

# Women Powered. Mission Driven. NEW YORK JUNIOR LEAGUE ANNUAL REPORT 2019–2020





# About the New York Junior League

Since 1901, the New York Junior League (NYJL) has responded to New York City's most pressing socioeconomic challenges. Powered by nearly 2,800 women volunteers, the NYJL works with more than 60 community-based organizations to advance children's social-emotional learning and to provide life skills programs to youth and adults who are navigating periods of difficult transition. Bringing their diverse experiences and talents, trained NYJL volunteers engage women and children in health, education, and arts workshops specially customized to their needs. The NYJL also advocates with state and city governments for women- and children-centered policies and develops volunteers' leadership skills for service in the NYJL and on other nonprofit boards. Strengthened by its dedicated volunteer network and anchored by 120 years of service to NYC, the NYJL cultivates a community that reinforces women's personal relationships and collective power as drivers of positive change.



### **Mission Statement**

The New York Junior League is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

We believe that all women, children, and families should have equal opportunity, the resources to unlock their potential, and the structures to support them.

# **Diversity and Inclusion Statement**

We welcome all women who value our mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations, and communities.

### **Core Values**

We are passionate about our community. We believe in maximizing our impact through strategic external partnerships, advocacy, and volunteer action to achieve our mission.

**We respect individuals.** We respect each other, those with whom we work and those we serve in the community. We strive to understand others, to respect differences, and to treat everyone with dignity.

**We act responsibly.** We recognize that our decisions and our actions can affect others. We strive to uphold our commitments and act honorably in all that we do.

**We promote opportunity.** We are committed to helping each other achieve our potential. We foster a supportive and motivating environment that enables continuous learning, encourages mentorship, and develops future leaders.



The NYJL aligns my personal values of the power of service with those who are equally passionate and committed to [our community].

-Alexandra Atkins, NYJL Volunteer

# Message from the New York Junior League President

Every night of the week, NYJL's headquarters, the historic Astor House, was abuzz with committee meetings, volunteer workshops, signature fundraising events, and volunteer networking opportunities.

We prepared women to be civic leaders. We trained and deployed hundreds of volunteers around the city daily. We provided consistent support to 64 nonprofit partners. We acted as bold advocates. Our volunteers developed concrete leadership and management skills to build their community, workplace, and the world.

Our current strategic plan guided and challenged us during the 2019-2020 volunteer year.

We strengthened external relationships to multiply our impact and amplify our advocacy. We stepped up our presence by hosting elected officials in multiple forums. We expanded our advocacy for homeless families. As the founding Junior League and the fourth largest among 285 Junior Leagues globally, we worked to be a leader among our peers, collaborating with our national board and staff and fellow largest leagues.

We better measured our community impact, introducing tools to understand how we are moving the needle on social-emotional learning. We added new partners, including Urban Outreach and New York Restoration Project, to help us better serve on the ground.

As we reflected on the needs of current and future women volunteer leaders, we started assessing how we could better meet their changing needs and ensure that our organization represents our NYC community through our diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.

Then, the pandemic hit. We faced a public health emergency that devastated our city within a matter of weeks. The foundational work we had put in place acted as an anchor as we pivoted into crisis mode. Like many organizations, we faced a reckoning that challenged our sense of who we are and how we serve. We asked our partners how we could best meet their immediate needs while keeping volunteers safe and engaged. Our resilience, flexibility, and cohesiveness were tested, but we doubled down on our dedication to our community and reaffirmed our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The NYJL has weathered many catastrophes since its founding in 1901—from the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic to September 11, 2001—and yet here we still stand, continuing to serve the women, children, and families in our city through hands-on service, fundraising for our community programs, advocacy, and leadership training. Our organization's 120 years of commitment and service to the people of New York City is creating lasting change. We will continue to advance toward our mission together, no matter the circumstances that come our way. **How will you partner with us in rebuilding our city—as a volunteer, a nonprofit partner, an advocacy partner, a volunteer trainer, or a donor? We welcome all who value our mission.** 



Warmest regards,

Lauren Jenkins Chung NYJL President, 2018–2020

# **Investing in Our Communities**

Throughout New York City, NYJL volunteers engage women and children in NYJL- designed health, education, arts, and social support programs to strengthen life skills and advance social-emotional learning.

