

# THE LINK

A Publication of the Junior League of Albuquerque



**JUNIOR LEAGUE  
ALBUQUERQUE**

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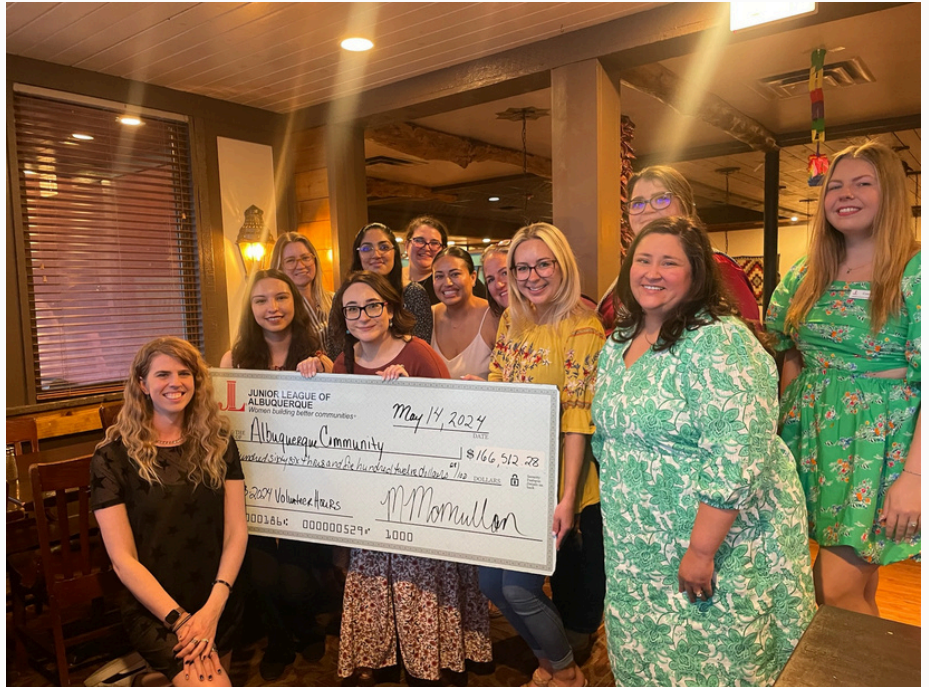
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Thanks You Diaper Bank  
Supporters and JLABQ Sponsors!



2023-2024 End of Year Party

The Junior League of Albuquerque has wrapped up another successful season for its members and community. In this issue we will recap the second half of our year - from our holiday party to end of year party, trainings, fundraisers, service hours and Diaper Bank efforts.

With events ranging from trivia night socials to strategic planning meetings, we have kept busy during our 90th Anniversary year, thank you for your continued support of the Junior League of Albuquerque!

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As my term comes to an end, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible journey we've embarked on together over the two years. It has been a privilege to serve as your President and witness the dedication & passion each of you bring.

I want to take this opportunity to highlight some of the remarkable accomplishments we've achieved during the last half of this League year. We hosted a successful business meeting in February, where our Slate was voted on and passed! The future of our organization depends on strong, committed individuals who will continue to steer us towards our goals with integrity and vision. We also made meaningful updates to our ByLaws and Membership Policies. We have successfully reorganized our leadership roles to ensure greater efficiency and effectiveness in carrying out our mission. This restructuring will enable us to better serve our community and advance our initiatives with renewed focus and determination.

One of our major achievements this year has been the completion of the data management transition to Member Essentials. This milestone marks a significant step forward in our technological capabilities, empowering us to streamline our operations for maximum efficiency.



Our commitment to supporting members of our community remains unwavering. I am thrilled to report that our diaper bank support initiative has continued to thrive, providing essential supplies to families in need and easing the burden. Additionally, we have hosted many volunteer opportunities outside of Junior League with some of our partners such as Roadrunner Food Bank and Ronald McDonald House. These collaborations have enabled us to extend our reach and amplify our impact, providing invaluable resources and support to those who need it most.

I am delighted to share that our collective efforts have resulted in an astounding 4,972 volunteer hours contributed to various projects and initiatives this League year. Each hour of service represents a tangible investment in the well-being of our community, and I am continually inspired by the generosity and dedication of our volunteers.

