



# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

*Women building better communities*

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*THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CHAMPAIGN-URBANA REACHES OUT TO WOMEN OF ALL RACES, RELIGIONS, AND NATIONAL ORIGINS WHO DEMONSTRATE AN INTEREST IN, AND COMMITMENT TO, VOLUNTARISM IN THE COMMUNITY.*

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## WHO WE ARE

The Junior League of Champaign-Urbana (JLCU) is a charitable, non-profit organization of more than 400 trained women volunteers. More than half our members work either full or part-time outside the home in addition to fulfilling their JLCU duties. As one of the 293 members of the Association of Junior Leagues International, headquartered in New York, the resources and influence of JLCU extend beyond our local community to state, national and international levels. The Association includes leagues from the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Great Britain, and membership includes more than 170,000 volunteers.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Junior League of Champaign-Urbana is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and to improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

*To join JLCU or for more information:  
[www.juniorleaguecu.org](http://www.juniorleaguecu.org)  
217-356-5880*

## FUNDRAISING

### Festival of Trees

This major fundraiser of the JLCU is a popular annual community event. C-U businesses sponsor holiday trees or wreaths that are decorated with their own chosen theme. The items are then publicly showcased for four days in November at the Hilton Garden Inn. Other public events surrounding the Festival of Trees are: Daddy-Daughter Ball, Gala Patrons Party with auction items, a women's luncheon, and the Gift Gallery (showcasing items from local stores). All event proceeds go to the JLCU projects and outreach.

### Endowment Fund

The JLCU Endowment Fund was created to provide a stable and secure means of funding the mission of the Junior League of Champaign-Urbana in perpetuity.

## PROJECTS

### Backpack Buddies

JLCU and the Eastern Illinois Food Bank have developed a partnership with area schools to help children who are identified at risk of going hungry or malnourished over the weekend by giving them food to take home while not in school. Volunteers go to the Food Bank once a month and pack a month's worth of bags for the receiving students. The Food Bank delivers the stuffed bags to the schools on Fridays. Additional funding has been provided by CCSI.

### Books by the Bushel/Book Mentor

This "bookraiser" is conducted annually to provide books for C-U public and private school libraries. Each school librarian submits a wish list of books for their respective schools. During the three-day event, customers go to *Pages for All Ages Bookstore* and purchase a book at a discount for their school of choice. A bookplate is placed in the book denoting the donor or an honoree. JLCU members then deliver the books to the respective schools. The JLCU Book Mentor Program is a partnership with Savoy Headstart and WILL. JLCU volunteers read to Headstart classes and provide activities and books for those students.

## OUTREACH

**Community Assistance Fund** awards money twice a year (up to \$500) to non-profits that are involved in projects aligning with JLCU's position statements - including promotion of voluntarism, equal opportunities for women, elimination of domestic violence, support of public health programs, among others. Applications for the grants are accepted twice per year.

**High School Scholarship Awards:** Graduating senior women from the six C-U high schools receive a \$500 scholarship based on their commitment to voluntarism, school activities and leadership.

### Bravery Beads & Fun Reads

JLCU is partnering with Carle Foundation Hospital to provide its pediatric patients with Bravery Beads & Fun Reads. The Bravery Beads component documents and honors a child's hospital experience, enabling them to tell their unique story in a tangible, visual way. Fun Reads consists of a monthly story time for Carle's pediatric patients.

### Done in a Day (DIAD)

DIAD provides short term or immediate volunteer assistance for community projects not administered by JLCU. JLCU members volunteer for numerous local non-profit organizations who have requested assistance, with an emphasis on helping women and children in the community.

### League Locker

Since 1998, JLCU has partnered with local businesses to supply thousands of dollars worth of school supplies to local C-U schools for students who cannot afford these items. Each fall, JLCU volunteers stock "lockers" for each school so teachers can access supplies as a need arises. Funds are also used for musical instrument scholarships, physical education equipment, art supplies, and to fund special programs and field trips.