4. PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
5. ABOUT JLDOC
6. BOARD OF DIRECTORS
8-9. DEVELOPING THE POTENTIAL OF WOMEN
10-13. IMPROVING OUR COMMUNITY
14-15. PROMOTING VOLUNTEERISM
16-17. HILL HOUSE RENOVATIONS
18-19. DONORS & SPONSORS
It starts with a woman. For more than 80 years, the Junior League of Durham and Orange Counties (JLDOC) has been on the forefront of training and equipping our community’s most impactful and dynamic women, while identifying community issues and finding solutions in a collaborative way. Our approach is simple. Through hands-on training and formal learning opportunities, we give women the skills they need to improve the quality of life in the communities they serve.

It has been an honor serving as the JLDOC President during the 2019-2020 League Year. I am proud to say even in our 82nd year, we continue to have a significant impact in the lives of our more than 500 members and the communities of Durham and Orange counties.

This year, we launched new resources for developing the potential of our members, such as the Member Circles training series, and continued successful activities like our P.O.W.E.R. mentoring program. We were able to send two members to the Association of Junior Leagues International Winter Leadership Conference, and we continue to offer new and innovative networking opportunities for building relationships among members.

In our local communities, we completed our fourth year of a multi-year commitment to increasing access to healthy food through our partnership with Durham-based Farmer Foodshare. This year, we contributed more than 40 hours of volunteer time and 310 pounds of fresh produce, as well as a $4,000 donation to further Farmer Foodshare’s mission of connecting healthy food with people who need it. In addition to Farmer Foodshare, we have contributed a total of 430 volunteer hours to local community organizations through our member volunteer opportunities.

We have successfully continued our Girls PLUS after school series (part of Durham County Public Schools’ ENCORE program) where we teach young women about health living including food choices, exercise and meditation. When I attended the session, we made healthy apple pies - wish I had known how to do that in middle school!

All of this is possible through the generous support of our members’ dues, charitable donations, corporate sponsorships and event fundraisers. To ensure our impact and legacy, members stepped up this year to lead a new fundraiser Mardi Gras Masquerade, as well as a new campaign to raise awareness about food insecurity, The Little Black Dress Initiative. Our Annual Report includes more information on these and the other ways our members help the JLDOC continue its mission.

As I thought about the progress the JLDOC has made this year and the many ways we have empowered our members and helped our community, I could not have imagined it would be halted by COVID-19. The spread of the coronavirus has impacted our communities and the JLDOC greatly. Not only do we have members working on the front lines treating patients and performing other essential business responsibilities, we were unable to host several spring JLDOC events due to the virus. In response to these challenges, JLDOC members have taken their volunteer and leadership training and have stepped up by distributing foods to school children, making protective masks, pledging future volunteer hours to local organizations and many more impactful actions. And thanks to our adaptable nature and fast thinking, we have been able to continue operating the JLDOC through virtual meetings and training.

As we end one League Year and begin another, I hope each JLDOC member has experienced another year of new opportunities to grow personally and professionally, to gain new skills and friendships that empower them to be agents of change in Durham and Orange counties. This Fall, we will start a new League Year and will soon be in our newly restored Hill House in downtown Durham. We can’t wait to see you there!

With gratitude,

Jane Yarbrough
MISSION
The Junior League of Durham and Orange Counties, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

INCLUSIVITY
The Junior League of Durham and Orange Counties, Inc. reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism. We are committed to celebrating and leveraging diversity as we strive to achieve our mission. Additionally, we continue to strive for diverse representation of women reflecting our communities’ wide range of backgrounds, opinions, races, sexual orientations, religions, and experiences. We recognize that diversity among our members and the programming we support is critical to accomplishing our mission.

MEMBERSHIP
Over 500 women are members of The Junior League of Durham and Orange Counties, Inc. This includes Provisionals (members in training), Actives (members who have completed their provisional semester), Sustainers (members who have served faithfully for a set number of years and want to stay involved with the League but have decided to step back from active service), and Non-Residents.
PRESIDENT
Jane Yarbrough

PRESIDENT-ELECT
Paige Smith

SECRETARY
Cristina Pérez-Simmons

TREASURER
Lindsay Kellam

FINANCE VP
Courtney Brown

FINANCE AVP
Aleigha Jones

COMMUNITY VP
Ashley Utz

COMMUNITY AVP
Carlon Ocel

COMMUNICATIONS VP
Ellen Fraser

COMMUNICATIONS AVP
Rachaele Andrews

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT VP
Diana Baer

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT AVP
Paige Krier

MEMBERSHIP VP
Laina Balafas

MEMBERSHIP AVP
Michelle Macumber

NOMINATING CHAIR
Kelly Preussner

NOMINATING ASSISTANT CHAIR
Pearce Jackson

SUSTAINER LIAISON
Sophia Santillan
Ellen Parker

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT
Cat Lunger

MEMBER AT-LARGE
Meghan Hunt
WITH 270 ACTIVE MEMBERS THIS YEAR, THE ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP INCREASED BY 17%

