MEMBERS VOLUNTEERED **170** HOURS IN **8** EVENTS

Signature Projects

Fully managed by Junior League of Miami volunteers, our community initiatives strengthen women, children, and families through programs focused on food insecurity, homelessness, family violence, child and women's health, early childhood education, and foster care.

INN Transition

Volunteers offer life skills training, job fairs, social community events, and diaper deliveries, empowering families to build independent, violence-free futures.



DONE IN A DAY

This year, volunteers: made and distributed kits and baskets, planted gardens, facilitated author's corners, mentorship days, restocked comfort closets, prepared and served food, and loaded diapers.



24

VOLUNTEER SHIFTS EXECUTED



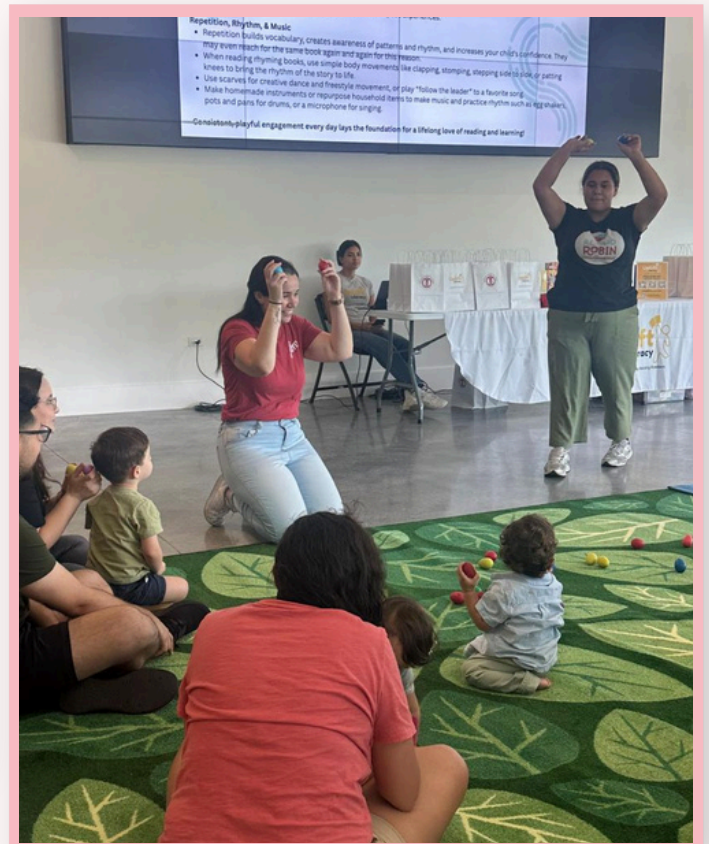
Community Project - Uplift Literacy

Uplift Literacy's mission is to maximize lifelong success for children by improving their reading proficiency - at school, at home and in their communities. Uplift Literacy is a Miami-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that believes literacy is the cornerstone to lifelong success.

JLM provides volunteers during Uplift Literacy events throughout the school year. Volunteers help to set up, engage with children and families, provide educational materials and snacks. Events take place in the evenings and / or Saturdays across Miami-Dade county.



8 UPLIFT LITERACY EVENTS
HOSTED, IMPACTING **250+**
CHILDREN ACROSS MIAMI



Dream Collective

We are proud to announce our newest Signature Project: The Dream Collective. In an expansion of our community impact, JLM joins this ambitious initiative as a key program partner alongside Voices for Children, Children's Home Society (CHS), Branches, Amigos for Kids, The Children's Trust, Explore Foster, University of Miami Linda Ray Center, and Citrus Family Care Network and more.



EXPLORE FOSTER
MIAMI



PSYCHOLOGY
LINDA RAY
INTERVENTION CENTER



This initiative marks a historic homecoming; in 1931, JLM saved the CHS southeastern branch from closure by assuming full operations for five years. Today, we return to the South Dade campus to address the "cliff" faced by youth aging out of the foster care system.

The upcoming League year will serve as a dedicated period of planning, with JLM designing a specialized curriculum that bridges our ***dual pillars: foster care and food insecurity.*** By activating a teaching kitchen and resource pantry, JLM will provide essential life-skills training, including: nutritional literacy, personal care, financial management and beyond, necessary for a successful transition to adulthood.

While this partnership becomes an additional project, JLM remains steadfast in its advocacy for survivors of domestic violence, continuing our vital work with Inn Transition.

