



# ANNUAL REPORT

2023  
2024

EMPOWERING  
WOMEN  
--TO LEAD--





# WHO WE ARE

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Junior League of Miami (JLM) is a volunteer-run 501(c)(3) organization of over 500 women throughout Miami-Dade County. Our members are women of all ages and diverse backgrounds who come together around a shared passion for making our community a better place for all. Our volunteers include community leaders, executives, entrepreneurs, mothers, and professionals from a wide range of industries.

Throughout the League's 98 year history, the women of JLM have planted the seeds for many programs that are still part of our community today. Some have grown into major institutions, like the Children's Home Society (started by JLM in the 1930s), the Frost Museum of Science (original science museum started by JLM in 1949), and Inn Transition, transitional housing facilities for women and children who are survivors of domestic violence (started by JLM in 1990).

We welcome all women who value our mission to join us.

# OUR MISSION

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The Junior League of Miami, Inc. is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

# OUR MODEL

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Central to the mission of JLM is the personal and professional growth of our members. We have been building the capacity of women leaders in Miami for nearly 100 years. Through trainings that build specific skills and volunteer leadership positions that contribute to holistic growth, our unique model places members in JLM leadership roles that mirror positions found at both for-profit and nonprofit organizations. Governed by a Board of Directors and managed by a separate Executive Management Team, our volunteer leaders promote diversity, build teams, steward budgets, and deliver impactful results.



## ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR LEAGUES INTERNATIONAL (AJLI)

The Junior League of Miami is one of 296 Leagues making up The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI). 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.

True to their mission, today's League members work at the forefront of social reform, tackling the toughest and most critical issues of the day—including childhood nutrition, human trafficking, foster care, juvenile justice, teen self-esteem, literacy and the environment, among others—for the purpose of enhancing the social, cultural, and political fabric of civil society.

For more information, please visit: [www.thejuniorleagueinternational.org](http://www.thejuniorleagueinternational.org).

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## ANNUAL REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

*Kendra Parks, Editor*  
*Haidy Jensen, Photography*  
*Vanessa Blanco-Banos*  
*Ava Habif*  
*Alicia Ricks*  
*Laura Van Gorden*  
*Sara Walkup*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

As we reflect on our 98th year as the Junior League of Miami, we are proud of the impact and achievements of the 550+ JLM volunteers who dedicate their time and talent to improving the lives of women and children throughout our beloved Miami-Dade community.

The League's commitment to our mission of advancing women's leadership through meaningful volunteer work, community collaboration and training has never been stronger. Through our community projects and initiatives, and the renaissance of our community grants program, we continue to think strategically about how to best position JLM as a thought leader and change agent in Miami. This year JLM has created a new Speakers Bureau, where our members will be certified to speak on behalf of the League on our primary focus area of food insecurity.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our members, volunteers, sponsors, and partners for their unwavering support. Your contributions have been instrumental in driving our mission forward and enabling us to expand our reach.

As we approach our centennial year and beyond, we are laser-focused on continuing to build onto the foundation that grounds us in our work while adapting to the changing landscape and needs of our community. In the 2024-2025 League year, we will draft a new strategic plan, which will carry us into our Centennial year and set the stage for the next 100 years to come.

Thank you for being a part of the Junior League of Miami family. Together, we will continue to make a meaningful impact and be a force for positive change.

Warm regards,

Laura Van Gorden  
President

Sara Walkup  
Executive Vice President

## OUR DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING (DEIB) COMMITMENT

The Junior League of Miami welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations, and communities.

## JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIAMI GOVERNANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023-2024

**President**  
Laura Van Gorden

**President-Elect**  
Ava Habib

**Recording Secretary**  
Jennifer Geeker

**Treasurer**  
Stephanie Throckmorton

**Executive Vice President**  
Sara Walkup

**Executive Vice President-Elect**  
Vanessa Blanco-Banos

**Director-at-Large**  
Alicia Ricks

**Director-at-Large**  
Felicia Shtivelman

**Nominating Chair**  
Ela Hernandez

**Bylaws/Parliamentarian**  
Carter Sox

**Chief of Staff**  
Jennifer Salman

**Past-President Advisor**  
Lauren Harrison Brown

## JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIAMI EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM 2023-2024

**Executive Vice President**  
Sara Walkup

**Executive Vice President-Elect**  
Vanessa Blanco-Banos

**Vice President - Community Engagement**  
Catherine Manfra

**Vice President - Financial Stewardship**  
Christina Ludovici

**Vice President - Fund Development**  
Kristine Shoemaker

**Vice President - Leadership Development**  
Kayla Cartwright Miranda

**Vice President - Marketing**  
Kendra Parks

**Vice President - Membership Engagement**  
Raychelle Tasher

**EMT Advisor**  
Leanne Tellam

# JLM HEADQUARTERS

The Junior League of Miami headquarters is a City of Coral Gables Landmark Building designed by George Fink in 1923 and built by George Merrick's Coral Gables Construction and Supply Company in 1925. It was the first commercial building constructed in Coral Gables.

