

Women building better communities®

The Junior League of Palo Alto•Mid Peninsula, Inc.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Done in a Day

Making an Immediate Impact

The League's Done in a Day projects focus on short, intensive community projects that are typically completed in a single day or weekend. The League partners with other nonprofits and community service agencies to identify projects that fit our focus area, respond to short-term needs and benefit the community at large. The League's Done in a Day projects contribute more than 1,000 volunteer hours annually to meet short-term needs in our community.

First Teachers

Empowering Parents and Caregivers

First Teachers is a project of Bring Me A Book®, founded in 1997 by Judy Koch. The organization envisions a read-aloud culture where all families place a high priority on literacy and are actively involved in their children's education. The mission of First Teachers is to engage and to educate parents and caregivers in the importance of reading aloud, to encourage a daily ritual of reading to children and to foster an early love of reading and learning. League volunteers conduct read-aloud and language development training programs for parents and caregivers of young children.

Fostering Families

Creating New Family Bonds

Working with Help One Child in Los Altos, Fostering Families offers eight educational sessions to foster children and their foster/adoptive families during the year. Sessions seek to meet an identified need of foster children and their families, by creating a fun, safe learning environment for the children. Sessions focus on issues unique to the needs of foster children and their families, provide a "safe" break for the foster parents, and offer guidelines for implementing the lessons by the parents at home. League volunteers work alongside Help One Child staff and volunteers to facilitate successful sessions with the children and their parents.

Shelter Network

Helping Families Thrive

The high cost of living in our area coupled with the low wages paid by the service industry means that even hard working people struggle with homelessness. Working with Shelter Network staff, League volunteers will deliver life skills workshops and one-on-one coaching sessions to Shelter Network clients at the Menlo Park (Haven House) and San Mateo (First Step for Families) family homeless shelter locations. Workshops will focus on time management and interviewing skills to help clients position themselves to obtain better jobs and working conditions that will provide long-term stability for their families.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Grants

Seeding Other Nonprofits

Through its Community Grants Program, JLPA•MP seeks to respond to critical community needs in our geographic service area. Community Grants of up to \$5,000 in a single fiscal year are available to nonprofit agencies for new programs, capital expenditures and emergency or general operating funds. Eligible nonprofit agencies must be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, demonstrate financial stability and utilize community volunteers to support their programs.

State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC)

Raising a Voice for Change

The California State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC) represents the 16 California Junior Leagues. SPAC delegates from each League research legislative issues affecting their local communities, and work with state legislators on specific legislation relevant to four focus areas: family support, education, health, and violence prevention. SPAC's efforts have resulted in passage of two critical bills dealing with domestic violence and health care.

The JLPA•MP makes a tangible contribution to the Mid Peninsula communities it serves.

Through our community projects, grants, outreach and training, the League gives back more than \$400,000 and an estimated 35,000 volunteer hours to our community each year.

The League community projects and programs are funded by our fundraisers: Finishing Touches: A Holiday Tour of Fine Homes, The Shop and the Endowment Fund, which contributes a portion of its earnings to the League's annual budget.



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PAST PROJECTS: A GROUNDBREAKING LEGACY OF IMPACT

Court Designated Child Advocates (1987)

This program matched trained League volunteers with abused and neglected children caught in the county judicial system. Now affiliated with the Child Advocates of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, volunteers from the program continue to work with individual children, their families, the courts and other relevant parties to provide services and a recommended course of action that serve each child's best interests.

Daybreak Program for Homeless Youth (1989)

Daybreak Program was the first shelter for homeless teenage youth in the suburban United States. This model shelter was launched by Youth and Family Assistance in partnership with the JLPA•MP. Today, community volunteers continue to serve as long-term mentors for youth living at the shelter and provide ongoing training in areas like personal budgeting, vocational planning and life skills.

Edgewood Kinship Support Network (2003)

The Kinship Support Network provides resources and support to caregiver families in which a grandparent or other family member is raising a relative's children as an alternative to foster care. Among the resources available is a weekly support group offering speakers, special programs and "just plain fun." League members worked with the Kinship Support Network to plan speakers, outside programs and fun outings for the caregivers. The program's ultimate goal is to provide children a stable home life and an opportunity to grow into self-reliant individuals.

Hope House (1987)

Hope House is a residential drug treatment program for mothers recently released from jail. JLPA•MP volunteers served as mentors to pregnant women and new mothers, providing parenting and nutrition classes, mental and physical health programs and job skills counseling. Today, community volunteers continue to provide mentoring and support services to Hope House residents.

Rebuilding Together (1990)

Rebuilding Together, formerly Christmas in April, is a national program through which volunteers build partnerships to rehabilitate homes, schools and community facilities in low-income neighborhoods so residents can live in warmth, safety and independence. Volunteers and commercial businesses partner to paint, fix and rebuild selected homes and facilities. JLPA•MP helped to launch this program on the Peninsula.

Rosalie Rendu Center (1999)

The Rosalie Rendu Center, launched in 1998 by Sister Trinitas Hernandez, works to help low-income families break the cycle of poverty through education, mentoring and raising the self-esteem of the entire family. League volunteers taught English classes, hosted a homework help center, provided access to computers and offered a structured educational playgroup for pre-schoolers at the "Tot Spot."

Shelter Network (2000)

Shelter Network provides short-term housing and support for homeless families and individuals of San Mateo County. Its goal is to help homeless individuals re-establish themselves in the community and return to permanent homes of their own. JLPA•MP volunteers worked with staff at Haven House in Menlo Park to develop a program to support children ages 18 months to 17 years and families who live there. Activities include tutoring and mentoring, organizing special classes in art, music or athletics, and sponsoring four field trips a year.

The Tech Museum of Innovation (1982)

"The Tech" began as the vision of JLPA•MP Sustainer Carol Schwartz. Over a period of 11 years, the League provided nearly \$175,000 in seed money to the museum's Board of Directors. As the museum was launched, members from the JLPA•MP and the Junior League of San Jose collaborated to develop the museum's comprehensive volunteer recruitment and training program. The Tech is considered one of the Silicon Valley's "must see" attractions.

The Junior League of Palo Alto•Mid Peninsula, Inc. (JLPA•MP) 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. The League reaches out to women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate a commitment to voluntarism.

The date in parentheses indicates the year in which JLPA•MP involvement began.