Scholarship Recipients

This year's efforts beautifully reflected the League's commitment to empowering young women through education and opportunity. Through a thoughtful and thorough selection process, the committee awarded four scholarships to outstanding recipients who exemplify both academic excellence and future promise.



Uppaluri Family Foundation Scholarship: Jasmine Williams
School for Advanced Studies Homestead

Jasmine is an exceptional young leader whose academic excellence, service, and resilience set her apart as a future change-maker in medicine and her community. With 999 volunteer hours and recognition as a Silver Knight nominee, she has held multiple leadership roles, including President of her local NAACP chapter in South Dade and Women of Tomorrow, Treasurer of the National Honor Society, and Immediate Past President of the Southern Pearls Miami-Dade Chapter of Top Teens of America. Through her passion project, Jas Cares, she distributes care kits across Miami-Dade, inspired by her experience living with a chronic disease. Ranked in the top 13 of her class, she articulated a clear goal of becoming a pediatric oncologist to improve outcomes for children with cancer.



Kathryn Menke Miller Scholarship: Gabriella Martinez
School for Advanced Studies West

Gabriella has completed more than 500 volunteer hours and currently serves as an International Services Officer with the American Red Cross. As an SAF/IS Officer with the American Red Cross, she leads technical projects, trains volunteers and advocates for youth engagement. She is a motivated and versatile student with a strong passion for mechanical engineering and aerospace, aspiring to join the Air Force as a pilot to combine mentorship and community service.



Kathryn Menke Miller Scholarship: Kaylin Lind
John A. Ferguson Senior High School

Kaylin maintains excellent grades while working 25-30 hours per week as a restaurant hostess, contributing her income toward both personal and family expenses. She serves as Co-President of her school's Honors Psychology Society and Vice President of Women of Tomorrow. Described by her mentors as thoughtful and empathetic, she consistently takes responsibility for organizing events, ensuring the projects are purposeful and well executed.

Mary Shafey Nursing Scholarship: Jordyn Sakezles
Young Women's Preparatory Academy

Jordyn's commitment to nursing is longstanding and unwavering. She shared that she has never envisioned another career path and approaches her future profession with clarity and conviction, stating that she already sees herself as a nurse—she simply needs the degree and certification. She volunteers at Jackson Hospital, completing rotations in the medical-surgical and orthopedic spine units and later expanded her experience by volunteering at Baptist Hospital. Academically, she ranks 9th in a graduating class of 40 at her all-girls public high school. She has served as Secretary of Key Club for three years, organizing service projects, logging hours and maintaining communication among members—an essential leadership role in a school without athletic programs, where service becomes a primary outlet for engagement.



Advocacy & Leadership Development

The Advocacy Committee strengthened League engagement by developing members into **confident, informed civic leaders equipped to engage in the advocacy process and take meaningful action on behalf of women and children.**

TWO SIGNATURE TRAINING PROGRAMS:



The Speaker's Bureau:

Preparing Members for public speaking to advocate for food security

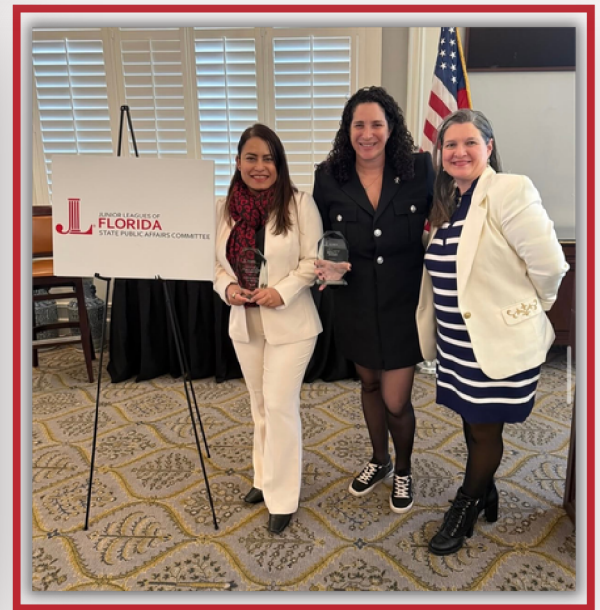
The Advancing Nonprofit Leadership Certification



Other key efforts included:

- Advocacy Day with State Senator Anitere Flores
- A coordinated response to a potential SNAP disruption through the Food & Nutrition Task Force and targeted advocacy initiatives

The League also expanded its reach through the service of two members on the board of The Junior Leagues of Florida State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC). These efforts were recognized with the Outstanding Public Affairs Committee Award from The Junior Leagues of Florida State Public Affairs Committee, honoring the Committee's leadership and impact in advancing the League's mission.