### LIFE SKILLS PROGRAMMING

NYJL's life skills programming included workshops to foster independent living, such as:

- Building financial literacy skills
- Securing housing
- Shopping for and preparing nutritious meals on a budget
- Creating a resume
- Developing job interview skills
- Caring for personal health and hygiene

### SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Aiming to enhance and measure social-emotional learning, the NYJL offered mentorship sessions to support children's and adults' journeys to:

- Understand and process their emotions
- Create and realize positive goals
- Embody empathy
  - Build healthy relationships
- Make responsible and informed decision

### SCHOOL-BASED ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND ARTS INSTRUCTION

Volunteers provided weekly academic support and arts and science instruction for children in public schools and after-school programs. They led hands-on science projects, reading workshops, career exploration, and leadership development programs as well as culture and arts programs that inspired students to imagine new perspectives and stretch critical thinking skills.

### **RAPID RESPONSE**

In addition to year-round life skills programming, the NYJL was a reliable source of on-demand volunteer support for many community-based organizations. These support activities included:

- Tutoring students
- Delivering meals to homebound seniors
- Organizing books and school supply donations
- Serving meals to individuals experiencing homelessness and food insecurity
- Coaching high-school students as they prepared research project presentations for a college scholarship program

### WHO WE SERVE

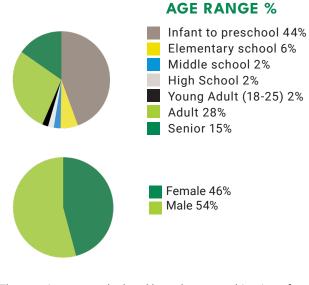
NYJL's clients range in age from infancy to older adulthood and come from underserved communities.

Many are navigating periods of difficult transition aging out of foster care, facing homelessness, re-emerging from rehabilitation programs, or rebuilding their lives after incarceration.

Other clients are recovering from trauma or confronting economic hardships or health complications, while the youngest are developing their social-emotional, coping, and problem-solving skills to take on life's challenges as they mature.

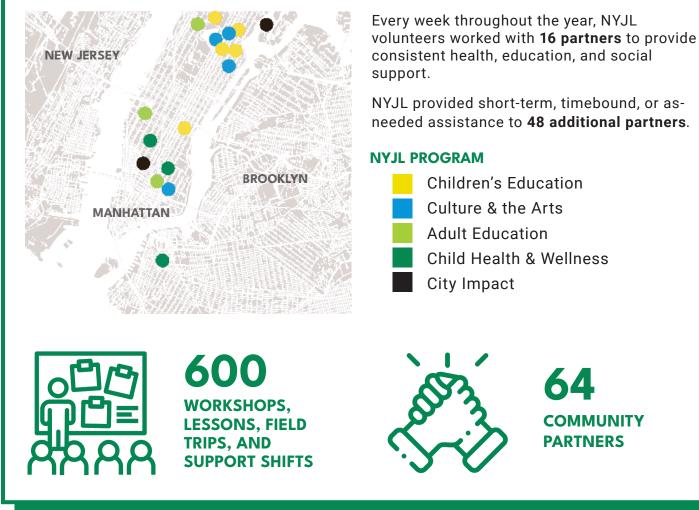


### CLIENTS NYJL SERVED DURING 2019–2020\*



\*These ratios were calculated based on a combination of partner-provided public space demographic breakdowns and NYJL-collected data from one-to-one mentorship programs.

#### WHERE WE SERVE



# Spotlight: Connecting Clients to the Virtual World

NYJL's New View volunteers mentor young men and women residing at Good Shepherd Services' facilities, which serves young people who are in or aging out of the foster care system. NYJL volunteers build strong interpersonal relationships, teach life skills, and share meals with youth who have experienced instability in their lives.

