

History of The Junior League of Kingsport

The Junior League of Kingsport, Tennessee, Incorporated, officially began in February of 1958, when the Kingsport Junior Service League was accepted into membership in the Association of Junior Leagues of America, (now The Association of Junior Leagues International) becoming the first Junior League in the Tri-Cities area.

But our story actually began seventy-two years ago in the year 1935 when the Kingsport Welfare League was organized with sixteen charter members. In 1947 another local group, the Junior Guild, was accepted into the National Association of Junior Auxiliary, becoming the Kingsport Junior Auxiliary. The Kingsport Junior Service League was formed in 1950 by the merger of the two community service groups, the Junior Welfare League and the Junior Auxiliary. These women began the tradition of building a better community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. The tradition has been continued and built upon by the Kingsport Junior League of today. The Junior League of Kingsport takes pride in a history that is rich and inspiring – one that is rooted in the belief that a group of women can be a powerful force for change.

Through the years, approximately \$580,000 has been invested by our Junior League in projects for Kingsport. Below are many of the projects and special interests the Junior League of Kingsport has supported and continues to support while fulfilling our mission of “promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community thorough the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers”.

Projects and Special Interests:

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| Library Orientation (1962-1985) | Kids on the Block (1980-1996) |
| Log Island Kindergarten (1962-1966) | Fun Fest (1982-1997) |
| Boys Club Learning Center (1963-1966) | Community Grants (1986-) |
| Juvenile Receiving Home (1967-1968) | Children’s Advocacy Center (1991-1997) |
| Girls Club (1967-1970) | President’s Community Fund (1992-) |
| Fine Arts Center (1968-1974) | Salvation Army Weekend Meals (1992-1997) |
| Bays Mountain Library (1971-1973) | First Night (1992-1996) |
| Netherland Inn (1972-1974) | Food Drive (1992-1997) |
| Learning Disabilities (1973-1974) | Books for Babies (1994-1996) |
| Volunteer Kingsport (1974-1976) | Friends in Need (1994-1997) |
| Mt. Region Speech and Hearing (1975-1977) | Small Miracles |
| Comprehensive Emergency Services (1976-1977) | Therapeutic Riding Center (1996-1998) |
| Historical Markers (1976-1977) | American Red Cross (1999-2005) |
| Parenting Course (1977-1981) | JLK Scholarship Award (1998-) |
| Reading Is Fundamental (1977-1986) | Lend A Hand (1998-1999) |
| St. Timothy’s Place (1978-1979) | Book Bag (1998-2000) |
| Big Brother/Big Sister (1980-1982) | Summer Reading Camp (1999-2002) |
| Life (1980-1986) | Windows of Hope (2002) |
| Leadership Kingsport (1982-1992) | Second Harvest Food Bank (2002-) |
| Contact-A-Friend (1984-1988) | Read Across America (2002-2006) |
| First Friend (1985-1987) | Food Assistance (2003-2004) |
| Rascals Teen Center (1985-1989) | Sisters in Action for Sisters (2003-2005) |
| Special Needs Resource Center (1985-1992) | Community Connections (2003-) |
| Tri-Cities Food Bank (1986-1992) | ENCORE (2005) |
| Hands On! Museum (1987-1989) | Women’s Fair (2006-) |
| Kaleidoscope (1988) | Kids in the Kitchen (2006-) |
| Creative Drama (1990-1992) | Hope House (2006-) |
| Referral Service (1991-1992) | |