

Here is a **decade-by-decade summary** of the Junior League of Charlotte's community partners and initiatives, drawn from the JLC history:

- **1920s**

- January 1926 – 30 women formed the JLC out of what was previously known as the Welfare League.
- 1926–27
 - Opened the first Junior League Baby Home in a donated cottage.
 - JLC voted to build its own Baby Home at a cost of \$16,000. A new Baby home was completed and opened in January 1927.
- 1927-28: Crier was first published and was named after the crying babies in the JL Baby Home.
- JLC Members served on other community boards, including Alexandra Children's Home, Thompson Orphanage and the YWCA.

- **1930s**

- 1930-31: Total membership was 121 women.
- Rolling Library established at Presbyterian Hospital
- Established the Children's Service Bureau; brought a social service worker to Mecklenburg County.
- Founded art classes at the Mint Museum.
- Launched the Community Radio Council during WWII.
- Established the Thrift Shop as a permanent business project in 1936-37.

- **1940s**

- Operated a soda shop and children's musical series at Charlotte Memorial Hospital.
- Sold the Baby Home and then helped establish the Medical Social Service Department at Memorial Hospital.
- Incorporated into the League.
- Created the Junior Museum as part of the Mint Museum and subsidized the director's salary.

- The Old North Cookbook was published in 1942.
- Voted to give \$2500 to Mecklenburg Tuberculosis Sanatorium to buy streptomycin.
- Voted to adopt the Charlotte Nature Museum as a project and pledged \$8000 over two years. Plans for a new building for the museum were approved.
- Follies raised \$15,000 and a Benefit Tea raised \$700.00 for the Charlotte Nature Museum Building Fund
- **1950s**
 - Built and completed the Nature Museum at Freedom Park. JLC donated funds for the project, and members staffed the museum until permanent employees were hired in 1954.
 - Spitz (Kelly) Planetarium was installed at the Nature Museum.
 - Inaugurated “Men Who Make Music” series with Charlotte Symphony
 - Adopted two new projects: The Charlotte Reading Center (\$30k donation) and Girl Scout Camp at Lake Lure (\$10k donation).
 - Expanded the Thrift Shop (later WearHouse).
 - Myers Park Presbyterian donated a 900 square foot cottage. It was moved to Freedom Park and construction started. The JLC and Charlotte entered a 20-year land lease agreement for \$1/year.
- **1960s**
 - Opened a new JLC Headquarters (1961).
 - The Thrift Store moved to a new location on East Trade Street and adopted a new name, The Junior League Shop.
 - Follies in 1962 raised more than \$41,000, and these funds were dedicated toward mental health programs.
 - A new cookbook was published in 1964-65, Cooking with Mother’s Goose.
 - Provided funding for a clinical psychologist in public schools.

- Supported public education and “Education and the Arts” programs (planetarium expansion, Mint Museum curator, junior-high concerts)
- Sponsored Metropolitan Opera National Company (2) seasons
- Adopted the Speech & Hearing Center as a three-year commitment; pledged \$124,000. A new building opened in 1967.
- Charlotte Observer named JLC Club of the Year in 1962, 1965 and 1968.

- **1970s**

- Joined the North Carolina State Public Affairs Committee, a collaboration with other Junior Leagues in NC.
- Sponsored first piece of legislation, House Bills #203 and #204, entitled “Advocacy For Children”
- Successfully passed legislation that provided NC with its first kindergartens.
- Supported legislation to improve the daycare laws in NC and endorsed three foster care related pieces of legislation.
- Supported the Children’s Bond referendum for Spirit Square and Discovery Place.
- Co-sponsored public forums on juvenile justice, environmental quality, and public affairs
- Adopted the Drug Education Center as a new project and pledged \$75 over three years.
- Helped create the Voluntary Action Center.
- Contributed seed money to buy and restore the historic Berryhill House in the 4th Ward. Received the Award of Merit from the NC Historic Preservation Society for the Berryhill House Project.
- Initiated group home programs for at-risk youth; formed the Council for Children and Puppet Committee for Drug Education.
- Adopted three new project groups: Spirit Square Arts for the Handicapped, Child Advocacy and TV Programs on local history.
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- **1980s**