In June 2020, while programs and school instruction moved online, many clients living in partner facilities or shelters had no access to wifi. The NYJL provided Good Shepherd Services with internet-enabled hot spots and microphone-equipped headsets so residents could connect to the internet. After the equipment was installed, residents resumed their participation in NYJL's online mentorship sessions and nutritious meal preparation classes as well as day-to-day activities outside the NYJL. With reliable internet access, more than 65 clients were able to engage in online learning and job readiness programs, seek employment and enrichment opportunities, take care of personal business, and stay connected to the important people in their lives.



Thank you for your generous support of our mentoring program and our participants. This is an example of a gift that meets an urgent need in times of crisis, and we are deeply grateful to have you as partners in our work.

-Harry Berberian, Giving Manager at Good Shepherd Services

# **Responding to the Covid-19 Pandemic**

When COVID-19 became a public health emergency, the NYJL suspended almost all of its in-person activities, including signature infrastructure initiatives Playground Improvement Project and Community Impact Project. The NYJL contacted all community partners to offer immediate assistance and discuss ways to adapt programming amid the evolving and unpredictable health and economic crisis. Based on these conversations, the NYJL moved in-person activities to online platforms and mobilized in-kind donations and resources for supplies.

### TRANSITIONING TO VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

- Steps to Success, a job readiness program, hosted virtual workshops and networking nights to continue to bring job skills training to their regular client base.
- Beacon to Broadway, a performing arts program for older elementary-age students, held virtual workshops that culminated in a youth talent show.
- NYJL volunteers independently called over 200 homebound seniors at the Stanley Isaacs Center and organized virtual check-ins with Seniors at the Jewish Association Serving the Aging.



#### **PROVIDING HANDS-ON SUPPORT**

- **Emergency Food Support:** As food insecurity became even more acute during the onset of COVID-19, the NYJL agreed to supply appliances, shopping carts, pantry supplies, and food staples to help Urban Outreach Center build out a new extension to its food pantry. NYJL volunteers continued to assist with socially-distanced live meal distribution.
- Supplies for Basic Needs: Many of NYJL's partners needed immediate, everyday supplies. The NYJL worked with its partners to send items such as toiletries, clothing, linens, baby formula, bottles, and diapers to Covenant House, Room to Grow, Win, and the Single Parent Resource Center.

School Supplies for Remote Learning: The pandemic exacerbated the learning challenges children living in shelters and transitional housing were already facing. The lack of access to technology and supplies, while living in confined spaces with other family members and distractions, made learning even more difficult for these children. The NYJL provided:

- 128 backpacks with essential supplies to Win so children could fully participate in summer learning and activities and be prepared for the new school year.
- NYJL's Da Vinci Explorers sent students art supplies and at-home lessons to support art projects.

# **Advocacy**

### TAKING A SEAT AT THE TABLE

NYJL serves as a powerful voice for women and children in New York City by promoting women- and children-centered state and city policies and maintaining strong partnerships with local, frontline nonprofit organizations

#### **Key Issues**

During 2019–2020, NYJL's Advocates for Public Policy (APP) focused on New York City initiatives to support people experiencing homelessness, voter registration, and 2020 Census participation and training sessions.

#### **Joint Advocacy with Community Partners**

In July 2019, the NYJL welcomed multiple elected officials for a legislative reception, where NYJL community partner Win reported on NYJL's work with clients in its shelters, and Advocates for Children shared an update on joint advocacy to increase city funding for school-based social workers and other related supports for homeless youth.

#### **Legislative Breakfast**

In November 2019, the NYJL hosted a legislative breakfast, the first in two decades, to highlight the significance of women's voices in advocacy and NYJL's priorities, including promotion of census participation and voting rights, awareness, and education. New York State Senators Liz Krueger and Robert Jackson as well as the Executive Director of the Women's Caucus for New York City Council, Julie Kim, were among the attendees.

#### Passage of the SCAR Act

After advocating for New York state's Separation of Children Accountability Reporting (SCAR) Act for more than two years, the NYJL welcomed its enactment into law in 2020. The SCAR Act requires New York state child care agencies to report basic information about the separated, immigrant children under their protection to the state government.