## JLM HEADQUARTERS, INC.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2023-2024

**President**  
Courtney Guzman

**Secretary**  
Kristy Quiros

**Treasurer**  
Marcia Koo



# JLM FOUNDATION

The Junior League of Miami Foundation, Inc. was established as a separate 501(c)(3) non-profit entity to provide long-term, stable financing to support the Junior League of Miami and community programs in the years ahead.

## JLM FOUNDATION, INC.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2023-2024

**Officers:**  
**President**  
Katie Lane-Arriola

**Vice President**  
Maria Byrd

**Secretary**  
Marianne Devine

**Treasurer**  
Ann Goldman












**Assistant Treasurer**  
Marcia Koo

**Directors:**  
Michelle Battle  
Catherine Grieve  
Ava Habif  
Anne Helliwell  
Susan Lerner  
Betty Lopez Castro  
JoEllen Strump  
Candace Tejidor  
Stephanie Throckmorton  
Laura Van Gorden  
Bonita Whitehead

**JLMF Immediate Past-President**  
Lauren Harrison Brown

## JUNIOR LEAGUE THROUGH

# THE YEARS

- 1926**  JLM established
- 1949**  Established the Junior Museum of Miami (now the Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science)
- 1985**  Started JLM Scholarship Program for M-DCPS High School Seniors
- 1990**  Opened Inn Transition North
- 1995**  Purchased landmark Coral Gables building to serve as headquarters
- 2001**  Established Junior League of Miami Foundation
- 2002**  Opened Inn Transition South
- 2020**  Established the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Task Force
- 2021**  Established new area of focus: reduce food insecurity
- 2022**  Established JLM Grants Program
- 2026**  Celebrate JLM's Centennial





# 2023-2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

22,000+  
volunteer hours



over  
\$100,000  
in community grants awarded

served nearly 7,000 people  
throughout Miami-Dade County through our  
community programs and Done in a Day  
volunteer events

98 years of  
serving  
Miami



\$294,534  
raised through fundraisers  
and annual giving

95 planned events for  
members

more than 90 JLM members participated  
in a training on food insecurity with 10  
members earning a speaker's bureau  
certification

550  
members

# COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

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The Junior League of Miami continues its 98-year commitment to volunteerism while working on projects that focus on women, children, and families. Our current focus is to reduce food insecurity for women and children at risk in Miami Dade County.

## INN TRANSITION

Inn Transition is a partnership created with Miami-Dade County to provide women and children that are survivors of domestic violence with apartments in a garden-style community, counseling, and other services for up to 24 months.

JLM volunteers create thoughtful programming and events for the families living at Inn Transition to help them re-establish themselves after they leave Inn Transition. JLM provides job preparation and life-skills trainings in topics like parenting, resume writing, nutrition and financial literacy for the residents. JLM also provides educational and artistic activities for children, including annual holiday celebrations.

## DONE IN A DAY (DIAD)

Done in a Day (DIAD) is a signature JLM community project that assists local organizations with short-term events within the League's focus area. The purpose of these projects is to support other organizations with trained volunteers on projects that can be accomplished in one day.

Our members participated in numerous events this year including filling community refrigerators with healthy food options, partnering with Ronald McDonald House to serve meals to families, and joining Bridge to Hope for a food distribution event.



## FOOD RESCUE

JLM is in our second year of partnership with Food Rescue South Florida to host monthly farmers markets throughout Miami-Dade County, to provide thousands of individuals and families access to free, healthy groceries. Additionally, our members volunteer to transfer excess fresh food from grocers, restaurants, and other sources to social service agencies that feed individuals who are food insecure.

## ICU BABY

This year, JLM partnered with ICU Baby to support families with a baby in the NICU at Holtz Children's Hospital. Volunteers organized Supper of Support events for families by providing a hot meal, crafts and a support group for the NICU families.