THIRTY-TWO PROVISIONALS
joined us for the fall of the 2019-2020 league year:

- Tiffany Pritchett
- Monique Meadows
- Meiji Stillo
- Emily Allred
- Sydney Chappell
- Alex Pain
- Margaret Hardy
- Carrie Clifford
- Laurie Pendergrass
- Katie Narron
- April Fuller
- Emily Crowder
- Kelly Fitzgerald
- Katy Renfroe
- Kimberly Williams
- Chelsea Barlow
- Elizabeth Branton
- Keller Whitlock
- Jenny Peed
- Amanda Baker
- Shana Cappelle
- Velaire Elliot
- Erica Seaman
- Haylee Jenkins
- Emma Hart
- Emily Burleson
- Hallsey Brandt
- Hannah Tilley
- Abbi Tenaglia
- Mira Johnson
- Sarah Trostle
- Towanda Williams

THIRTY-TWO PROVISIONALS
joined us for the fall of the 2019-2020 league year:

- Steffanie Beswilen
- Katie Blue-Pugh
- Lori Bruhns
- Danielle Buchan
- Meredith Bunnel
- Shannon Clarke
- Allyson Cobb
- Natalie Farris
- Alex Hails
- Darlene Hicks
- Gillian Horn
- Ciarra Joyner
- Katy Lucci
- Jenessa McElrath
- Anna Ostrowski
- Laney Owings
- Jayme Shoop
- Maddie Smith
- Katie Thore
- Katrina Von Arx

203 SUSTAINERS
PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN THE LEAGUE THIS YEAR
THE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
led seven membership development events over the course of the 2019-2020 League Year.

MEMBER CIRCLES
This fall many league members gathered together as Membership Development led three membership circles. Food, drinks and lively discussions guided our league members to reach their fullest potential by connecting over the words of inspiring women who encourage us to live with courage, vulnerability and honesty. Member Circles met directly in the homes of league members. Discussion was guided by a set of questions and self-reflection activities based around the great works of Brene Brown, Sheryl Sandberg, & Rachel Hollis.

DESIGN YOUR LIFE WORKSHOP
Based on the New York Times bestselling book and TED Talk Designing Your Life: How to Build a Well-Lived, Joyful Life, JLDOC member, Rachel White (Associate Director of Career & Leadership at UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School) led a design thinking workshop to uncover members’ priorities and sources of energy, while also developing a life action plan.
MONEY “TALKS” MEMBER CIRCLE DISCUSSION
League members Courtney Brown (Hunter Rowe Residential Real Estate Brokers and Advisors), Connolly Walker (agent and owner of Connolly Walker State Farm), and Katie Levy (financial advisor and Edward Jones branch owner) led a ‘member circle’ style conversation around investing, home buying and protecting one’s financial future.

VIRTUAL LEADERSHIP WORKLOAD
Regina Bartolone facilitated an interactive discussion on the 15 commitments conscious leaders make from the book The 15 Commitments of Conscious Leadership by Jim Dethmer, Diana Chapman and Kaley Warner Klemp. Due to the risks associated with COVID-19, this workshop was held virtually, but challenged league members to think through ways they are able to build a culture of trust and inclusion with those that they lead— either at work, at home or within community organizations.

THRIVE IN THE COVID-19 CLIMATE: DR. MARY HEMPHILL
With so much conversation around the pandemic, Membership Development opened the door for league members by providing additional resources virtually. This virtual event led by Dr. Mary Hemphill, leadership expert and coach, opened discussion about the importance of a leadership mindset to thrive in the COVID-19 climate. This session helped league members define and develop a deeper sense of individual impact. Also, it emphasized the importance of practicing conscious consumerism, added tools for empathetic leadership to member’s strategic toolbox, and ultimately began the journey of positioning league members for post-pandemic success.
BINGO
IRIS JOHNSON CHAIRED THE COMMITTEE

A League favorite, this event was held on October 30th for a Halloween twist. Bingo players were encouraged to dress in costume as they played several rounds of Bingo. Between rounds, players could refuel with pizza, wine, or beer purchased at the concession stand.

Having this event the day before Halloween was SO much fun! In addition to the Bingo games, a costume contest was held. Nearly all attendees dressed up and we saw some excellent group costumes!

