



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
WINSTON-SALEM

H.O.P.E.



WOWS

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF WINSTON-SALEM • 2024-2025

WORDS OF WINSTON-SALEM

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SIR SPEEDY PRINTING

COVER:

OUR LUNCH PACKERS AT H.O.P.E.

PUBLICATION DATE:

SPRING 2026



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REAL ESTATE

Thank you

Congratulations on another fantastic Tour of Fine Spaces! My team and I loved seeing all the creative and unique renovations. And thanks to all the volunteers who made it happen!

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commercial projects.

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WINSTON-SALEM



NORTH CAROLINA

LETTERS FROM THE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT-ELECT

PRESIDENT



Dear Members, Donors, and Friends of the Junior League of Winston-Salem,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President. Over the course of this year, I have been especially proud of how together we have aligned our efforts and priorities with the League's mission to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

Our original community projects, including BookWORM, Kids in the Kitchen, and Strong Women. Strong Families, as well as the Backpack Program and Crosby Scholars, have deployed volunteers across Winston-Salem to share critical resources with some of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Events and programs as varied as the inaugural Halloween Bingo fundraiser, Literacy & Education Equity Fund (L.E.E.F.), and Tour of Fine Spaces created opportunities for collaboration between Junior League Members and community stakeholders.

Members received valuable training courtesy of the brand new Membership Engagement & Leadership Development (MELD) Committee, enriching their Junior League experience, as well as their personal and professional lives. I strongly believe that the Junior League's greatest strength is its identity as a training organization and I'm proud of what the MELD Committee created this year.

Throughout all of this hard work, I witnessed women showing up for each other with smiles, support, and cheers of encouragement. Personally, I am thankful for a committed and engaged Board of Directors who worked together to keep our League moving in the right direction. Their valuable insights and opinions built the success we saw this year.

I will always be grateful to the women who dedicate their most valuable resource, their time, back to the Junior League of Winston-Salem. Together, we took very good care of this more than 100-year-old organization, and I look forward to seeing it thrive for generations to come.

With thanks,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Sarah".

Sarah Johnson Blackwell
President, 2024-2025

PRESIDENT-ELECT



Dear Members and Supporters of the Junior League of Winston-Salem,

When I moved to Winston-Salem a few years ago, like many of you, I was looking for ways to get involved, give back, and make connections in the place I now call home. That's exactly what the Junior League became for me. This organization has welcomed me, challenged me, and connected me. It's shaped my experience of this

city in the best possible ways.

As I prepare to step in to the Presidential role in 2025-2026, I do so with deep gratitude for the women who came before me. Those women built and sustained this League with vision, commitment, and an unwavering belief in the power of women to transform communities. I'm humbled to follow in their footsteps and energized by the momentum our League continues to build.

Our growing membership is a true strength. Each new member brings her own perspective and talents, expanding our ability to create meaningful change. What sets the Junior League apart is our dedication to developing women as leaders through hands-on experience, training, and community collaboration that extends far beyond our organization.

Our League's strength has always come from our connection to Winston-Salem. This next year, we'll continue focusing on community impact in women's and children's health, including the revitalization of the Kids in the Kitchen, a program that empowers families to make lasting, healthy choices.

It's an honor to serve as your president for 2025-2026. I'm inspired by the dedication of our members and energized by the possibilities ahead. For more than a century, JLWS has played an important role in shaping and supporting our community, and I look forward to continuing to build those strong relationships with our partners, members, and neighbors. Together, we'll honor our history while embracing new opportunities to make a lasting difference.

Best,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Kristie".

Kristie Rhodes
President-Elect, 2024-2025

WHO WE ARE

2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



- President: **Sarah Blackwell**
President-Elect: **Kristie Rhodes**
Administrative Vice President: **Fowler Smith**
Communications Vice President: **Elizabeth Winn**
Communications Assistant Vice President: **Corina Fradin**
Community Vice President: **Diane Staff**
Community Assistant Vice President: **Jennifer Haywood**
Finance Vice President: **Allison Sigmon**
Finance Assistant Vice President: **Katy Nimmons**
Membership Vice President: **Kathleen Hansen**
Membership Assistant Vice President: **Eliana Wood**
Strategic Planning Officer: **Katie Guerra**
Membership Engagement & Leadership Chair: **Stephanie Delaney**
Nominating Chair: **Catherine Garner**
Sustainer Vice President: **Leigh Sobel**
Member-At-Large: **Lindsay Sullivan**

MISSION

The Junior League of Winston-Salem, Inc. is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

VISION

The Junior League of Winston-Salem, Inc. nurtures and educates individuals to build healthier families and a stronger community.