- Surpassed \$1 million total community contributions; funded Case Advocacy, Renaissance, League Productions, Spirit Square Education; co-sponsored “Leadership Charlotte” and “Blueprint: Women in the Eighties.”
- Completed projects at Family Support Center, Council for Children, Child Care Resources, Inc., and Spirit Square.
- Committed funds annually to Habitat for Humanity, Council for Children, Teen Center, Volunteer Leadership Training.
- A new cookbook, Charlotte Cooks Again, sold 10,000 copies in 12 weeks.
- JLC became the 9th largest League in the country.
- A three-year Capital Campaign ended and enabled the renovation and expansion of JLC Headquarters.
- Won AJLI awards for Communications and Model Projects (Hope Haven, Healthy Beginnings).
- Sponsored “Charlotte Cares” drug-alcohol abuse conference; established Open House Halfway House for Adolescents; supported Loaves and Fishes, Seigle Avenue Preschool, Teen Mother Support, Teen Outreach/Cities in Schools, United Way Homeless Awareness.
- Adopted Children’s Law Center as a new project. Members assisted attorneys in protecting the rights of children who became involved in the court system.
- The Junior League Shop was moved to Park Road and rebranded as The JLC Warehouse in 1983.
- Purchased the first computer for the League, an IBM-XY.

- **1990s**

- Contributed to restoration of historic Rosedale, an 18th century home on North Tryon Street.
- In conjunction with PBS affiliate WTVI, the League produced Women: Coming Out Of The Shadows, a documentary that addressed alcoholism in women.

- Teen Health Connection was created in partnership with Carolina Healthcare system in response to the large number of teens not receiving routine healthcare.
- Published a new cookbook, Dining By Fireflies.
- The “Success by Six” crisis nursery came to fruition with the grand opening of the Johnston YMCA/Thompson Child Development Center.
- Launched the JLC website.
- Created the Advocacy & Public Awareness Committee. Hosted a legislative breakfast for public officials and sponsored the annual Women’s Political Caucus Candidate Forum.
- Presented \$7500 to Charlotte History Museum that was earmarked to create the JLC’s *Hands on History* room.
- The last Follies show was performed in 1998.
- The JLC Wearhouse moved to 4th Street in 1999.
- Community partners include Charlotte Emergency Housing, Charlotte Speech & Hearing, Discovery Place/Nature Museum, Big Shots Saturdays, Right Moves for Youth, Connecting Links, Double Oaks Family Resource Center, MotherRead, KinderMourn, and Project HOPE.
- Focused on Child Health & School Readiness
- Launched Hope Haven “Kids’ Night Out,” Teen Health Connection, Mother’s Club literacy programs at Johnston YMCA/

2000s

- Realigned focus to the Healthy Child Initiative; partnered with Teen Health Connection, Arts Resource Handbook (ASC), Second Harvest Food Bank, YMCA, YWCA, and CPCC.
- Opened the Junior League Family Resource Center at Levine Children’s Hospital in 2007. More than \$1 million was raised for this project.
- Supported Alexander Youth Network, Chameleon’s Journey (Hospice), Thompson Child & Family Focus, Arts for Life, School Health Team, Chapel of Christ the King; co-hosted Kids HealthLink screenings with CMS.

- Kicked off Endowment Campaign in 2000 and raised \$787.000 through membership and foundations.
- Held a 9/11 Fund Drive for disaster victims.
- Funded a documentary, *Through My Eyes*, highlighting teen mental health.

