



# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LONG BEACH

**WOMEN BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES SINCE 1931**

3515 Linden Avenue, Suite #47  
Long Beach, CA 90807

info@jllb.org 562.989.6400



www.jllb.org

## 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

### OUR MISSION

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

### IMPACT AREA STATEMENT

The Junior League of Long Beach will work with community partners to increase confidence and self-awareness among youth character development and life skills programs designed to encourage respect for self and others.

### BY THE NUMBERS



#### MEMBERSHIP

Total Active Members 337  
88 Active Members | 249 Sustainer Members



#### FUNDS RAISED

Total Funds Raised: \$27,000



#### VOLUNTEERS SERVED

Women/Children Served: 115+

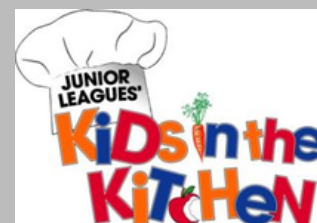


#### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

LB Public Library Foundation, Grow2Zero Farms, Food Finders, Serve LosAl, Run Like It's Recess (Newcomb Academy), 4GIRLS, Pathways, Century Villages at Cabrillo, SPARK at Midtown, DAYS Long Beach, LB Unified School District, Bethune Homeless Education Program, and Justin Rudd Beach Clean-ups

### COMMUNITY IMPACT

We work with community partner to increase confidence and self-awareness among youth through character development and life skills programs designed to encourage respect for self and others.



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Friends of the Junior League of Long Beach,

In 1931, a passionate group of women in Long Beach founded the Junior League of Long Beach, united by their love for the community. Today, over 300 incredible women carry on this legacy. We warmly welcome like-minded individuals who share our vision to advance women's leadership through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. We've spearheaded over 60 projects, bringing joy and positive change to countless children, families, and women in greater Long Beach. Together, we are an unstoppable force for good!



Our current efforts focus on nurturing confidence and self-awareness among the youth in greater Long Beach. This year, our Self-Esteem Program hosted two sessions addressing self-esteem, resilience, and mental health. We also organized a Prom Party for housing-insecure high school students, providing prom attire and self-esteem education. Our Kids in the Kitchen program partnered with low-income housing facilities, including SPARK at Midtown and DAYS Long Beach, to offer cooking workshops. We supported several community partners, including LB Public Library Foundation, Grow2Zero Farms, Food Finders, Serve LosAl, 4GIRLS, Pathways, and Justin Rudd Beach Clean-ups.

This year we received exciting news from Sacramento! Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill 848 into law, sponsored by the Junior Leagues of California State Public Affairs Committee (CalSPAC). This bill provides job-protected time off for situations related to reproductive loss. JLLB member Summer Smith played a pivotal role in the passage of this legislation. As Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world." This bill and CalSPAC's efforts have truly made California better!

What sets us apart at the JLLB is our unwavering focus on providing an encouraging space for our members to grow and learn. We empower our members to take on new challenges, lead, and be lifelong catalysts for change. We prepare our members to serve and lead in our community, ready to tackle new issues and challenges. The women of the Junior League of Long Beach will continue to be voices for action, justice, hope, and change.

Together, we can help grow a brighter and more beautiful tomorrow.

Kaley Millan  
President 2023-2024  
Junior League of Long Beach  
president@jllb.org

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# 2024 HELEN D. NEWCOMB AWARD RECIPIENT

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## Gina Rushing Maguire

We proudly announce that Gina Rushing Maguire was selected among her peers to receive the highest honor in the Junior League of Long Beach (JLLB). The prestigious annual award was established in 1995 to honor Helen D. Newcomb, the JLLB's first President. It recognizes members who embody the organization's mission and act as a role model for others.

As a JLLB member, year after year, Gina was drawn to community projects that matched her skills and interests. She served as a trainer, facilitator, educator, and advocate, serving on the Training Committee, Facilitator Core, and Alcohol Awareness For Youth Project, chairing the Recovery Home For Youth Project, Woman To Woman Project and Leadership Development Task Force, Community Vice President on Executive Committee, and ultimately League President in 1989-90.

One of Gina's fondest JLLB experiences was being nominated as Co-Chair along with Jane Roeder Wallace of the new Woman To Woman Project, an Association of Junior Leagues International model project, from 1986-88. This new project focused on alcohol awareness and women's health, ultimately leading to the founding of a new substance abuse outpatient treatment center in Long Beach that offered onsite childcare, the first of its kind in the United States. Former First Lady Betty Ford responded to Gina's letter inviting her to speak at the JLLB's press conference launching the new Woman To Woman Recovery Center.