*Thank you to all New York Junior League volunteers. You're already helping so much in individual ways.* 

-Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President



NYJL volunteers convene state and city elected officials at NYJL's 2019 Legislative Breakfast.



At NYJL's annual Winter Ball, Vice President of Policy and Planning Jessica Yager accepted NYJL's first Advocacy Partner Award on behalf of Win, the largest shelter service provider for families in New York City.

# **Training Volunteers for Service**

NYJL volunteers cultivate their skills for service through hands-on workshops, expert-led panel discussions, committee assignments, and practical experience in leadership roles.

During 2019–2020, NYJL's Volunteer Education and Training program offered sessions on working with populations living with mental health challenges, women in politics, fundraising, and building confidence. Acting on its commitment to inclusive environments of diverse individuals and communities, the NYJL also provided training on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

### **COMMUNITY ISSUES FORUMS**

NYJL's Community Issues Forums gave volunteers a foundational understanding and current view of the issues facing our city and community partners. Volunteers learned from the expert organizations on the frontlines about the most impactful ways to support underserved communities.

During the fall of 2019, the NYJL welcomed speakers from Community Board 4, Community Education Council District 2, and Covenant House to share insights on the unique challenges children and adolescents experience as a result of housing insecurity.

In response to COVID-19 and civil unrest from the police-involved deaths of Black Americans, the NYJL hosted two additional Community Issues Forums online to cover these timely topics in the spring of 2020.

At the first forum, **Community Action and Advocacy around Homelessness and Food Insecurity in the Current Environment**, state and city elected officials and a speaker from community partner Win shared their expertise on how NYJL volunteers could best help populations struggling during the pandemic.

The second forum, **Taking Action Against Racism**, featured speakers from community partners SCAN-Harbor, Avenues for Justice, and Good Shepherd Services. They discussed ways the NYJL can disrupt systemic racism and contributed their experiences as direct service providers addressing the intersections of the criminal justice system, homelessness, and racism.

# 66

Because the NYFL serves so many different populations with different perspectives and needs, exceptional training is imperative. NYFL's training focuses on preparing volunteers for the wide range of groups that we serve and the variety of services that we offer. The training has given me the information to understand our clients' situations and the tools to better serve them.

-Olivia Leon, NYJL Volunteer



NYJL's Volunteer Education and Training program not only covered themes directly related to project management and NYJL's focus areas, but it also addressed topics that uniquely impact women's personal and professional lives, including mental and physical health, time management, self care, and work/life balance.

# Developing Community Leaders

NYJL's Leadership Development program prepares volunteers for current and future leadership roles at the NYJL, other nonprofit organizations, and in the community. The NYJL also brings awareness to civic leadership opportunities such as community boards, district school boards, and city council seats.

Volunteers gain firsthand experience in important community issues as well as practical and transferable skills in strategic planning, project management from ideation to completion, nonprofit operations, public speaking, and communications strategy. NYJL volunteers also develop leadership and management skills by contributing to committee projects and assuming leadership roles.

# 150 VOLUNTEERS SERVED IN LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT POSITIONS

During 2019—2020, over 150 volunteers served in leadership and management positions on NYJL's Board of Directors, Management Council, and as committee chairs. By holding these positions, NYJL volunteers built direct experience managing teams comprising 5 to 150 volunteers and overseeing complex projects and initiatives: from producing NYJL's annual gala and launching strategies that enhance NYJL's volunteer experience to developing curricula for a community program and managing communications.

The NYJL also organized events to match NYJL volunteers with nonprofit organizations recruiting candidates for junior and governing board positions. Through service on other nonprofit boards, NYJL volunteers bring their learning and skills to their volunteer commitments at the NYJL, while also contributing their NYJL experience to other nonprofit boards.



At a panel presentation on women entrepreneurship, NYJL volunteers shared their experiences building and operating their own businesses.



NYJL volunteers met staff from other nonprofit organizations seeking to fill positions on their junior and governing boards.



When we talk about what the new normal looks like...the stark reality is that our world isn't structured around balanced lives and parenting... As we look at society, I would appreciate seeing how the NYJL can provide thought leadership on what society should look like.