VALUES

- We exist to strengthen and improve our community.
- We value and support the power of trained volunteers.
- We value each member.
- We value and encourage ethnic, racial, religious, and economic diversity.
- We grow through challenging experiences.
- We wisely manage our resources.
- We are ethical and fair.

OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Junior League of Winston-Salem, Inc. welcomes all women who value our mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations and communities.



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WHAT DOES THE JLWS DO?

The Junior League of Winston-Salem, Inc. is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
WINSTON-SALEM
jlws.org



534 women currently make up the JLWS

1,295 VOLUNTEER HOURS
worth
\$45,053

2024-2025 COMMUNITY IMPACT

BookWORM

JLWS collected **1,757 books** for local organizations and individuals and donated over **1,000 books** through community partners and events.

Backpack Program

JLWS provided **2,000+ meals** with fresh fruit weekly to an average of **58** students at Cook Literacy Model School.

Kids in the Kitchen

JLWS baked **1,200** healthy sweets with H.O.P.E. and served **450** kids healthy desserts at Strong Women. Strong Families. events.

Strong Women. Strong Families.

JLWS served **375+** parents and children across three health fairs providing a healthy dinner to all participants, small kitchen appliances to **50+** families, and **\$1,200+** in raffle giveaways.

Tour of Fine Spaces

JLWS Tour of Fine Spaces raised over **\$36,000** towards JLWS community projects.

Crosby Scholars

JLWS read **157** college application essays from **115** Crosby Scholar participants working towards higher education.

Halloween Bingo

In its inaugural year, JLWS Halloween Bingo raised approximately **\$18,000** towards JLWS community projects.

Literacy and Education Equity Fund (LEEF)

JLWS awarded **8** WS/FCS teachers mini-grants totaling approximately **\$2,220** to fund projects that focus on children's literacy, educating, and mentoring youth, and improving family health outcomes.



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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

General Membership Meetings (GMMs) are held throughout the year that bring together New, Active, and Sustaining members to learn about the League, provide training, and more. The League Linkers

Committee organizes these meetings and the first four meetings were held at the Masonic Center in Winston-Salem, while the last meeting was held at the Granary at Winmock for our year-end celebration.



GMM Snapshots

SEPTEMBER 2024



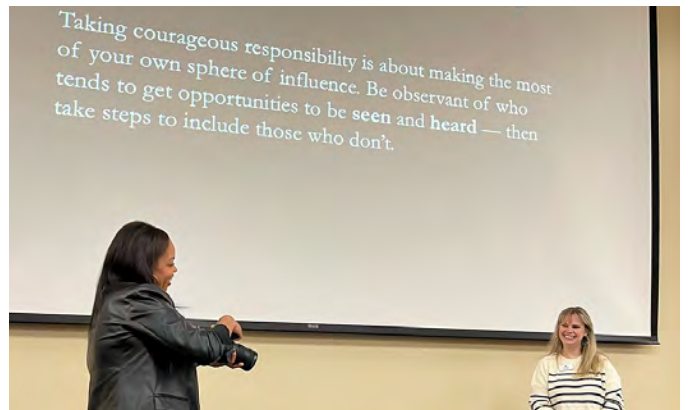
Location: Masonic Center of Winston-Salem

Guest Speaker: Dr. Mike Wakeford, historian and Associate Professor in the Division of Liberal Arts at UNC School of the Arts, shared his research “Winston-Salem Stories in the 21st Century.”

Highlights: Highlighted the new annual plan and three year strategic plan • New MELD Training offerings • New Fundraiser Halloween Bingo • Community Spotlights and introducing the Volunteer challenge

JLWS Awards: Kathie Cavanaugh and Recruitment

NOVEMBER 2024



Location: Masonic Center of Winston-Salem

Guest Speaker: Endia Beal

Highlights: Fall JLWS Literacy and Education Equity Fund (L.E.E.F.) Grant recipients

JLWS Awards: Halloween Bingo and Jill Winchester

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

JANUARY 2025



Location: Masonic Center of Winston-Salem

Guest Speaker: JoAnn S. White, Senior VP of Stephens

Highlights: Voting Meeting, confirmed new board, nominating committee, and obligations

MARCH 2025

Location:

Masonic Center of
Winston-Salem

Highlights:

Trivia Hosted by Chris
Rhodes with Rhodes
Ahead Entertainment

JLWS Awards:

League Linkers and
Strong Women.
Strong Families.