As we reflect on our achievements and look ahead to the future, I am filled with optimism and confidence in the collective power of our community. Together, we have the capacity to overcome any challenge and build a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

Thank you for your unwavering support, dedication, and commitment to our shared mission. It has been an honor to serve as your president, and I look forward to witnessing the continued growth and success of our organization under the leadership of our incoming team.

With deepest gratitude and warmest regards

# 2023-2024 LEADERSHIP TEAM



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**Natalia Griffin**

President Elect

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**Tassi Rodriguez**

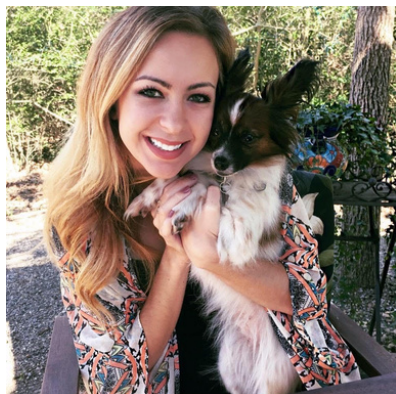
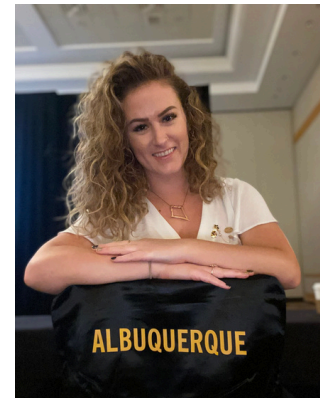
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# EVOLUTION OF LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE: ENHANCING EFFICIENCY AND FOCUS IN THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ALBUQUERQUE

Over the past year, the leadership structure of the Junior League underwent significant reorganization to adapt to the evolving needs of the League. While maintaining the traditional separation between a management team and a board of directors, several leadership positions were streamlined to enhance efficiency. The most notable alteration occurred within the fundraising realm, with the dissolution of the fundraising council. Half of its responsibilities were integrated into the membership council, while the remaining functions were consolidated into a new role—the Operations Vice President. This innovative position not only oversees components of the League’s fundraising efforts, but also assumes responsibilities for the League's operational aspects, including treasurer duties and website maintenance. This restructuring reflects a strategic shift towards a more integrated and versatile leadership approach to better serve the League's objectives and community initiatives.



# AN UPDATE FROM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This year's Junior League Annual Conference celebrated the expansion of the Junior League's global presence, introduced exciting new partnerships, and provided invaluable training for all attendees. Held in New Orleans, the event incorporated the history and culture of the hosting League, including a second line at the opening dinner.

One of the most exciting announcements at the conference was the addition of new Junior Leagues in Nairobi, Kenya; Cote d'Azur, France; and Puerto Rico. With these new chapters, the Junior League now proudly includes 296 Leagues in six countries, a testament to the organization's mission.

Several partnerships with other organizations were also announced at the conference: AJLI unveiled a partnership with the National Women's Suffrage Memorial, marking the first monument on the National Mall dedicated to women's history. Additionally, AJLI announced a partnership with other leading women's service organizations to share information and further opportunities for women leaders.

One of the primary activities of the Annual conference is the annual meeting of League delegates. Much like JLA's own annual meeting in the spring, it is an opportunity for Leagues to vote on any changes to AJLI's policies and procedures. This year saw spirited discussion around changes to AJLI's external policy language, explicit acknowledgement of AJLI's purpose to support all League members, updates to eligibility for the AJLI board, and clarification of description of member statuses. Finally modifications were made to financial assurance practices for small Leagues, which will save our League several thousand dollars per audit cycle.



The conference introduced several new resources designed to support the Leagues in their mission. AJLI unveiled new member onboarding materials designed to help new recruits understand the Junior League's mission, values, and the impact they can make through their involvement. SLBI (Small Leagues Big Impact, the affinity group for smaller Leagues) announced access to Board Source, a comprehensive resource for nonprofit leadership and governance.