While active with the Junior League in 1988, Gina was asked to join other visionary community leaders to design and create Leadership Long Beach, a new nonprofit organization focused on leadership development within the City of Long Beach. Her team built the core curriculum for the new ten-month annual leadership development program. Today, Leadership Long Beach has successfully empowered thousands of leaders over the last 36 years. Its impact on Long Beach and its people is immeasurable. Today, Gina continues to serve as a member of Leadership Long Beach's Honorary Board of Governors, providing training annually to new classes.

Gina has long been involved in various Long Beach community initiatives. In 2001, she took on the challenge of President of St. Anthony's. For 81 years, St. Anthony's High School was the only Catholic High School in Long Beach but on the verge of closure due to declining enrollment and increasing debt. The role combined all of Gina's professional and volunteer experience with her passion for education, health, and welfare of children into one single, all-consuming focus area. In 2010, Long Beach Heritage honored Gina with its Preservation Award for her work renovating St. Anthony's historic campus while preserving the school's history. In 2013, Gina was awarded the Long Beach Press Telegram's "Amazing Woman of the Year in Education Award". In 2021, Gina was presented with "The Key to the City of Long Beach" award by Mayor Robert Garcia in honor of her service, leadership, and community contribution. Also in 2021, she received the California State Assembly Distinguished Woman Award (Patrick O'Donnell) and a Commendation from the 33rd California State Senatorial District (Lena Gonzalez) in recognition of life-long community service and leadership. Gina is the current Vice President of the City of Long Beach Utilities Commission, a member of the St. Mary Medical Center Community Board, and a contributing Sustainer to the Junior League of Long Beach.

Her decades of commitment to Long Beach and the JLLB shine brightly through her visionary leadership.

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# COMMUNITY IMPACT

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This year, the Junior League of Long Beach continued a record of excellent service to our community through our signature programs and offerings, working with existing and new community partners to provide support and woman power to other local groups serving our mission, and through our advocacy and outreach efforts at the local and state level.

## Self Esteem

This year our Self Esteem committee hosted two Especially Me! Self Esteem Workshops for 9-12 year olds, which served over 35 youth at Century Villages at Cabrillo, a supportive housing community, in September 2023 and at Avalon K-12 School on Catalina Island in February 2024, an often under-served area of Long Beach Unified School District. We also hosted our second annual Say Yes to the Prom Dress Especially Me! Self-Esteem event in April 2024,



serving 20+ students from LBUSD's Bethune Homeless Education Program, Spark at Midtown, Casa Youth Shelter, Century Villages at Cabrillo and Haven House. Each student had the opportunity to select a full look for prom, including dresses, shoes, accessories, hair and makeup lessons, skin care, and on-site tailoring services to ensure the perfect fit!



## Kids in the Kitchen

Our Kids in the Kitchen committee hosted two cooking classes this year at Spark at Midtown, a supportive housing community, and one at DAYS Long Beach, serving low-income, under-served families. We worked with the youth in attendance to make veggie pizzas, tacos, healthy lemonade, ants on a log, fruit skewers, and more! In total, we served 80+ children at these events.

## Community Forum

Our annual Community Forum was held on April 8, 2024 at our office in the Nonprofit Center. Over a dozen local nonprofits from our community were in attendance and discussed the needs of the greater Long Beach community and opportunities for partnerships. We look forward to continuing to grow this wonderful networking opportunity for our fellow non-profits.

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# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## Community Partnerships

Our Community Partnerships committee hosted the first annual Done-in-a-Meeting service opportunity where we made 35 fleece blankets to donate to the young women of Pathways to Independence in less than two hours during our March 2024 general membership meeting. Additionally, we participated in fundraising for Food Finders, hosted booths on healthy eating, positive affirmations, and coping skills at AJLI's first Find the Good Day, Newcomb Academy's Run Like It's Recess and Stephens Middle School's annual Wellness Fair, volunteered for the



weekend-long 4GIRLS Workshop and aided in their fundraising efforts, participated in beach clean-ups with Justin Rudd, sent volunteers to aid with the Grape Expectations Gala benefiting the Long Beach Public Library Foundation, held weekly volunteer shifts at Grow2Zero Farms food distribution, and sent volunteers to Serve Los Al Project.