**HONORED BY JUNIOR LEAGUES OF FLORIDA SPAC (ADVOCACY COALITION):
OUTSTANDING PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AWARD, 2026**



10 Members trained in Nonprofit governance

5 New Speakers Bureau members certified

18 JLM trainings facilitated

60+ AJLI trainings offered

MAKING HEADLINES

NEWS

As part of our Centennial Celebration, we made an orchestrated effort to engage with local press and government officials to tell the Junior League of Miami story and celebrate our 100 years of impact.



FROM LOCAL PRESS TO GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION:
Our Centennial was in the spotlight.

MEDIA MENTIONS

- The Miami Herald
- WLRN NPR
- Community Newspaper

PROCLAMATIONS

- Coral Gables
- Miami-Dade County

GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION

- Senator & Mayor Office Engagements

Junior League of Miami Celebrates Centennial with Year-Long Programming Highlighting a Century of Service and Civic Leadership

By Community Newspapers 1 September 12, 2025



Arts & Culture

Junior League of Miami kicks off its centennial celebration, honoring 100 Years of women's leadership

WLRN Public Media | By WLRN News Staff
Published October 15, 2025 at 6:00 AM EDT

Thank You



*for their behind the scenes work on
our Centennial Video Production*



THE *WINE* MARKET

*for being our Centennial Year
General Member Meeting
Wine Sponsor*

A special thank you to our generous DONORS, we could not do this without your support.

\$15,000-\$29,999

Julia Rea Bianchi
Grove Bank & Trust

\$10,000-\$14,999

Anonymous

\$5,000-\$9,999

Publix Super Market
Charities
Senator Rene Garcia

\$1,000-\$4,999

Beatriz Lopez-Castro
Eddy & Katie Arriola
Kelly Nicole Jacobs
Michelle & Chris Vidal
Peggy Hudson
Amy Sussman
Kadie Black
Adam & Chanin Carlin
Baptist Health Cancer Care
Loretta Crews Nido
Carla Grieve
Kelly Foundation

\$1,000-\$4,999

Joel and Randi Cutler
Foundation
Ava Habif
Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Delta Air Lines SoFL
Erin Dolan Knight
John and Bettye Roche
Lori Haas
Anne Helliwell
Laura Van Gorden
Ann Goldman
Strang Design

\$500-\$999

LoveShackFancy
Deborah Koch
Vanessa & Javier
Blanco Banos
Catherine Grieve
Charities Aid Foundation
of America
Helen Picard
Sue Garcia
Faequa Khan
Lauren Harrison
PayPal Giving Fund
Christy Vidal
Anonymous
Brooke Laskin

\$500-\$999

Emilie Wernick
Jeremy Koss
Jodie King
Karen Key
Ken and Patty Key
Lisa Mendelson
Lorena Mangalji
Marianne Devine
Meaghan Murphy
Milam's Market
NBC
Paul Steinberger
Robert Murphy
Sheffield Bessellieu
Susan Lerner
Wayne Withers

In-Kind Donations

Ariete Hospitality
Atlas Calisthenics
Bacardi
Bloom Bar
Chewy
City of Coral Gables
Coconut Grove Flowers
Contempo Linen & Event Rentals
Coral Gables Magazine
CorePower Yoga
Essence Corp
FIU EWIL student group
Fookem's Fabulous
Fred Photobooth

Grant Thornton
Gulliver students
i2K Digital Solutions
Jae's Jewelers
Jet Graphic
Joanna's Marketplace
Karen Key
Marcolin
Maui Jim Sunglasses
Miami Herald
Mighty Minis
Multi Vision
Nelly Photography
Nourish and Refine

NY Dist
Paperage
Pisco y Nazca
Ransom Everglades
teachers and staff
Simply Bails
Suva Yoga
The Blonde Tulip
The Taurus
Trader Joe's
Unlimited Flowers
Vice City Beads
Yaima Illustrations
Zeal Optics

Based on the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year. We apologize for any unintended omissions.



305-443-0160



713 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL



@JuniorLeagueMiami