MAY 2025

Location: The Granary at
Winmock

Meeting: End of the Year
Updates and 2024-2025 JLWS
Awards

Highlights: Spring L.E.E.F.
Grant Presentation, Recognition
of New Active Members,
Recognition of New Sustainers,
and Winner of the Volunteer
Challenge



ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

MORGAN BANKERT



This year's Active Member of the Year is Morgan Bankert. She is a vital member of the Community Council and has worked diligently to revamp her community placement, Kids in the Kitchen. She reached out to leagues all over the U.S. and gathered insight on how to better our program. She participated in meetings with H.O.P.E. to make her dream come to life. Morgan has laid out an excellent curriculum for the incoming chair. We are thrilled she will have a strong presence on the Community Council next year so she can see her plan come to fruition.

NEW MEMBER OF THE YEAR

ELIZABETH DEXTER



Our New Member of the Year award is being presented to someone who has shown unwavering dedication – not just in

completing her new member requirements, but going above in every way.

Liz Dexter has been a consistent, positive presence throughout the year. Whether it's New Member events, fundraising, affinity group gatherings, or rolling up her sleeves to serve our community, Liz has shown up with enthusiasm and a commitment to our mission. We often say "you get out of the League what you put into it" and Liz has graciously given her time and efforts to JLWS throughout this year. We want to thank Liz for the energy and purpose she brought to the League this year. We are so proud to recognize her as our New Member of the Year.

SUSTAINER OF THE YEAR

TERESA INMAN



As JLWS transitioned between two financial administrators this year, many of the League's financial and administrative tasks fell to the Board. We made it through, thanks to the friendly, patient, and confident guidance of this Sustainer of the Year. As a CPA and past-president, she was uniquely capable of understanding exactly how transactions should be processed and how our finances should be managed to best support the League's programs and activities. Beyond the transition period, this Sustainer volunteers her time to ensure the League's 990s and tax documents are submitted appropriately each year. She is a whiz at Quickbooks and selflessly explains (and re-explains) the basics of non-profit accounting to Finance

Council members upon request. She is a wealth of knowledge and a kind mentor, and we are thrilled to announce Teresa Inman as the Sustainer of the Year. We are so grateful for her past and present service to the League. Thank you, Teresa!

KATHARINE REYNOLDS JOHNSTON AWARD

MARIE ARCURI



We are honored to present JLWS Past President (1995-1996) Marie Arcuri with the Katharine Reynolds Johnston Award. Marie is steadfast in her commitment to bettering our community. She quietly endorses numerous programs and projects that improve our lives. When she was president, Marie took the League's Read to Me program to a new level helping assure that children in our community would have access to books and to reading methodologies. Through the years this initiative grew and ultimately resulted in the League's gift of The Children Museum, made possible by Marie's support. Always thoughtful, strategic, compassionate and generous, Marie makes a difference in the lives she touches. Marie F. Arcuri is the Dealer Principal and Owner of Flow Lexus of Winston-Salem and Flow Lexus of Greensboro. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management and a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting from NC

State University and is currently a CPA in the State of North Carolina.

Marie serves on the Senior Services Foundation Board and The NC State University Board of Trustees. She has been a member of the Board of Visitors of Brenner Children's Hospital, served on the Executive Committee of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, Kaleideum Museum, Ronald McDonald House, and Chair of Summit School Board of Trustees. As a leader in the community, Marie has served on numerous boards over the years including YWCA, Leadership Winston-Salem, Salvation Army, the Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, and on the advisory board of REACH Women's Network.

Marie is a recipient of the Triad Business Journal's Women in Business Award, YWCA Woman of Vision Award, and the YWCA Volunteer Leadership Award. Also, she received the Outstanding Leadership Award from the City of Winston-Salem. Marie is married to Guy Arcuri and they have two grown children, Hope and Matthew.