## MIAMI DIAPER BANK

JLM partners with the Miami Diaper Bank by hosting a donation box at our JLM Headquarters in Coral Gables for community donations and volunteering at the diaper bank. In addition, JLM partners with the Miami Diaper Bank to distribute diapers and other diaper-related products to low-income families and their children at our partner organizations, such as Inn Transition.



# ADVOCACY

The Junior League of Miami's Advocacy Committee identifies issues relevant to our mission and the families we serve and develops strategies for tackling them. Our League works with 22 other Leagues across the State of Florida to build awareness, educate our members and the public, write and advocate for legislation, and monitor the legislative process.

Over the years, the Junior Leagues of Florida have advocated for educational policies, food security for children and families, and child safety and booster seats. They have also advocated for bicycle helmets for children under 16 years of age, the Environmental Growth Management Act of 1995, the 9-1-1 emergency system, and juvenile justice and programs to reduce the occurrence of and support survivors of child abuse, domestic violence, and human trafficking.

# SPEAKERS BUREAU

As JLM focuses our efforts on increasing our visibility and footprint in the Miami community within our focus area of food insecurity, we are investing in our members through the newly created JLM Speaker's Bureau. Members practice their public speaking skills and spend time learning about food insecurity in Miami-Dade. The overall goal of the program is to have members represent the League at community and volunteer events, speaking engagements, and by sharing their knowledge internally with other League members.



# COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

The Junior League of Miami Community Advisory Board (CAB) is a group of trusted advisors who work with our Board of Directors and Executive Management Team to provide knowledge and guidance on a variety of topics. Representing a cross-section of professions and community experience, CAB members are experts in their fields and help inform strategic planning for the League.

**Amanda G. Altman**

Chief Executive Officer, Kristi House,  
Junior League of Miami Past-President

**Sarah Nesbitt Artecona**

Chair of Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida,  
Junior League of Miami Sustaining Member

**Brittany Lambert Brown**

Chief Programs Officer,  
Overtown Youth Center

**Andria Dickinson**

Junior League of Miami Past-President

**Janell Kaplan**

Vice President of Philanthropy  
The Miami Foundation

**David Lawrence Jr.**

Chair of The Children's Movement of Florida,  
Retired Publisher of the Miami Herald

**Patrick Morris**

Director of Civic & Philanthropic Partnerships,  
Office of the Mayor of Miami-Dade County

**Tammy Reed**

District Director, Communications, MDCPS,  
Junior League of Miami Sustaining Member

**Vanessa Tinsley**

Executive Director & Founder,  
Bridge to Hope

**Mark Trowbridge**

President & CEO,  
Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce

**Natalia Zea**

Chief Public Policy & Community Engagement Officer,  
The Children's Trust

**Candace Tejidor**

CAB Liaison,  
Junior League of Miami Past-President

# 2023 - 2024 JLM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

JLM is proud to present college scholarships to female high school seniors in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, who have exhibited superior community service involvement during their high school careers while maintaining high academic achievement.



**GIANNA ROBERTS**  
School for Advanced Studies

## THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIAMI SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF KATHRYN MENKE MILLER

The scholarship was established in 1985 and is given in memory of Kathryn Menke Miller, a Junior League member who was a hardworking, caring, and loving volunteer focused on children and public education.

Gianna Roberts is graduating with both a high school diploma and an Associate of Arts degree after dual enrollment at the School for Advanced Studies and Miami-Dade College. She is a member of the Children's Trust Youth Advisory, numerous academic organizations, and has completed over 1000 hours of community service tutoring disadvantaged youth.



**ISABELLA SANTANA**  
School for Advanced Studies

## THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIAMI SCHOLARSHIP FUNDED BY THE UPPALURI FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Uppaluri Family Scholarship is a four-year scholarship established in 2015 by Rao and Anita Uppaluri to support deserving high school students in their pursuit of higher education.

Isabella Santana is a dual enrollment graduate, receiving her high school diploma from the School for Advanced Studies and an Associate of Arts degree from Miami-Dade College. She has volunteered over 340 hours and sewed 100+ stuffed animals for children at Ronald McDonald House.



**SOPHIA DESIR**  
William H. Turner Tech

## THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIAMI NURSING SCHOLARSHIP FUNDED BY MARY BRADLEY SHAFETY

This scholarship was established in 2020 by Mary Bradley Shafey, a Registered Nurse and Past-President of the JLM Foundation, to recognize a deserving young woman in our community who shares the same perspective of nursing as both an art and a science. Sophia will also be receiving a Kathryn Menke Miller scholarship from the Junior League.