## Advocacy and Outreach - CalSPAC



campaign in March 2024. They attended the Junior Leagues of California State Public Affairs Committee (CalSPAC) Fall, Winter and Spring conferences. At the winter conference our senior CalSPAC delegate, Heather Brel, was voted in as Co-Chair of CalSPAC for next year. Notably, Senate Bill 848, which provides leave for those suffering reproduction or adoption loss, passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee and was signed into law by the Governor, representing a big win for families across California. JLLB member, Summer Smith, played a key role in this legislation, helping to author the bill and shepherd it through the process.

Our Advocacy and Outreach committee hosted our annual Legislation & Libations event in November 2023 at female-owned Trademark Brewing Company with Senator Lena Gonzalez as our guest speaker. Our delegates educated our members on upcoming ballot measures and encouraged voting with our Get Out the Vote



**A big thank you to all of our leaders, volunteers and partners for all they do for our community!**

# FINDING THE GOOD



SEPTEMBER  
14, 2023

AN INTERNATIONAL DAY TO CELEBRATE  
THE **GOOD** IN AND ALL AROUND US

## Find the Good Day

This league year marked the first annual International Find the Good Day — created by the Association of Junior Leagues. Dedicated to finding the good in yourself, your community, and the world around you. The Junior League of Long Beach hosted a multi-faceted event on September 14, 2023 at 2nd and PCH that included a self-esteem activity table in the main square and shop for a cause giveback that helped to fund our programming. With the generosity of our community partners, Athleta offered an in-store discount as well as a discount for future shopping, plus some goodies to our participants; LATHER and Noble Bird donated 20% of sales from that day's operations back to the Junior League of Long Beach, resulting in a donation over \$670.



Thursday  
September 14

2nd & PCH  
6400 Pacific Coast Hwy

We invite you to bring your friends and family and join JLLB for a special evening giving back to JLLB, the community, and ourselves to Find the Good Together!

**Featuring:**

**Junior League of Long Beach**

- Visit us in the common area to learn more about our programs and participate in fun community activities for both kids and adults alike.

**6:30 - 9PM Athleta**

- \$15 off in-store purchases
- Goodie bags (while supplies last) for JLLB shoppers

**LATHER**

- 20% proceed donation with reference to JLLB
- BINGO Card and Pamper Party Raffle
- First 20 JLLB shoppers with \$50+ purchase will receive complimentary gift

**All Day Noble Bird**

- 20% giveback with reference to JLLB
- Applicable for dine-in, takeout and catering (excluding 3rd party delivery services)

**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LONG BEACH**



Join us for the second annual Find the Good Day on September 12, 2024, when Junior Leagues across the Association will again host events and raise awareness for finding the good.

# FUND DEVELOPMENT

Fundraising this year has looked a little different, after we said goodbye to LUNAFEST after hosting it for 12 fantastic years. Thanks to the generous support of our community partners, family, friends, and members, JLLB has raised more than \$27,000 this year! Funds raised through our various events and campaigns support the League's programs and services which advances JLLB's mission in the Long Beach community.

## Long Beach Gives

The Junior League of Long Beach was thrilled to participate in Long Beach Gives for the third year! Long Beach Gives, a citywide, online fundraising campaign helps put the spotlight on the many, deserving nonprofits in Long Beach, including JLLB! We're thrilled to share that for Long Beach Gives 2023, Junior League of Long Beach members raised over \$6,700 during the one-day fundraising event!



## Donor Stewardship

This year the Donor Stewardship Lead took on a big challenge in launching the Catalyst Club - an internal donor recognition program just for Junior League of Long Beach members. Shannon Hall, Donor Stewardship Lead, created the program as well as the recognition gift stickers, bud vases, and silk scarves. Thank you to each and every member who joined the Catalyst Club this year!

## Shop for a Cause

LATHER, continues to be a fantastic supporter of the Junior League of Long Beach. They served as an anchor partner for Find the Good Day, and partnered again in December to host a private shopping party for our members and their guests before the holiday season! LATHER also generously donated a gift basket to be utilized as a silent auction item. We enjoyed one more shopping event with LATHER in May, as well as our treasured partnership with them! Kendra Scott at The Pointe in El Segundo has been a wonderful supporter of JLLB despite being in another local South Bay city. They proudly supported us on Find the Good Day and hosted a shopping event in December for our members! Not only did they also donate items, but we had one last shopping event with them in April as well.