COMMUNITY PLACEMENT OF THE YEAR LITERACY AND EDUCATION EQUITY FUND



Our Community Placement of the Year winner is the Literacy and Education

Equity Fund (L.E.E.F). These ladies took on a new placement with excitement, gusto and organization! They gave away approximately \$2,000 to seven educators this year. These grants will impact approximately 1,800 WS/FCS students. This committee brainstormed how to better market the grant program and ensure L.E.E.F. funds helped as many students in our community as possible. Also new this year, a L.E.E.F. logo sticker was designed and added to all materials purchased with grant funds and fun, oversized checks were presented to all recipients. It is our pleasure to present the Community Placement of the year to the L.E.E.F. committee.

FRIEND OF THE LEAGUE FLOW AUTOMOTIVE



It is with great pride and heartfelt appreciation that we present this year's Friend of the League award — an honor reserved for those whose extraordinary support strengthens the mission and spirit of the Junior League of Winston-Salem — to Flow Automotive, a designation that reflects both their generosity and their unwavering dedication to our community. Flow Automotive's support was especially impactful during our Tour of Fine Spaces, where they served as a Platinum sponsor for one of our largest and most successful fundraising events. Their partnership played a vital role in helping us raise the resources necessary to advance our work.

More than just a sponsor, Flow Automotive is a true champion of our mission: to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. Their investment helps empower the women of our League to lead with purpose, serve with compassion, and make a lasting difference in Winston-Salem. Flow Automotive exemplifies what it means to be a true community partner — one who not only believes in a cause, but helps bring it to life.

On behalf of the Junior League of Winston-Salem, we extend our deepest gratitude to Flow Automotive for their exceptional generosity — and for being a true Friend of the League.

IN LEAGUE PLACEMENT OF THE YEAR MARKETING AND PR



A huge thank you to the Marketing and PR Committee for the incredible work they have done with promoting the Junior League of Winston-Salem. Their creativity and dedication in advertising our events and fundraisers have not only increased our visibility but have been instrumental in our success this year. We are so grateful for the polished, professional, and energetic face you provide for our League.

ANNUAL REPORT

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

May 31, 2024 and 2025

	2025		2024
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 47,863		\$ 147,813
Inventory	2,627		2,627
Investments	526,203		403,317
Prepaid expenses	5,297		5,247
Property and equipment, net	3,827		5,137
Operating lease right-of-use assets	138,355		178,480
Beneficial interest in assets held by others	282,486		260,265
Total Assets	\$1,006,658		\$1,002,886
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 4,488		\$ 6,640
Deferred membership dues	58,230		55,730
Operating lease liabilities	143,560		184,306
Total Liabilities	\$ 206,278		\$ 246,676
NET ASSETS			
Without donor restrictions			
Undesignated	\$ 510,028		\$ 490,741
Board designated for endowment	<u>200,846</u>		<u>184,956</u>
	\$ 710,874		\$ 675,697
With donor restrictions	\$ 89,506		\$ 80,513
Total Net Assets	\$ 800,380		\$ 756,210
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,006,658		\$1,002,886

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended May 31, 2025

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE			
Contributions and grants	\$ 41,902	\$ 3,160	\$ 45,062
Memberships	63,632	-	63,632
In-kind contributions	-	9,204	9,204
Tour of Fine Spaces	37,063	-	37,063
Halloween Bingo	18,194	-	18,194
Advertising income	1,050	-	1,050
Change in value of investments	29,256	-	29,256
Investment income, net	10,955	-	10,955
Miscellaneous income	2,035	-	2,035
Change in value of beneficial interest	15,449	5,833	21,282
	\$ 219,536	18,197	\$ 237,733
Net assets released from restrictions			
Satisfaction of purpose restrictions	9,204	(9,204)	-
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 228,740	\$8,993	\$ 237,733
EXPENSES			
Program services	\$ 102,173	-	\$ 102,173
General and administrative	64,971	-	64,971
Fundraising	26,419	-	26,419
Total Expenses	\$ 193,563	-	\$ 193,563
Change in Net Assets	35,177	8,993	44,170
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	675,697	80,513	756,210
Net Assets, End of Year	\$710,874	\$89,506	\$800,380



annual reports

Junior League of Winston-Salem's website.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended May 31, 2024