Sophia Desir is a medical academy student at William H. Turner Technology and Arts High School and plans to major in nursing at Miami-Dade College. She is a founding member and Vice-President of her school's Key Club.



23RD ANNUAL

# WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE LUNCHEON

PRESENTED BY



Nicklaus  
Children's  
Hospital

Where Your Child Matters Most

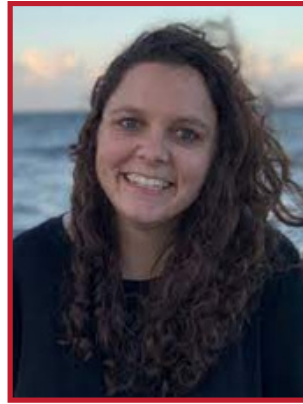
The Junior League of Miami celebrated its 23rd annual Women Who Make a Difference event in recognition of four outstanding women who exemplify the League's mission of advancing women's leadership through volunteer action, collaboration, and training for meaningful community impact. These women have all made an incredible contributions to the greater Miami community. This year, attendees came together at The Biltmore Hotel to celebrate 98 years of women serving the community, recognize the accomplishments of the honorees, and raise funds for JLM's community programs.

## CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE 2024 WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE HONOREES



**Andria Dickinson**  
*Past-President*  
Junior League of Miami



**Remy Gordon**  
*Founder & CEO*  
Seeking Shelter



**Michelle Shirley**  
*CEO & Chief Heart Officer*  
Be Strong International



**Jeannett Slesnick**  
*Sustaining Member*  
Junior League of Miami  
*In Memoriam*



# DONORS

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS. WE COULD NOT DO ALL THAT WE DO WITHOUT YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT.

## PATRON

(\$20,000+)

Junior League of Miami Foundation

## PROMOTER

(\$10,000-\$19,999)

Nicklaus Children's Hospital

## SUPPORTER

(\$5,000-\$9,999)

Ballast Construction  
MDC Commissioner Rene Garcia  
Publix Super Markets Charities  
Mary Bradley Shafey  
Uppaluri Family Foundation  
Laura Van Gorden & Joe Llanes

## CONTRIBUTER

(\$1,000-\$4,999)

Katie & Eddy Arriola  
Atlantic Pacific Community Builders  
Baptist Health Miami Cancer Institute  
Sheffield Bessellieu  
Bill Seidle's Auto Group  
Blue Martini  
Susan Bonner  
Beatriz Lopez-Castro  
MDC Mayor Daniela Levine Cava  
Cobb Family Foundation  
Ashley Cusack Team  
Andria Dickinson  
Maria S. Garcia  
Lavender Greenberg  
The Grove Title & Trust PLLC  
Ava & Maurice Habif

## CONTRIBUTER

(\$1,000-\$4,999)

Helliwell Family Foundation  
Ela Hernandez  
MDC Commissioner Eileen Higgins  
Victoria Hucks  
Peggy Hudson  
Keen Battle Mead & Co.  
Kendra Scott  
Brian Magaden  
Maxwell Engineers  
Norwand International  
One Spa World  
Michelle Ramirez Patricios  
Edward & Amanda Portas  
Don Slesnick  
Heather Woods

## FRIENDS

(\$500-\$999)

Aundrea Amine  
Rhonda Anderson  
Lauren Harrison Brown  
Sue Garcia  
Andrew & Jana Hertz  
Karen Key  
Faequa Khan  
Erin Dolan Knight  
Cheryl Murphy  
Brooke Roberts  
Michelle Shirley  
The Strand  
Karen Throckmorton  
Lawrence Valido

### In Kind Donations Generously Provided By:

Ballast Construction	J. McLaughlin
Byrd Martinez	Lavender Greenberg
Constellation Brands	Miriam Tapia
Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida	Nursery Elegua's Inc.
The Grove Title & Trust	Rock Orange Agency
Heather Hewitson & Family	DJ Phil Santos
JGR Construction	Trader Joe's

