



The Evolution of Junior League of Greater Orlando

Each decade in Central Florida brings different needs in the community and room for growth. The Junior League of Greater Orlando had a vision to help out its fellow members of the community and get involved. Sixty-five years later, members celebrate past, current and future contributions to the community.

The roaring 20s started the formations of the Junior League of Greater Orlando. The Junior Auxiliary of the Orlando Day Nursery and the Junior Welfare Association saw the need for community service in Central Florida by dispensing food and milk to undernourished children; supported a free clinic to those in need; and provided funds to Fair Oaks, a facility for children removed from unstable homes. These organizations and the belief in investing in the community would eventually merge into the Junior League of Greater Orlando.

The community over the years has brought different needs. During World War II, a surgical dressing unit was staffed, dances were held for enlisted men, and clothing was provided to Allied war refugees. The League's focus in the 1940s turned to the needs of children with the founding of the Children's Theatre. In addition, the League gave support to Forrest Park School for special education and the Child Guidance Clinic, known today as the Parent Resource Center.

The 1950s brought an effort led by the Junior League to establish a youth center for Orlando's teenagers. The group's focus expanded to promoting the cultural arts by sponsoring the first "Gala Night at the Opera," featuring the Florida Symphony Orchestra and Metropolitan artists. This successful program was

turned over to the community in 1969.

The 1960s encouraged an evolution of several new projects, including an award-winning puppet show for hospitalized and kindergarten children, a docent program and suitcase exhibit for the Central Florida Museum, a new art library and studio classroom for the Loch Haven Art Center, and new program development for public television.

Most notable in the 1970s was the merger of the Junior Service League of Winter Park with the Junior League of Orlando to form the Junior League of Orlando-Winter Park, Inc., in 1975. The group's focus was education issues: the Discovery Room and the Five Sense Store at the Orlando Science Center, the beginning of the ADDitions school volunteer program, and an environmental education center at the Central Florida Zoo. Senior citizens' needs were met when the group established the first adult day care center and enlisted their assistance in Volunteers Intervening for Equity.

The 1980s presented new areas of focus, as evidenced by the organization's involvement in hospice, Seagrave House, Partners in Education, spouse abuse, the Neonatal ICU at Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children and Women, the Coalition for the Homeless, an organ donor awareness program, and SWEEP (Solid Waste Education for Environmental Protection.) Additionally, in keeping with its tradition of endorsing the arts, the group supported the Meissen Porcelain Exhibit at the Orlando Museum of Art.

The 1990s started the formations of the current, modern League. The group's numbers blossomed just as the community grew in pop-

ulation and diversity. To reflect these changes, the organization changed its name to the Junior League of Greater Orlando, Florida, Inc. (JLGO). Facing new challenges, the focus became child health and development, and ultimately, family enhancement. Programs included back-to-school fairs, the Ronald McDonald House, Camp Boggy Creek, HIV/AIDS awareness, Green Circle, date rape awareness, and the opening of the Crisis Nursery and the Family Support & Visitation Center.

In the new millennium, the Junior League is a dynamic organization of hundreds of diverse women striving to improve the quality of life in Central Florida. They accomplish this by anticipating and researching the needs of the community and reacting to those needs with effective programs and trained volunteer support. By collaborating with other organizations, JLGO dramatically multiplies its results.

Over its long history, the Junior League of Greater Orlando has contributed more than \$1 million and more than 1 million hours of service to this community. Efforts have reached all areas of concern: young people, the elderly, families, health issues, education, the arts, and the environment. JLGO has gone though many transitions. Another transition is the move of its headquarters from the historic Walker-Hendry House, underneath I-4, to Ivanhoe Row on Orange Avenue. The Bargain Box, the League's 50-year community based re-sale shop, will also make its move there in mid-May. The League is very proud of its history and its community service history with Orlando. For more information on the Junior League of Greater Orlando, please visit jlgo.org.



Sip Sailing Away

by JJ Mackle

On Saturday, February 23, Mother Nature couldn't have planned a better night for the Junior League of Greater Orlando to hold its Sip & Sail Home Tour and JLGO's 65th Anniversary Celebration.

he departing dock was alive with a party atmosphere — Chateau Ste. Michelle champagne at registration, Bargain Box donation bins full of items, and beautiful music in the background. Members and their guests pushed off the boat dock sipping champagne and taking in a perfect lake view of the setting sun. The event sold out, and was staffed with many host volunteers, making guests feel catered to at every location. JLGO's president and president elect greeted guests as they arrived, while board members served drinks and worked the stops at the three homes featured on the boat tour.

At Sally Flynn's 1930s historic home, Sip & Sail cruisers dined on Ravenous Pig and were served beer from Cask & Larder. Guests were greeted with the sounds of Nicole Omat and Eric Bindler while touring the home and learning about the League from 1947-1970. Several past presidents were on hand to discuss the League's history. Carol Rosenfelt, Dail Pribil, Susan Hoover and Susan Filebark played hosts at Sally Flynn's home.

Bonnie Trismen's house featured Kobe burgers from Landry's/T-Rex and sweet potato fries from Keke's. Guests raved about Winter Park Distillery's Peacock Martini's, beautifully presented. While listening to pianist, sustainer Dottie Clendenin, guests viewed memorabilia from JLGO in the 1970s – 90s. The hosts proudly showed guests old magazines and brochures from this time period. The hosts for this home were Joan Milligan, Barbie Aufhammer Hughes, Donna Colado, Carrie Gill and Stephanie Garris.

Carolyn Kiser's home represented the JLGO from 1990 to present day. Guests were served Chateau Ste. Michelle wine, and a meat and cheese course courtesy of The Meat House and Cabot cheeses. Iris Rogan played the violin for the crowd. The hosts for this house were Carla Bray, Laura Pooser and Sue Skambis.

The tour wrapped with a lovely view of a

bright full moon as the boats headed back to the dock where the party continued with Cookie Cousins for dessert and an after-party at Hot Olives. JLGO's 65th Anniversary was celebrated with real style and tremendous support from sustainers, actives, provisional, and past and current leadership. Past presidents who attended the function included: Carla Bray, Betsy Culpepper, Stephanie Garris, Allison Hudson, Mimi Hull, Lee Nimkoff, Laura Pooser and Sue Skambis. Everyone had some role in creating such an event. The sponsors, musicians, committee members and supporters really gave meaning to this year's theme, "Hand in Hand."

Sailing accolades to the fabulous special events team: Sharese Pace (co-chair), Stephanie Garris (co-chair), Megan Rose (asst. chair), Danielle Barnhart (asst. chair), Betsy Boyd, Elizabeth Davis, Allison Delizia, Janet Duszak, Lindsay Gartrell, Allison Halbert Charlotte Jebailey, Carolyn Kiser, Heather Kozlowski, Stephanie McDowell, Kate Tinsley, Harmonie Thornton, Samanatha Youngcourt and Gena Zak.

Special events sustainer committee: Betsy Culpepper, Beth Dover, Joan Milligan, Alison Register, Carol Rosenfelt and Susan Filebark





