The Junior League of Waterloo-Cedar Falls, Iowa 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.

It is hard to believe, but the holiday season is upon us already. It is so easy to get lost in all the holiday parties, end of year celebrations, and get-togethers with both family and friends. Even easier is becoming overwhelmed with the seemingly endless "to-dos" that go with these events. As this is a season of thanks, I encourage everyone – myself included – to take just a moment each day to do a few simple things.

Say “thank you.” By this, I don’t mean saying “thanks” as you’re moving on to the next task. I mean really look the person in the eye and say “thank you for…” Saying a sincere thank you can really make a person’s day. It can validate, encourage, and just make people feel good.

Count your blessings. This year has shown me, very clearly, that even on my hardest days I have so much to be thankful for. I have a supportive family, and comfortable home, and many other advantages that others right here in the Cedar Valley don’t have. We all have days we’d rather feel sorry for ourselves than think about the good have. We all have days we’d rather feel sorry for ourselves than think about the good in our lives, but those are the days that it is most important that we take a few minutes to be thankful.

Smile! When you accidently make eye contact with someone, don’t look away, smile! You’re walking through a parking lot in a hurry to get a few things before dinner? Smile! You’re having a rough day that just won’t seem to end? Smile bigger! You never know whose day will be improved by something as simple as your smile.

When you drill down to the bedrock, this is what our Membership in Junior League is about. We use our blessings and gifts to help others who may need a little boost. This impacts the individuals we serve, the community we live in, and our own lives as well. Thank you for all you do, and have a wonderful holiday season!

Yours in voluntarism,

President, Amanda Kline with President Elect, Jessica Krogh at AJLI Conference in Washington, DC.
A great event.... for any forecast!

Touch-A-Truck 2013 is in the bag! The fourth annual Touch-A-Truck event was held at the Riverloop Plaza on September 28 and it was a great success! This event has seen just about every possible weather condition for this event. Unfortunately, this year it was rain. There were about 45 dry minutes at the beginning of the event, but around noon it came down so hard the event had to end two hours early. Despite the weather, we did have a tremendous turnout. New to the event this year was magician Eric Michaels. He put on a 45 minute show under the big tent and proved to be a great addition to our day. Bounce houses for the kids along with Mr. Nick making amazing balloon animals. This year Maid-Rite and The Missing Hole returned as our vendors. With over 30 vehicles committed this year there was a lot to see. The return of the vintage tractor, the SWAT Bearcat, monster truck and the very large John Deere Tractor were a big hit. Although it was raining the event received positive feedback and the crowd appeared to be enjoying themselves. Please mark your calendars for next year’s event. See you in 2014!

Event Chair, Danielle Stiegemeier says this event would not have been possible without community support and her amazing committee: Tammy Baish, Rita Burns, Jennifer Stevenson, Brittney Weber, Christy Stoltz, Elysia Jones, Katie Flores, Sarah Clark and Dana Johnston. Thanks to all!

Community Feedback

"Thank you so much for your Touch-A-Truck event!

This was my second year to participate and I think it’s a great community event for young families in the Cedar Valley. My grandson is my reason for attending but every year I am impressed by the community feel and goodwill that comes from the event. I also invited others to join us and this year, our guests were family from Charles City. We left dripping wet from rain on Saturday but we were all smiling. We had six adults and three little ones.

I realize that it takes lots of work and community connections so I want to thank you for that effort and let you know that I think it does pay off. We missed the school bus this year but once again all of the professionals attending the vehicles were so friendly and welcoming to the children and adults. I look forward to marking my calendar for 2014 and will be there with my grandson and others as well. No doubt the rain lowered the attendance but hopefully the weather will be drier next year.”

Thank you so much,
Linda
2013 New Members

The New Member class has been busy learning about Junior League on both a national and local level. Many of the Council VPs have attended meetings to provide information about their councils and options for involvement in their committees. New Member Co-Chairs Sam Barrett and Katy Susong have planned out a year of informational meetings, of which the members will attend throughout the rest of the year. Here they will learn more about League and the community they are serving.