-Ben Kallos, New York City Council Member

# **Fundraising**

Completely volunteer-led, NYJL's fundraising events are complex, highly organized productions that account for a large proportion of its annual budgeted revenue. NYJL's signature fundraising events provide unique opportunities for volunteers to develop new skills in nonprofit fundraising and project management, while also nurturing camaraderie among NYJL's volunteer community.

During 2019–2020, NYJL volunteers raised **\$1,108,101**, or about **43%**, of NYJL's revenue budget.

<b>NYJL MARATHON TEAM</b> Every November, NYJL volunteers and friends lace up their sneakers and run the TCS New York City Marathon, while raising funds for NYJL's programs.			\$78,731.41
<b>FALL HOUSE TOUR</b> NYJL's House Tours showcase Manhattan's unique residences, highlighting architecture, art history, and a range of interior design styles.			\$75,476.81
<b>GOLDEN TREE</b> During the holiday season, NYJL's Astor House transforms into a fun and festive destination for a three-day holiday shopping and entertainment event.			\$120,951.63
<b>WINTER BALL</b> As the NYJL's largest fundraiser, the Winter Ball .the Winter Ball honors seven exceptional NYJL volunteers and recognizes NYJL's partnerships with effective community-based organizations.			\$471,845.38
ASTOR HOUSE AND SPECIALTY EVENTS Aside from the aforementioned signature events, NYJL volunteers also organize festive gatherings at Astor House, exclusive shopping events, and an annual Wellness Day with fitness classes, wellness coaching, and beauty demonstrations.			\$54,534.46
OTHER FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES			\$306,561.31
Financials 2019-2020			
REVENUE		EXPENSES	
Contributions Net fundraising activities Membership dues and fees Food & facility services Training & provisional course fees Interest and dividend income Other income	\$163,446 (6%) \$1,108,101 (43%) \$1,093,274 (42%) \$186,437 (7%) \$39,225 (2%) \$3,125 (<1%) \$9,685 (<1%)	Program services Community services Volunteer training Total program services Support services Fundraising Management & administration	\$893,327 (31%) \$981,815 (34%) <b>\$1,875,142</b> \$569,250 (20%) \$435,245 (15%)
Total revenue	\$2,603,293	Total support services	\$1,004,495

**Total expenses** 

\$2,879,637

### Thank You to Our Donors

Thank you to our generous donors for your continued commitment to NYJL's mission. Your support enables our organization to achieve even more impact in service of our community.

Joanne Adams **Caroline Adams Bunty Armstrong** Shari Aser Lauren Austin **Rosario Baldwin Emily Bargabos** Jean Baruch Melissa Bernstein Page Bigelow Mary Beth Black Virginia Black Susan Bluhm Janet Boe **Elaine Brennan Christine Briggs Blythe Brock Catherine Brogan** Sara Burke Joanne Burns **Catherine Carey** Shelby Carroll Lea Carroll Anna Caspersen Dayna Cassidy Sonia Chanana Lauren Chung Sarah Cloonan Shanette Cohen Madeleine Colcord Amy Connor Katie Cook Carol Cook Carolyn Cram Catherine C. Crane Anne Curtin Rosemarie Dackerman Elizabeth Daniels Joan Danziger Jill Davis Kristen Davis Helen Del Riego **Deborah Demich** Jane Diamond Peggy Anne Dineen

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# Leadership 2019-2020

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**NOMINATING CHAIR** Maria Reina

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The Management Council develops and implements programs and supervises day-to-day activities.

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT** Elena Pavloff

**SECRETARY** Cristina Hagglund

COMMUNITY SENIOR COUNCIL HEAD

Katie Cook

FUNDRAISING EVENTS SENIOR COUNCIL HEAD

Ashley B.T. Ma

STRATEGY AND COMMUNICATIONS SENIOR COUNCIL HEAD

Kathleen (Kat) O'Leary

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Mary Beth Black

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#### FUNDRAISING EVENTS COUNCIL HEAD (2)

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Anna Guerin

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