- **2010s**

- A Year to Celebrate our Past, Present and Future: This was a year for celebrating the past, present and future of the Junior League of Charlotte (JLC) as the league commemorated the 85th anniversary of the JLC (founded 1926), the 75th anniversary of the WearHouse (founded 1936), and the 50th anniversary of our headquarters at 1332 Maryland Avenue (founded 1961).
- The JLC kicked off its 85th anniversary with a congratulatory proclamation from Mayor Anthony Foxx and the Charlotte City Council declaring “Junior League of Charlotte Day” on Monday, September 13, 2010, the date of our first general membership meeting for the year.
- Developed signature fundraisers: Lights! Camera! Fashion! March. Money. Madness, Little Black Dress Initiative. Increased dues to cover operations, so 100% of fundraising goes to mission.
- The first annual Lights! Camera! Fashion! was held at Belk SouthPark on September 19, 2010, had more than 750 attendees and netted \$40,000.
- LC furthered the Healthy Child Initiative (HCI) with projects improving the physical, dental, and mental health of children ages 0-17 in Mecklenburg and surrounding counties
- Some of the community partners include Reid Park Academy and AdaCooks! (Ada Jenkins Center), Circle de Luz, EmpowHERment, Promising Pages, Big Shots Saturdays, Novant Health Hemby Children’s Hospital, Friendship Gardens, Chameleon’s Journey, Family HealthLink, Give Kids A Smile, Kids in the Kitchen, Second Harvest and Promising Page.
- Adopted Economic Mobility as 2018–23 Focus Area, aiming to improve school readiness and poverty mobility in Charlotte.
- Our second mental health documentary, *In Our Words*, received two Telly Awards and a Voice Award honorable mention. It was also nominated for a

regional Emmy, and three JLC leaders traveled to Nashville in January to attend the ceremony.

- In 2016-2017 the JLC also transformed the community by advocating and raising awareness on the first ever member-selected advocacy topic, centered around human trafficking and concerns affecting foster care children.
- JLC adopt for 2018-2023 a Focus Area of Economic Mobility with a primary emphasis on removing barriers to school readiness. The recommendation was based on community needs and research including the report finding Charlotte last (50th out of 50) in economic mobility – with children born into poverty in Charlotte having only a 4% chance of making it out of poverty.
- Headquarters renovation and creation of Presidents' Patio Garden.
- In June of 2013, the Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. (JLC) adopted the Healthy Family Initiative (HFI), which focuses on the physical, dental, and mental health needs of Charlotte area children with an emphasis on the importance of family decisions and their impact on children. This is a slight shift from the Healthy Child Initiative, which was JLC's focus from 2006-2013.
- The legacy of transforming our members continued with a robust complement of training and development programs including through the Leadership Development Institute, the Public Policy Institute, the Get on Board program, and the Mentor program.
- In 2018, the inaugural JLC Working Lunch, our new Signature Spring Fundraiser, brought *New York Times* bestselling author to Charlotte, and was a sold-out affair. The Annual Fund brought in \$30,000 for the League this year.
- Due to rising costs, the JLC Warehouse closed in 2017.

- **2020s**

- In 2019-2020, our members showed up and responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by providing masks, census and vote drives, virtual programming; partnered with Baby Bundles, Digi-Bridge, Beds4Kids, Samaritan's Feet, Sugar Creek Charter School, Alexander Youth Network. Despite the inability to meet in person, the League raised \$66,400 through the 95 Hours of Giving & Little Black Dress Initiative.

- Delivered 50,000 volunteer hours; supported Bright Blessings, Classroom Central, Heart Math Tutoring, Renaissance West, Winghaven, Thompson Child & Family Focus, TruSolace, Reid Park Academy, Promising Pages, Classroom Central, and many other community organizations through a myriad of Done In A Day volunteer events.
- This overview highlights the League's evolving partnerships—from founding a home for babies, to funding major community resources—reflecting its century-long mission to train volunteers, develop leaders, and improve the Charlotte community.