In January, the New Member class will begin work on their project, which will be Prom’s Closet. This marks the first year that the New Member class will be sole owners of this Spring event. New Members will be able to learn and build on knowledge gained from this event in previous years making it even bigger and better for 2014!

Interested in joining Junior League?

Please contact VP of Membership, Hillary Anniss at jlwcfmembership@gmail.com

IN THE KITCHEN

In need of holiday inspirations?

Look no further than our First Impressions Cookbook. This line-up is sure to get one in the mood for the holidays! Try one or put them all together and impress your guests!

Starter
Cranberry Chutney: page 102

Salad
Arugula Salad with Pears & Beets: page 70

Main
Roast Pork with Fruit Stuffing: page 154
Honey Glazed Carrots: page 109

Main (Meatless)
Cider Roasted Squash: page 114
Couscous with Dried Fruits & Pecans: page 117

---

Cranberry Cheese Bars

2 cups flour
1 ½ cups quick-cooking oats
½ cup packed brown sugar
1 cup butter, softened
8 ounces cream cheese, softened
1 (14-ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
¼ cup lemon juice
2 tablespoons cornstarch
1 tablespoon brown sugar
1 (16-ounce) can whole cranberry sauce

Mix first 4 ingredients in bowl until crumbly. Remove and reserve 1 ½ cups of the mixture.

Press the remaining crumbs over bottom of a greased 9 x 13-inch baking pan.

Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes.

Beat the cream cheese until light. Add the condensed milk gradually, beating until smooth.

Mix in lemon juice. Spread evenly over crust.

Mix the corn starch and 1 tablespoon of brown sugar in small bowl. Add the cranberry sauce and mix well. Spread over the cream cheese layer.

Sprinkle the reserved crumbs over the layers. Bake 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on wire rack. Chill covered for 1 hour. Cut into bars to serve.

Store, covered, in the refrigerator.

Yield: 2 dozen
**Charity Ball 2013**

“New York, New York!”

New York City Nights will be held Saturday, December 7 at the Hilton Garden Inn Ballroom in Cedar Falls from 6-11:30 p.m. Tammy Green, Owner of Ladybugs Event Planning & Rental, has graciously donated her services and thousands of dollars in decorations, so this looks to be an event our League won't soon forget!

The formal fundraiser will include live music with a jazz trio during cocktail hour, and Ultimate Entertainment for dancing after dinner. We will be taking a group photo of all Active members at 7 p.m. and all Sustaining Members at 7:30 p.m., so please plan on arriving prior to that time.

A live and silent auction with auctioneering provided by Jodi Sweeney-Egeland, a raffle with the chance to win a beautiful piece of jewelry donated by Facets by Susong, and some amazing vacation get-away opportunities will highlight the evening!

Please plan to participate in our largest fundraising event of the year as this is an event you won't want to miss! Tickets are $75 each and may be purchased online by visiting www.jlwcf.org. Event sponsorship opportunities, silent auction basket donations, and cash sponsorships are still being sought by the Charity Ball Committee.

For questions on how to get involved, please email Traci McCausland at jlwcfcharityball@gmail.com.

---

**Sue Smith**

In Sue’s eleven active years, she held a variety of positions. Including being President, President-Elect, Public Relations, Marketing and Assistant Treasurer. Being President was one of her favorite positions because she enjoyed traveling to conferences and training sessions offered throughout the U.S. Public Relations was the very first position she held and while it was out of her comfort zone, she credits that experience to a lot of her community growth.