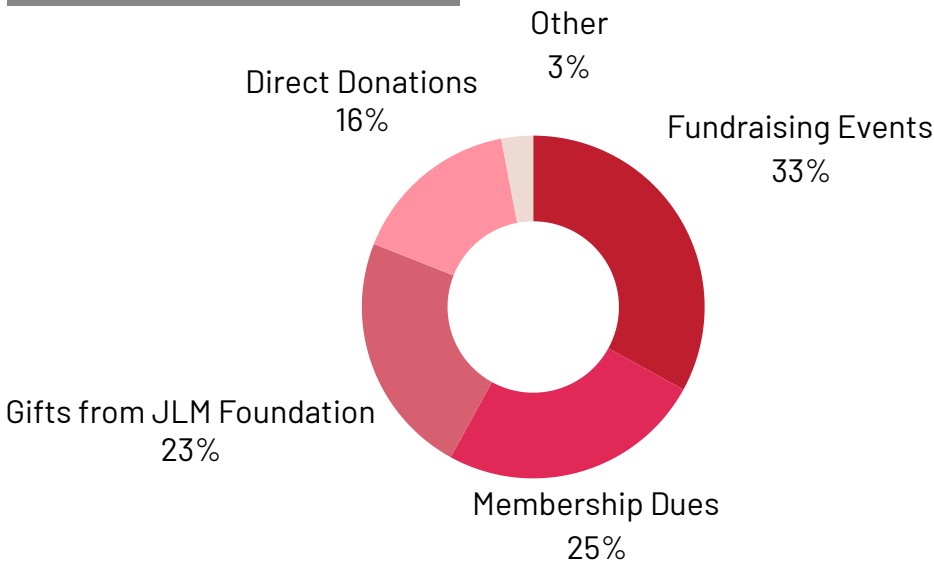


# FINANCIAL YEAR IN REVIEW

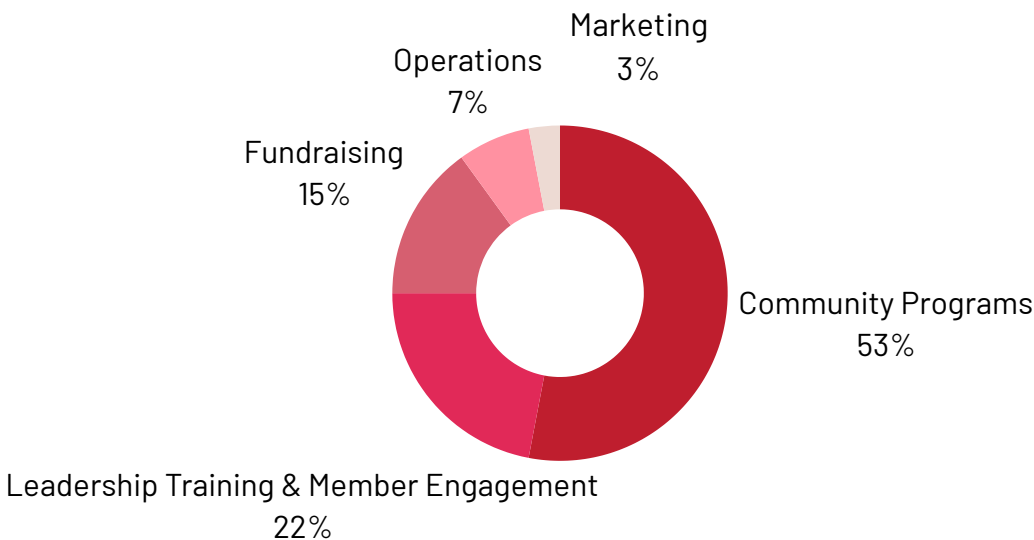
The Junior League of Miami annual budget for the fiscal year of June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024 is \$411,856. 90% of this budget is allocated to program services and the remaining 10% to operations and marketing. JLM is a volunteer-run organization and does not employ any full-time staff.

As a non-profit, JLM must raise the resources to fund its operating costs each year. The primary sources of income for JLM include: fundraising events including our Women Who Make a Difference spring luncheon, membership dues, gifts from our foundation and donations including on Give Miami Day.

## REVENUE



## EXPENSES



## SPOTLIGHT ON GIVE MIAMI DAY

**Give Miami Day** is the single largest day of giving in Miami, raising millions of dollars for nonprofits throughout Miami.

JLM was thrilled to raise over **\$52,000** in November 2023 from 325 donors. Participating in The Miami Foundation's Give Miami Day initiative gives JLM the opportunity to highlight our work in the community while raising funds to support our programming.

*Mark your calendars to support Junior League of Miami on*

**Give Miami Day 2024  
Thursday, November 21**



*Based on contributions made by **401 donors** during the 2023-2024 JLM League Fiscal Year. We apologize for any omissions.*

**TOTAL DONATIONS:  
\$294,534**

# GRANT RECIPIENTS

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Buddy System MIA provides a wide variety of food access programming to improve food security and accessibility all over Miami-Dade County, including homebound food delivery for immunocompromised and differently abled individuals, and community pantries and fridges.