The training sessions at the conference were both informative and practical. Many topics were available to attendees including navigating conflict, communicating the Junior League's "Secret sauce", improving internal communication standards, and building stronger relationships in the community. The keynote speech touched on transformative versus performative service and was particularly impactful. Attendees explored how to move beyond surface-level activities to initiatives that create lasting, meaningful change in their communities. This session encouraged a shift in perspective, urging Leagues to evaluate their projects and ensure they align with long-term goals and genuine community needs.



## 2024-2029 STRATEGIC PLAN

**THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ALBUQUERQUE IS AN ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN WHOSE MISSION IS TO ADVANCE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FOR MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY IMPACT THROUGH VOLUNTEER ACTION, COLLABORATION, AND TRAINING.**



### STRATEGIC GOAL: WOMEN'S TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT, AND LEADERSHIP

In five years we will be a premier organization empowering and engaging women through training and hands-on experiences to make an impact within the Albuquerque Metropolitan Area.

Objective 1: Recruit committed and diverse members through community and brand recognition.  
*Accountability Leader: Operations Vice President*

Objective 2: Foster a culture of belonging within the membership.  
*Accountability Leader: President*

Objective 3: Provide inclusive and diverse networking and training opportunities.  
*Accountability Leader: Community Vice President*

Objective 4: Foster a fiscally responsible League.  
*Accountability Leader: Sustainer Vice President/Director*



### STRATEGIC GOAL: COMMUNITY IMPACT

In five years we will have a Diaper Bank recognized as a critical resource in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Area and provide service opportunities that enhance member growth.

Objective 1: Build a sustainable Diaper Bank.  
*Accountability Leader: Membership Development Vice President*

Objective 2: Increase awareness of diaper need in the community, ultimately ending diaper tax in New Mexico.  
*Accountability Leader: Executive Vice President*

Objective 3: Focus on community education and training for our members through service opportunities.  
*Accountability Leader: Governance Chair*



2023 HOLIDAY PARTY



2024 END OF YEAR PARTY



## ENDOWMENT FUND GRANTEES

It is with great joy and pride that we announce the recipients of this year's nonprofit grants. These incredible organizations have touched the hearts of the grant committee, and we are honored to support their efforts in creating positive change within our community.

We are thrilled to award a \$3,000 grant to The Grief Center, whose dedication to providing grief support to children and families has had a profound impact on the New Mexico community, and is one of the few programs of its kind in the country. Many of our League members have been touched by their services, both as participants in their programs and in their own volunteer work outside of the League. This grant will enable them to continue to provide a safe space to experience community, healing, and hope while people are going through what is often the worst and hardest thing they have ever faced.

Additionally, we extend our congratulations to Locker 505. Their commitment to providing appropriate school clothing to K-12 Greater Albuquerque Metro students in need complements our diaper bank well. With this grant they will be able to buy items not provided in their donation drives, which will help fill critical gaps in their supplies.

As we celebrate these deserving organizations, we are reminded of the collective power we possess to effect positive change. It is through collaboration and support that we can nurture a thriving ecosystem of nonprofits dedicated to serving those in need.



**Locker #505**  
Students Clothing Bank

# JLA Diaper Bank: A Year of Impact, Community Support, and New Partnerships



As we reflect on the past league year, the Junior League of Albuquerque Diaper Bank stands as a testament to the power of community collaboration and the profound impact that can be achieved when individuals come together for a common cause. We are thrilled to share the incredible milestones and exciting developments that have marked this chapter in our Diaper Bank's journey

## **26,700 Diapers, Countless Smiles**

This league year, the JLA Diaper Bank has successfully distributed an astounding 26,692 diapers into the community. These tangible contributions have provided essential support to families in need, ensuring that little ones are kept comfortable and cared for. It is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our members and the unwavering support from our community.

## **16,500+ Diapers Donated by Albuquerque Community**

The heartwarming generosity of the Albuquerque community has been a driving force behind the success of the JLA Diaper Bank. We are thrilled to announce that 16,566 diapers were donated by individuals and businesses in our community. This outpouring of support speaks volumes about the spirit of compassion and solidarity that defines Albuquerque, and we are immensely grateful for every contribution.

## **Exciting New Partnerships**

One of the most exciting developments this year is the expansion of our partnerships. We are thrilled to welcome new collaborators to the JLA Diaper Bank family, including APS Title I, City of Albuquerque Senior Affairs, Crossroads for Women, Cuidando Los Ninos, First Nations Community Health Source, Las Cumbres Community Services, Native American Professional Parent Resource, The Storehouse of New Mexico, and United Voices for Newcomers Rights.