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE			
Contributions and grants	\$ 45,232	\$ 18,937	\$ 64,169
Memberships	74,405	–	74,405
In-kind contributions	–	11,141	11,141
Tour of Fine Spaces	26,817	–	26,817
Advertising income	1,050	–	1,050
Change in value of investments	68,878	–	68,878
Investment income, net	10,121	–	10,121
Miscellaneous income	5,303	–	5,303
Change in value of beneficial interest	20,638	5,836	26,474
	\$252,444	35,914	\$288,358
Net assets released from restrictions			
Satisfaction of purpose restrictions	11,141	(11,141)	–
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 263,585	\$24,773	\$288,358
EXPENSES			
Program services	\$ 103,458	–	\$ 103,458
General and administrative	64,693	–	64,693
Fundraising	22,399	–	22,399
Total Expenses	\$ 190,550	–	\$190,550
Change in Net Assets	73,035	24,773	97,808
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	602,662	55,740	658,402
Net Assets, End of Year	\$675,697	\$80,513	\$756,210

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TOUR of FINE SPACES

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF WINSTON-SALEM

APRIL
2025



The 19th Annual Tour of Fine Spaces was held on April 12, 2025. The committee worked incredibly hard this past year to host one of our most successful Tour of Fine Spaces events to date! We featured eight unique homes across Winston-Salem, from Brookberry Farm to the West End to Buena Vista. Attendees were sure to leave the Tour of Fine Spaces with no shortage of inspiration for their own homes.

The first two stops on the Tour this year were new construction homes in a new section of Brookberry Farm, presented by Nevin Home Builders and Mitchco, Inc.

The next stop featured a whole home renovation by ICON Custom Builders. QFC, Inc and Friend Design and Architecture presented a special whole home renovation of a property purchased from the homeowners grandparents. Mitchco, Inc also presented a new detached garage,



complete with a floral studio and bonus room for entertaining and hosting guests. ADAMS DesignBuild featured a stunning three story addition in Buena Vista, with custom cabinets featured by Twin City Custom Cabinets. A thoughtful landscape project full



of native species to attract pollinators, and creativity to compliment the natural topography of the yard was presented by Biology Garden Design and Landscape. The final stop featured a beautifully designed first floor renovation completed over time by Mitchco, Inc, highlighted by a recently finished master bathroom.

We would like to share our sincerest thanks to our sponsors:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| ADAMS DesignBuild | Nevin Home Builders |
| Biology Garden Design and Landscaping | Parks Decorative Hardware and Plumbing |
| Fader Real Estate | Piedmont Home Care QFC, Inc., |
| Flow Cadillac | Dan Rath – Allen Tate Realtor |
| Friend Design and Architecture | Rayson Winery and Vineyards |
| ICON Custom Builders | Solid Foundation Construction |
| McCullough Tile | The Triad Tradesman |
| Mitchco, Inc. | Twin City Custom Cabinets |

The success of the 2025 Tour of Fine Spaces would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors.

Save the Date

20th Annual Tour of Fine Spaces
on **Saturday, April 18, 2026!**

LETTERS FROM SANTA



The Tour of Fine Spaces Committee continued the Letters From Santa and Letters From Frosty fundraiser in the 2024 holiday season. This fundraiser featured a custom letter to a child, or child at heart, from Santa or Frosty the Snowman. No two letters were the same! Each one included special details about the

child to add to the magic. We received wonderful feedback about how excited children were to get their special letters, and it is our hope that this becomes a tradition for families to look forward to in the holiday season year after year.

FIND THE GOOD DAY

Find the Good Day is a one-day giving campaign led by the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) to celebrate the collective impact of leagues across the country. This year, the JLWS participated by directing gifts to the Literacy and Education Equity Fund (L.E.E.F.). Through the generosity of our members and supporters, nearly \$1,000 was raised in support of L.E.E.F. These gifts strengthen our ability to sustain community impact and leadership development for years to come, ensuring JLWS can continue serving Winston-Salem well into the future.

HALLOWEEN BINGO BRINGS SPOOKY FUN & COMMUNITY SPIRIT TO WINSTON-SALEM



The Junior League of Winston-Salem (JLWS) cast a spell of excitement over the community with its first-ever **Halloween Bingo**, held on Thursday, October 24 at The Hawthorne Inn. This spirited evening brought together families, friends, and Halloween enthusiasts for a fun-filled night of games, costumes, music, and charitable giving.

