

JLW Timeline

Junior League of Wichita, Inc. was founded with 10 charter members as the 51st Junior League in the United States. Helen Brooks Hall (Mrs. Standish Hall) was the first president.



JL Salvage Shop opened at 2142 N. Market, renamed in 1940 to The Thrift Shop.



JLW started the Dental Clinic in conjunction with the Board of Education to assist children needing dental care. In 1945, the clinic and all of the equipment was turned over to the Sedgwick County Board of Health.

1925



1926

Junior League Day Nursery; JLW set out to build the "best planned, best equipped day nursery in the Southwest" after the Cleveland Avenue Day nursery was condemned by city inspectors.

1932



1937

Town Talks luncheon lecture series formed to address women's issues and the state of our community. In 1961, Eleanor Roosevelt spoke at the series.

1940



1942

Throughout World War II, members sold war stamps and bonds to the public, sewed and knitted for the Red Cross and passed out donuts, coffee and smiles at Union Station.



1952

Toy Lending Library in the Southwest Community Center opened; fully staffed and funded by JLW volunteers.



1958

Members served as the first docents at the Wichita Art Museum.

Georgia Chandler and Nancy Hartwell initiated our interest and support in a pre-kindergarten program with the YWCA for children with no access to basics such as proper diet, being warm, and someone to care.

1966



Puppet and marionette productions by members led to the beginning of Wichita Children's Theater.

1943



JLW was instrumental in establishing the Wichita Youth Home, Inc., a residential home for 12 to 15-year-old boys, by purchasing a home for the organization.

JLW's 50th Anniversary was celebrated by raising \$75,471 for the funding of Heritage Square, a "park for the people." Each year thereafter, JLW sponsored a flower festival to mark the beginning of the Wichita River Festival.



Support for Roots and Wings (CASA) began to assist with training of court appointed special advocates for children in need of care.

1970

JLW was instrumental in the successful start up of KPTS, Channel 8.

1973



1975



1981

JLW members supported Accent on Kids, Inc. in its efforts to establish a Ronald McDonald House in Wichita; funding was obtained for two homes to be purchased and were established as a home-away-from-home for families of critically ill children.

1983



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1985

JLW started the Komen Wichita Race for the Cure®, the first Komen co-ed race with over 1,400 participants, the largest first year road race in Kansas history.



1995

Grants from JLW helped to open Wichita WIN (Women's Initiative Network.) The JLW committee members also worked one-on-one with clients to create positive self esteem.



1999

As part of JLW's 60th anniversary, the League donated \$30,000 to develop a new recreational facility at Sleepy Hollow Park including two game field clusters and a play area.

1990



JLW Better Beginning's project included the Children's Health Expo. The one day, family-oriented event offered information, education and direct medical services to families in the Planeview neighborhood.

1997



JLW's 75th Anniversary gift to the community was the Pride of the Plains exhibit at the Sedgwick County Zoo. The exhibit was a \$1.5 million financial commitment and houses lions, meerkats and warthogs.

Share A Story: A KPTS Reading Initiative, volunteers read aloud to 3,600 pre-kindergarten children weekly in 72 Wichita Public School classes, and distributed over 36,000 Clifford books to children. This project donated \$64,000 in funding and over 1,000 volunteer hours.

2003-06



2007

Reading Rocks: Literacy for Lifelong Learning, collaboration with Wichita Public Schools and Wichita Public Libraries. JLW invested over \$60,000 into the Wichita community impacting approximately 1,300 elementary students.

Building Libraries, Changing Minds: JLW worked with Anthony Family Shelter, Harbor House and Holy Savior Catholic Academy to build libraries where none had existed.

2009



2009

Gourmet Guy: JLW worked with Judge Riddel Boys Ranch to provide supplemental life skills training for boys.