This event helped the league raise a total of $5,814.26 to help further the mission of JLDOC.
MARDI GRAS MASQUERADE BALL
CO-CHAIED BY SARA CHUMBLEY AND MEG FORAKER

The Mardi Gras-inspired silent auction was held at Croasdaile Country Club of Durham. Ticket prices included light refreshments, one drink ticket, and a night of dancing. Guests were invited to bid on various silent auction items; including hotel stays, local sports tickets, and photography sessions.

This was the first year we departed from a golf tournament. There were many twists and turns on the road to planning this event, but our co-chairs led their committee with strength to plan a fun and profitable event on a limited budget. Their creativity and perseverance made this a success!

This event helped the league raise over $12,000 to help further the mission of JLDOC.
The Cookbook Committee sold 303 Taste of Tobacco Road Cookbooks during the 2019-2020 League Year. Our committee members rallied to pre-wrap books, staff multiple holiday markets, and ship all online orders.

The Cookbook Committee worked on their online presence this year, boosting their presence on social media, and growing their blog. Sales ran during Black Friday/Cyber Monday and during both Provisional Super Saturdays. A special sale ran during the COVID-19 pandemic (to help alleviate stress, bring joy and support the community).

**The cookbook committee’s efforts raised over $7,000 to help further the mission of JLDOC.** (This includes the sales of Taste of Tobacco Road, the In the Kitchen with Kids Cookbook, and our special wooden spoon, as well as shipping revenue.)
The Junior League of Durham and Orange Counties launched the Little Black Dress Initiative to raise awareness on food insecurity in Durham and Orange Counties this past February. It illustrated how limited resources affect daily life. This was the first year of launch and our members look forward to making this an annual initiative. JLDOC is thrilled to have raised over $7000 in our first year.
PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

The Junior League of Durham and Orange Counties has enjoyed working closely throughout the year with many community organizations such as Caring House and Urban Ministries of Durham. In total, JLDOC has supported 22 local community partners in a range of projects.

JLDOC hosted 44 events during the 2019-2020 year, and provided 430 volunteer hours to support our dedicated community partners.

Ten of JLDOC’s Community Partners are focused on improving access to healthy food. From Farmer Foodshare to the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, JLDOC has been committed to bringing healthy food to those most in need for the last 4 years.

This year, JLDOC granted $4,000 to Farmer Foodshare enabling two food donation stations in Carrboro and Hillsborough. JLDOC members have collected over 310 pounds of food at these stations over the course of the year.
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

2019-2020 HEALTHY LIVING & FOOD ACCESS PARTNERS:
Caring House
Carolina Community Garden
Chapel Hill Carrboro Meals on Wheels
Farmer Foodshare
Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC
PORCH Chapel Hill
Ronald McDonald House Chapel Hill
SEEDS
TABLE
Urban Ministries of Durham

OTHER COMMUNITY PARTNERS:
Best Buddies
Center for Child & Family Health
Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools
Public School Foundation
Crayons2Calculators
Dress for Success Triangle NC
Girls on the Run
Habitat for Humanity of Durham County
Habitat for Humanity of Orange County
Justice Matters
Keep Durham Beautiful
Museum of Life + Science
RESTORATION OF THE JLDOC HEADQUARTERS

The 2019-20 League Year has been a big one for our beloved headquarters, the Hill House. This winter, we began a restoration project to bring the internal workings of the house up to modern day standards. Some features to look forward to: refinished floors, a new efficient HVAC system, fresh paint inside and out, new tile and appliances in the kitchen, and a multi stall ladies room on the first floor.
The Hill House steering committee has worked directly with the Annie Watts Hill Family Trust to secure funding for these improvements. When Hill House reopens, we look forward to welcoming our partners in volunteerism like the Boys and Girls Club, the Durham Women’s Club, and the Town and Country Garden Club.

At that time, the house will be available to you and members of our community to rent for a variety of events. The Hill House steering committee thanks our JLDOC members for their flexibility and creativity during this time. We cannot wait to welcome everyone back to Hill House this fall!

HILL HOUSE COMMITTEE: CAT LUNGER (CHAIR) | ASHLEY UTZ | BETSY LOVELL | CRISTINA PÉREZ-SIMMONS | JANE YARBROUGH | LINDSAY KELLAM | PAIGE SMITH | SARAH MOTSINGER
The Junior League of Durham and Orange Counties celebrates the close of this year with **extreme gratitude to our many sponsors and donors.** Without your support we would not be able to do what we do. **Thank you for your ongoing partnership, and we hope to continue to work with each and every one of you in the future.**

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Thank you for making this league year a success.