With a lively crowd in attendance, the event delivered on its promise of **thrills and philanthropy**, raising crucial funds to support JLWS's mission of advancing women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

A Night of Frights, Fun & Festivities

From the moment guests arrived, the atmosphere buzzed with energy. Attendees enjoyed five lively rounds of **Bingo**, hosted by the charismatic **Jeffrey Griffin**, whose enthusiastic calls kept players on the edge of their seats. Lucky winners took home fantastic prizes generously donated by supporters of the League.

The **Costume Contest** was a highlight of the evening, with participants showing off their creativity in categories such as **Most Creative, Best Group, Best Couples, Funniest, and Best Overall Costume**. From spooky specters to pop culture icons, the competition was fierce, making the judges' decisions delightfully difficult.

Keeping the energy high, **DJ Yung Prophet** spun a mix of Halloween hits and dance-worthy beats, encouraging guests to take to the dance floor and celebrate in style.

Guests also had the opportunity to bid on a variety of unique items in the **Silent Auction**, with all proceeds directly supporting JLWS's community initiatives. And no one left hungry — **Honky Tonk Smokehouse** provided delicious barbecue, while sweet Halloween treats and a festive bar kept spirits high throughout the night.

Supporting a Meaningful Mission

Beyond the fun and festivities, Halloween Bingo served a greater purpose — supporting JLWS's **impactful community projects**, including **BookWORM, Strong Women, Strong Families, and Kids in the Kitchen**. Funds raised from the event will also help sustain partnerships with initiatives such as the **Forsyth Backpack Program** and **Crosby Scholars**, furthering JLWS's commitment to education,



mentorship, and women's health.

A New Winston-Salem Tradition

As the evening wrapped up, JLWS Halloween Bingo Chair Erin Greene reflected on the event's success:

"This was our first year hosting Halloween Bingo, and the turnout exceeded our expectations. Seeing our community come together for a night of fun while supporting a meaningful cause was truly special. We can't wait to make this an annual tradition!"

With an incredible debut, **Halloween Bingo is set to become a must-attend fall event for years to come**. Thank you to everyone who joined, supported, and helped bring this bewitching night to life!



Did You Attend?
 HARE favorite moments costume photos
 #JLWSHalloweenBingo!



FALL 2024 GRANT RECIPIENTS



LaDonna Wilson, an EC (Exceptional Children)/Functional Curriculum Support teacher at Cash Elementary, plans to use her grant to create ten literacy experience baskets to enhance reading and writing instruction for her students. These baskets will include books, character representations, scene supports, and interactive games to motivate and

improve fluency. By involving Cash Buddy Club members (typically peers), these literacy buddies will engage in weekly activities with the students using the baskets, fostering both learning and social connection.

Jennifer Jones from Cash Elementary is a Multi-Classroom Leader. She plans to use the grant to purchase social-emotional learning books for her school's innovative reading lab for first and second grade students. The lab follows a "small for all" approach, offering tailored small-group instruction to meet the needs of every student. These books will enrich daily focused read-aloud sessions by not only promoting literacy but also helping children explore their emotions, fostering mental health, and building vital social-emotional skills.



Sarah Bradley (teacher of visually impaired students) and **Connie Brake** (Assistive Technology Specialist) from Itinerant and Related Services with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School system will use their grant to establish a library of story bags/boxes designed for students with unique and complex needs. These resources employ a multisensory approach, incorporating real objects alongside words to create an engaging and inclusive reading experience. By allowing students to feel, manipulate, and interact with these objects, the boxes help visually impaired students, as well as those who are deaf or have multiple disabilities, better understand stories and connect them to their own experiences.

Lori Booze, a teacher at Petree Elementary School, plans to use the grant for noise-cancelling headphones to create a more focused and effective learning environment for her students. The headphones will reduce distractions and ambient noise, helping students concentrate on online work, daily tasks, and testing. This initiative is

expected to enhance cognitive benefits like improved focus, reduced stress, and better overall performance.

Brenda Coles from Brunson Elementary School is a fifth grade teacher. She plans to use her grant for flexible seating to enrich her students' daily learning experiences. By introducing adaptable seating options, she aims to boost engagement and comfort in the classroom environment. Additionally, this seating will play a pivotal role in the "book buddies" program, encouraging collaboration across different grade levels and fostering a strong school-wide culture centered around reading.