These partnerships signify a growing network of organizations dedicated to addressing the needs of our community comprehensively. By joining forces with these esteemed partners, we are better equipped to reach more families and make a meaningful impact in the lives of those who need it most.

### **The Heart of JLA Diaper Bank**

At the heart of the JLA Diaper Bank are passionate individuals dedicated to making a difference. The tireless efforts of our members, combined with the support of our community and partners, exemplify the power of collective action. Together, we are creating a ripple effect of positive change that resonates far beyond the distribution of diapers - we are nurturing a community where every family feels supported and valued.

As we look ahead, the JLA Diaper Bank remains committed to expanding its reach, forging new partnerships, and continuing to be a beacon of hope for families in need. Thank you to everyone who has played a part in this incredible journey. Your contributions, big and small, make a significant impact, and we look forward to the continued growth and success of the JLA Diaper Bank in the years to come.



# WELCOME THE 23-24 JLABQ NEW MEMBERS!

**Brandy Babcock**

**Victoria Perko**

**Nadja Falk**

**Lindsey Uhlik**

**Victoria Gammill**

# CONGRATS TO OUR NEW ACTIVE MEMBERS!



**Kristi Bobonea**

**Shawna Cunningham**

**Ericca Peterson**



# 2024-2025 SLATED LEADERS



**Tasha Olander**  
Operations Vice President  
[treasurer@jlabq.org](mailto:treasurer@jlabq.org)



**Courtney Moberley Moreno**  
Membership Development Vice President  
[membership@jlabq.org](mailto:membership@jlabq.org)

# 2024 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

## January

Pajama Party Home Meetings were one of the highlights of the year! We played Mad Libs, pin the cucumber on the spa girl, and most of all were cozy in our finest PJs!



## February



We hosted our annual business meeting and had lots to vote on! The new slate, as well as updated Bylaws and Membership Policies. This meeting happened to fall on Galentine's so we made sure to have a great time with heart shaped pizza and belly dancing lessons from our President Elect!



## April

We take placement of our members very seriously as you can see! We hosted a placement version of the Dating game, where host EVP asked her future Council VP's enticing questions like "If your council members were animals, what kind would they be and why?"



# PAINTING FOR A PURPOSE: JLA'S NIGHT OF CREATIVITY WITH KELLY JO DESIGN BY WINE

In April, the Junior League of Albuquerque embraced a night of creativity and community spirit at Kelly Jo Design by Wine. Amidst laughter, camaraderie, and a splash of paint, JLA members and supporters came together to unleash their inner artists and create beautiful works of art.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Kelly Jo for her unwavering commitment to our community. Through this fundraising event, she not only provided us with a memorable evening but also contributed to the important work we do in serving our local community.

Kelly Jo's dedication to supporting causes that matter is truly commendable, and we are honored to have partnered with her for this event. Her generosity and passion serve as an inspiration to us all, reminding us of the profound impact we can make when we come together with a shared purpose.

Here's to many more colorful collaborations in the future!



## DARE TO LEAD TRAINING

In March, the Junior League of Albuquerque planned a captivating Dare to Lead training inspired by Brene Brown's empowering book on vulnerability and wholehearted leadership, held at the Albuquerque Community Foundation. Through interactive discussions and exercises, members explored strategies for fostering trust, vulnerability, and authentic leadership. Participants gained insights into building meaningful connections and cultivating cultures where people feel safe bringing their whole selves. The powerful training equipped attendees with tools for leading with courage, compassion, and empathy. Members embarked on journeys of self-discovery, uniting in a shared experience of daring greatly. The event epitomized the League's commitment to providing transformative personal and professional growth opportunities.



# Serving with Heart: JLA Volunteers at Roadrunner Food Bank

In April, the Junior League of Albuquerque embarked on a meaningful service learning opportunity at the Roadrunner Food Bank. With sleeves rolled up and hearts full of dedication, JLA members came together to make a tangible difference in the fight against hunger in our community.