This year we've seen many fantastic events and support with our community partners! We're so grateful to their support of JLLB and the work we do.

# SUSTAINER UPDATE

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## 2024 JLLB SUSTAINER UPDATE

sustain/sus-tain /sə'stān/ verb: to support something or keep it going



“Friends are the sunshine of life.” Since 1931 the Junior League of Long Beach has continued to shine bright in our community and in the hearts of our members! Our incredible group of Sustainers actively support and sustain the JLLB, along with one another, in countless ways.

Throughout this past year we have come together to celebrate, honor, learn, laugh and just have fun. Finding ways to stay on the pulse of what’s happening with Members, the League and our Community, keeps us connected. It also allows us to look ahead and find new ways to build on our legacy of volunteerism, leadership, friendship, and the power of hope.

The JLLB Sustainer Council manages a variety of activities with the goal of connecting Sustainers, along with many Interest Groups that offer unique social networks. Each year JLLB Sustainers serve as dedicated mentors and advisors to Actives, sharing their knowledge and experience to build a stronger foundation for the future. Sustainers lead our signature JLLB Facilitator Training, which is a ‘must-attend’ event for all. Our generous members continue to support the work of the League through financial sponsorships and donations, as well as giving their time. And in the spirit of our mission, Sustainers take their Junior League training into the community to lead, advocate, collaborate and support countless organizations.

For decades the Junior League has been changing lives, transforming communities and developing leaders. Together we continue to create a lasting impact as a League of One and Members for Life!

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# MEMBER EXPERIENCE

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The Junior League of Long Beach Membership Council has been busy this year! From onboarding New Members, to planning member events and socials, and hosting impactful trainings, we've collaborated to ensure that we have a variety of options for members to engage, network, and bloom.

## SOCIALS (ARRANGEMENTS)

The Arrangements Committee organized more than a dozen member events over the course of the year, including 7 General Membership Meetings, our Annual Dinner, and several social events. Events were thoughtfully planned and held in different parts of the city to help engage and reach our members. We started the year strong with a social following a service opportunity.

Throughout the year, we participated in the annual Rancho Walk, enjoyed Oktoberfest, celebrated the holidays with a gondola ride, and celebrated our friendships on Galentine's Day. This year, the committee encouraged healthy habits with a "20 Days of Fitness" program in January. The last social of the year - Cycle for a Cause - will also help us raise funds for the League. This committee has a passion for finding new and fun ways for our members to network and connect with each other.



## INTEREST GROUPS

Thanks to a handful of Members, we were also able to bring back our Interest Groups this year! These are groups dedicated to specific interests that our members take the lead on organizing. The Get Outside Group learned how to play pickleball and enjoyed a walk around the CSULB campus, our Supper Club visited local Long Beach restaurants, the Nifty Nightcaps group tried different cocktails and mocktails around the city, and the Book Club read several books and is holding a special meeting with the author of one of the books they've read.

## TRAINING

The Training Committee offered our Facilitator Training this year which is a key JLLB training. Facilitator Training is unique to the JLLB and teaches our members how to run effective meetings, set norms and expectations with new teams, facilitate important conversations and more. This training is one of the many ways that we equip our members with the tools to be leaders in our community!

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# LEADERSHIP

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## THANK YOU 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President: Kaley Millan
- President-Elect: Bridget McCann | Allison Anderson
- Treasurer: Jessica Harbison Weaver
- Treasurer-Elect: Kathryn Esham
- Executive Secretary: Cheli Nye
- Community VP: Jenn Hall
- Membership VP: Allison Anderson
- Fund Development VP: Meghan Rickman
- Nominating Chair: Nisha Varghese
- Board Assistant: Christina Pearce
- Sustaining Advisor: Christine Manvi



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## WELCOME INCOMING 2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



- President: Allison Anderson
- President-Elect: Kami Riley
- Executive VP: Jessica Martone
- Treasurer: Kathryn Esham
- Executive Secretary: Cheli Nye
- Community VP: Kirsten Graham
- Membership VP: Jenn Hall
- Fund Development VP: Meghan Rickman
- Nominating Chair: Arantxa Chavarria
- Board Assistant: Ashley Stickland
- Sustaining Advisor: Tara Escobar

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The JLLB is excited to welcome 9 new Members to the League! This cohort of New Members went through training and onboarding in the Fall and have been placed on committees to help our League make an impact for the balance of the League year. We are thrilled to have them and excited to see the path they take in the Junior League of Long Beach.