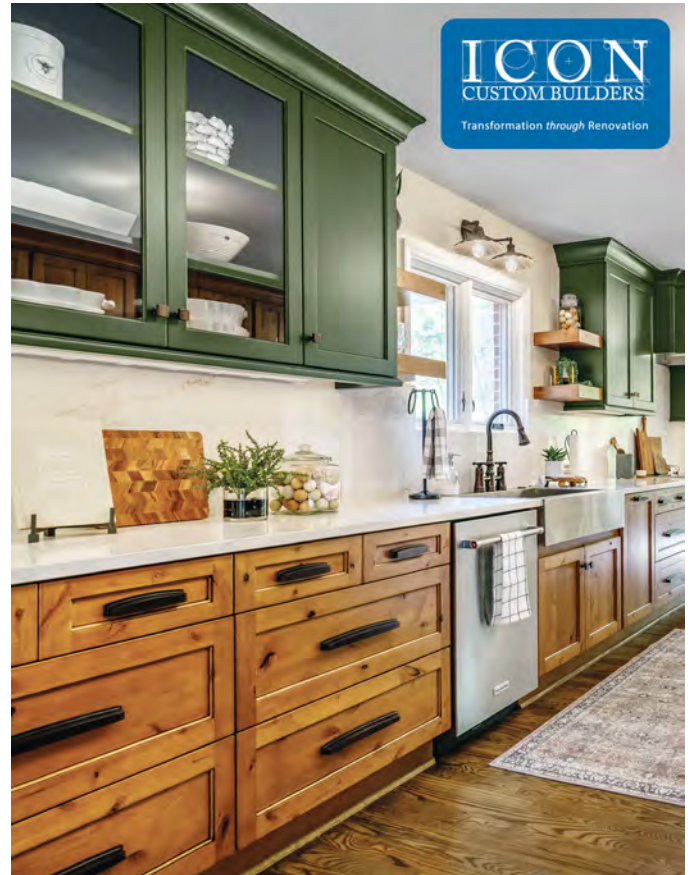
SPRING 2025 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Ameriki Somers is the School Library Media Coordinator at Lowrance Middle School. She plans to use the grant to create a mobile multi-sensory library provide a more engaging reading experience for special needs students. Including items such as touch and feel board books, scratch and sniff books, books with braille, high contrast books, and pop-up books helps with cognitive and communication development. As Somers said, “Ultimately, this investment in specialized reading materials will not only enhance literacy skills but also contribute to the overall cognitive, social, and emotional development of our special needs students, setting the foundation for improved educational outcomes across all areas of their academic journey.”



Caitlyn Berry, the Rural Hall Elementary Library Media Coordinator, plans to use her grant to bring two Yoto Mini Players into the Rural Hall Elementary library, along with wireless headphones, protective cases, a storage case for Yoto cards,

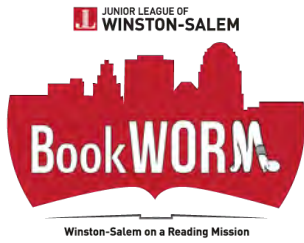
and 12 audiobook cards that complement physical books already available in the library. These devices will provide students with an interactive way to enjoy stories during their library visits, encouraging them to follow along with the physical book or be inspired to check out the book later. By integrating technology and audiobooks, Caitlyn hopes to make reading fun and accessible while nurturing listening skills, comprehension, and imagination.



BACKPACK

The Backpack program provided over 2,400 meals for students throughout the school year. They completed 46 deliveries to an average of 52 students and collected over \$970 worth of food for a local school's food pantry.

BOOKWORM



BookWORM had a successful year, collecting over 2,000 books! These books helped stock the shelves at the JLWS office, where community partners were invited to select books that their programs could use for the children and families they serve.

Additionally, BookWORM provided hundreds of books for the Strong Women, Strong Families. events at local schools. During these events, children have the opportunity to browse through the books and choose their favorites to take home.



The BookWORM project is thankful for all the community organizations that help the JLWS collect and distribute books throughout our community to ensure more children have access to books in their homes. We appreciate our continued partnership with Bookmarks, making it easier for organizations to select specific books they need.

The BookWORM committee was included in a new section of the 2024 Bookmarks festival called Dragon Alley, where we spoke to many families and provided information about BookWORM while making friendship bracelets together.