At Roadrunner Food Bank, we had the privilege of working side by side with staff and fellow volunteers to sort and pack food items destined for those in need. It was a humbling experience to witness firsthand the impact of our efforts as we helped ensure that families facing food insecurity had access to nutritious meals.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Roadrunner Food Bank for providing us with the opportunity to serve and for their tireless dedication to fighting food insecurity in our community. Their work is an inspiration to us all, and we are honored to have played a small part in their noble mission.



**THANK YOU  
LEAGUE  
SPONSORS!**





Trivia Nights

# SOCIAL TIME!



Britney Spears Book Club



Run for the Zoo



Superbowl Party



JLA Bachelorette Party



Drag Brunch with costume theme Barbie

# Nourishing Hearts at Ronald McDonald House of New Mexico

In March, JLA came together in March to prepare a heartfelt dinner for the Ronald McDonald House of New Mexico. This impactful event was made possible by the meticulous planning of Tasha and Trina, whose dedication and efforts shone through in every detail.

As founding supporters of the Ronald McDonald House, JLA understands the significance of providing more than just shelter; it's about creating a haven for families facing the challenges of caring for a sick child. The dinner event was a tangible manifestation of the ongoing commitment to making a lasting difference in the lives of those navigating medical crises.

Beyond the shared meal, this initiative represents the continuous dedication of JLA to building bridges of support for families in need. The Ronald McDonald House's mission of offering a "home away from home" aligns seamlessly with JLA's ethos of fostering community and providing solace during difficult times.

Kudos to Tasha, Trina, and the entire JLA community for orchestrating an event that echoes far beyond a single evening. Your commitment to impacting lives and creating a supportive community shines brightly. Let's forge ahead, united in our mission to make a lasting difference. #JLAImpact #RMHNM #CommunityCatalysts



# SERVICE LEARNING OPPORTUNITY: WATERMELON MOUNTAIN RANCH

This December, the Junior League of Albuquerque team dedicated time to volunteering at Watermelon Mountain Ranch, New Mexico's largest no-kill animal shelter. From sorting food to arranging kennels and other supplies, we worked to support the Watermelon Mountain Ranch mission of providing care to animals across the state. Our volunteers also learned about their day-to-day operations and the impactful work they have been doing since their founding in 1996. A few members of our group even went home with new furry friends, making this service learning opportunity even more special



## COOKBOOKS!

Don't forget, JLA Cookbooks are sold online and throughout Albuquerque! We also have many other League's cookbooks on sale online for our members. Contact [cookbooks@jlabq.org](mailto:cookbooks@jlabq.org) for more information.

Seasoned with Sun, El Paso  
Saint Louis Days/Saint Louis Nights, St. Louis  
Pomegranates & Prickly Pears, Phoenix  
Virginia Hospitality, Hampton Roads  
Cooking from the Coast to the Cascades, Eugene  
Dining in the Smoky Mountains, Knoxville





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INJURY LAWYERS

If you have ideas of organizations that can host a diaper drive or want to support our cause, submit information to [community@jlabq.org](mailto:community@jlabq.org)



**JUNIOR LEAGUE**  
ALBUQUERQUE

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We are proud members of the  
Association of Junior Leagues  
International

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

**Follow Us!**



## Our Mission

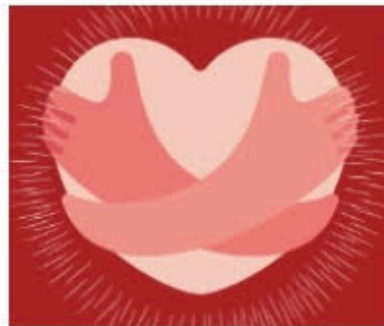
The Junior League of Albuquerque is an organization of women whose Mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

## Our Vision

Women around the world as catalysts for lasting community change.

## Become a Member today!

If you're interested in joining the League, applications are always open on [www.jlabq.org](http://www.jlabq.org) or learn more about upcoming recruitment events by emailing [membership@jlabq.org](mailto:membership@jlabq.org)



**SHARE A HUGS TODAY!**

*Help. Us. Give. Support*



submit a HUG here

[HUGS@jlabq.org](mailto:HUGS@jlabq.org)

**JOIN FOR THE VOLUNTEERING. STAY FOR THE FRIENDSHIPS.**