Camillus House provides many resources for those experiencing homelessness in Miami-Dade County. This grant is to support the Day Center, which meets the basic needs of the most marginalized and underserved homeless with hot meals in their dining hall and comprehensive support services.



Chapman Buddies is a year-round mentoring program implemented within the context of a Homeless Assistance Center with the goal of building the resilience of school-aged children during their emergency shelter stay at Chapman Partnership.



Seeking Shelter

Seeking Shelter provides much-needed supplies and trauma-informed mental health services for people experiencing homelessness in Miami-Dade County. The grant is helping to fund their Shelter-In-Place program, which provides people experiencing homelessness will essential items such as food, shoes, clothes, tents, and hygiene products.



Uplift Literacy provides a comprehensive literacy approach to tackle the reading gap. They offer free services in Title I and Headstart schools to provide early literacy interventions, educating parents on being advocates for literacy development at home, and increasing children's access to books, with the goal of instilling a love of reading in young children.

## GRANTEES THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

### 2023

Health in the Hood  
Health Information Project Inc.  
Project Ready for School  
Village FREE(dge) Inc.

### 2024

Buddy System MIA  
Camillus House  
Chapman Partnership  
Seeking Shelter  
Uplift Literacy

### 2025

Belafonte Tacolcy Center  
Feeding South Florida  
Miami Diaper Bank  
Uplift Literacy  
Zoo Miami Foundation

If you are interested in learning more about our Community Grants Program, reach out to [programdevelopment@jlmiami.org](mailto:programdevelopment@jlmiami.org).



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Jennifer Geeker and Christina Ludovici**  
Member Mentorship Program



This year JLM introduced a new mentorship program to pair League members together based on shared development goals - personally, professionally, or within the League. In addition to personal benefits, the primary goal of the program was to increase our member connections and improve the membership experience. Jennifer and Christina have become a wonderful example of the success of the program. Christina was looking to make a career change into the non-profit world and joined the program with the hopes of being paired with a mentor with experience working for non-profit organizations. As the Director of Annual Giving for Legal Services of Greater Miami, Jennifer would prove to be the ideal mentor for Christina. According to Jennifer, “Christina and I have formed a connection that goes beyond League events. Chatting about life and guiding a fellow member new to my professional field has been both fun and rewarding. It’s not just about sharing knowledge, but about supporting each other.”

The bond between these two is visible within the League. They are a shining example of what women supporting women can do. Through Jennifer’s mentorship, Christina was able to land a position as the Director of Development for Kristi House. According to Christina, “Jen has guided me through all my personal and professional life questions and as a bonus, I now have a new friend in the League.”

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Carol Edmond**  
Chair of JLM Community Program, ICU Baby



Entrepreneur, philanthropist, and eco-warrior are just a few words to describe Carol Edmond. Carol is in her first active year with the League and immediately jumped into leadership by chairing the ICU Baby community project committee. Not to mention, she was awarded the 2023 New Member of the Year award. As chair of ICU Baby, Carol works with one of our community partners to provide programming for families with a baby in the NICU at Jackson Memorial Hospital through support groups, dinners and art therapy.

Through her company, Place of Aroma and community involvement, Carol has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in advocating for environmental sustainability, fostering resilience, and community empowerment. Carol has led food & personal care drives for the homeless and families in need, and special Mother’s Day events for mothers grieving the loss of a child. Her dedication to driving positive change will continue to inspire others and create lasting impact, both within the League and the Miami-Dade County community.



# WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT US

## JOIN

*Become a member and make a difference in your own backyard — join JLM's diverse and passionate group of volunteers today.*

[www.jlmiami.org/join-us/](http://www.jlmiami.org/join-us/)

## GIVE

*By supporting JLM, you are helping us to expand our community outreach programs as well as build better community leaders.*

[www.jlmiami.org/support-us/](http://www.jlmiami.org/support-us/)

## PARTNER

*Whether it is a one-time event, or a longer collaboration, JLM collaborates with local organizations across South Florida. Contact us at [office@jlmiami.org](mailto:office@jlmiami.org) to connect today!*

## FOLLOW US



@JuniorLeagueMiami



Facebook/JuniorLeagueMiami



Junior League of Miami

## CONTACT US

**Junior League of Miami**

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