This year several businesses joined our spring book drive as donation locations, including Bookmarks, Hanesbrands, Kaleideum, Kim Taylor & Company, both local Pure

Barre locations in Reynolda Village and on Stratford Road, Rolly's, and Womble Bond Dickinson Law Firm.

With the help of our community and members, we were able to get more books into the hands of children throughout Forsyth County.

CROSBY SCHOLARS



Crosby Scholars

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JLWS read 157 college application essays from 115 Crosby Scholar participants working towards higher education.

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN



On February 8th, Kids in the Kitchen organized a lunch packing event at H.O.P.E (Helping Our People Eat). With the help of 22 members, three friends, and three helpful Little Leaguers, we packed 957 meals!

STRONG WOMEN. STRONG FAMILIES.

We were able to give the first 20 families in line a small kitchen appliance to take home. Each family in attendance received a meal bag with a recipe and ingredients to make a meal at home. We fed all families in attendance a meal from Moe's.



We raffled kitchen tool set, Food Lion gift cards, two bikes/two helmets, cake box kits and school supply kits.

We had a total of 114 individuals attend the event consisting of 28 families.



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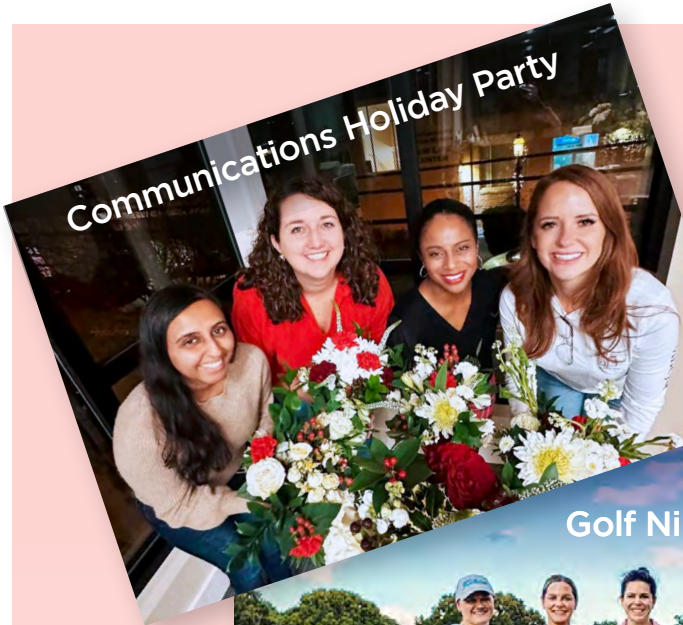
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OUR MEMBERS



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First Friday



Valentine's Book Club

JLWS New Member Class 2024-2025



The first year of membership with the Junior League of Winston-Salem is spent as a New Member. New Members learn the history and structure of JLWS, receive volunteer training, and attend GMMs. New members are put into small groups led by current Active members, who assist in a personalized transition into the Junior League.

Past Presidents' Luncheon



The Junior League of Winston-Salem held its annual Past Presidents' Luncheon at Forsyth Country Club. The luncheon brought together the presidents from previous years to celebrate the work of the organization in service to the community.

Sustainer Spotlight 2024-2025



Our Sustainers had a busy and fun filled year volunteering alongside Actives, learning more about the community, and celebrating!

DEIB



The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Committee of the Junior League of Winston-Salem was created to help ensure that the century-old organization continues to evolve alongside the community that it serves.

As Winston-Salem grows increasingly diverse, it is necessary that the League reflects that diversity within its membership, leadership, and community impact work.

The 2024-2025 committee was led by Edelin Silab, Bronwyn Flower, Gerri Johns, and Whitney Mack-Obi. The committee continued working with community partners and promoting local women and minority owned businesses as vendors. As a committee, they explored local restaurants and made recommendations for members and community members. They helped sponsor the food for a General Membership Meeting, supporting and increasing exposure for Delicious by Shereen, a Winston-Salem nonprofit catering service providing authentic, made-from-scratch Middle Eastern food prepared by immigrant and refugee women.

The DEIB Committee is committed to providing support through ongoing education, strategic initiatives, and meaningful dialogue, helping the Junior League of Winston-Salem honor its rich history while fostering a more inclusive future and deeper sense of belonging in an increasingly divided world.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
WINSTON-SALEM

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*Thank you to all who donated to
the Backpack program!*