Being new to the area, Sue was looking to learn more about the community and meet new people. Her neighbor, Mary Ann Moore, introduced her to Junior League and Sue found it to be a perfect fit. She has enjoyed the training and experience gained through League. Classes like “Know Your Community”, Training of Trainers and participating in ISPAC gave her the extra knowledge she was looking for. Second to training she has had great experiences! Sue participated in Follies, used clothing sales, Breakfast with Santa, helping at Grin and Grow, and the annual Fall Fashion Show (where she modeled her past President’s Charity Ball gown). She will never forget the Charity Ball on Junior League’s 50th anniversary, where she can’t remember a time when she saw so many shoulder pads and sequins!

Sue is married to Rick and they have two boys, Brad and Matthew. She recently retired from Waterloo Schools where she worked as Athletic Secretary. Walking, traveling, and sewing are hobbies she enjoys. Sue and Rick recently took a trip to Destin, Florida and soaked up warm rays and enjoyed the sandy beaches. In February, she will take a cruise with her mother and aunt. Following that, she and Rick hope to do a Route 66 trip in the Spring. When she isn't traveling, you will find her out and about either walking her dog or working in the yard. She plans to enjoy each new day of retirement too!
The Community Impact Committee has been busy developing our events within our pilot focus areas, Teen Issues and Healthy Teen Living. On Thursday, January 16 we will be hosting a Teen Night Out at the UNI Wellness Center from 7-9 p.m. All area high school students are welcome to attend. Entry fee is a canned food donation to the North East Iowa Food Bank. This will be a fun night for students to get out with their friends and do some fun activities while keeping active and healthy at the same time. We are looking for donations for prizes to award in a drawing at the end of the night to the teens who attend. This is a great arena to promote your own business, if you are interested in making a donation please contact the Junior League Community Impact VP at jlwcfcommunityimpact@gmail.com.

Our second pilot project, Teen Service Day, will take place in April. We are partnering with AMP and other local organizations to have a service day with their teens. Our Members will be volunteering alongside the teens to help with yard work, planting flowers, clean up and other spring cleaning for people in need in our community. We will be providing the teens with a lunch after volunteering at Lafayette Park, which the Junior League of Waterloo-Cedar Falls helped build.

We have awarded ASPIRE Therapeutic Riding our October 2013 Enabling Fund Grant. ASPIRE TRP serves children and adults with an array of disabilities and conditions, including women who have suffered from domestic abuse. They will be using the funds to purchase a new computer for their record keeping, safety stirrups, and harnesses.

We are currently accepting enabling applications for January. See our website at jlwcf.org or contact the Junior League Community Impact VP for more information. jlwcfcommunityimpact@gmail.com

Upcoming Enabling Fund Grant Deadlines: January 17, 2014 March 17, 2014

If interested please email: jlwcfmarketing@gmail.com

Extraordinary Service to Meet Your Needs!

Kristi Tibben
Realtor
(319) 404-9888
kristi@oakridgerealtors.net
www.oakridgerealtors.net
Autumn Hurley

This is Autumn’s third active year in Junior League. She has served as Cookbook chair, Assistant Vice President of Community Impact and is currently Vice President of Community Impact.

Autumn’s husband's, Chris, involvement in the community inspired her to look for an organization where she could get involved and have her own volunteer activities. Her mother-in-law was involved in Junior League and she had also heard about it through many others in the community. She thought it sounded like a great organization to join and a great group of women, so she attended a New Member meeting and has been hooked since! She enjoys getting to know new friends, volunteering on projects throughout the community and working together to come up with new ideas on how we, as women of the community, can make an impact.

Autumn works at McGladrey as a Supervisor in the Technology Risk Advisory Services group where she has been with the firm for six years.

She is married to Chris Hurley and they have a sweet little one year old, Evelyn, who is just learning to walk. When they aren’t chasing her around the house, they are going to Iowa Hawkeye football games, spending time at her parent’s cabin at Holiday Lake, or catching up on magazines and episodes of Boardwalk Empire. They recently moved into a new house and have been working on doing some updates and getting settled. Going to flea markets and estate sales to find treasures for their home is a hobby she really enjoys.