



Pearls of the JLRI: Advocacy

Advocacy:

- 1922: League assumes responsibility for the Volunteer Social Services
- 1922: League raises over \$3000 as part of the Block Aid charitable benefit to raise funds for Rhode Island Hospital
- 1927: League wins first prize for a Welfare Exhibition held by AJLA. Articles were made by the Irrepressible Society
- 1929: The Junior League of Providence votes to set up a committee to merge the Irrepressible Society and other causes, which culminated in the Bureau for the Handicapped.
- The League's Thrift Shop raised funds to support community causes
- In 1937: The League voted to establish and maintain a Central Volunteer Bureau. In 1937-38, the League facilitated a committee of various welfare agencies representatives which eventually formed a board for the new Central Volunteer Bureau whose purpose was to supplement the service of paid workers and act as a method of social work interpretation.
- 1944: The League send a statement to the new owners of the ARCADE stating that in the interest of art and history, it is important that the architecturally significant features of the ARCADE in the City of Providence be preserved.
- 1953: Formed Young Citizens' discussion groups on community and government issues
- 1957: JLP recommended a Citizens Council to address the quality of TV programs
- 1962: Juvenile Court Resource Unit established with the State of RI
- 1966-1971: Group Living House (provided home for girls who were too old for the Children's Center). Members served as house mothers and established a library
- 1973: The JLRI co-sponsored a Citizen's Lobbying Course with the League of Women Voters and Common Cause
- 1975: A JLRI member was selected as a representative of the RI Family Court and Child Welfare League of America Conference.
- 1976: The JLRI completed the Children in Placement survey with Family Court, from which CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) was formed.
- 1977: The JLRI co-sponsored a workshop and lobbied for the Child Abuse Hotline
- 1978: The JLRI advocated for the passage of Mandatory Deposit Container Legislation
- 1979: The JLRI advocacy efforts included Child Welfare Reform
- 1979: Two JLRI members were appointed to the Legislative Commission on Children and Youth
- Produced a videotape "Mrs. Mother" and a child advocacy survey (in conjunction with the Day Care Enrichment Program).
- The JLRI co-sponsored a Legislative Forum with the National Association of Social Workers



Pearls of the JLRI: Advocacy

- The JLRI supported the RI Mortgage Authority bill and the support of the Equal Education Rights for Foster Children bill.
- The JLRI sponsored the Conference on Children’s Rights Day for Day Care
- The JLRI supported legislation on Handgun Control and Prison Furloughs
- 1980: Position statements on VIE – Nursing Home Care and Volunteerism adopted.
- 1981: RI Legislative Workshop is sponsored by JLP at the State House
- 1982: Public Affairs workshop is held at the State House
- 1985: Public awareness campaign is conducted for Child Abuse Prevention Month
- 1995: Public Affairs produces monthly newsletter with legislative information about focus/project areas.
- 1996: Parent Pal project includes an advocacy component with resource materials for women in shelters about children’s health topics
- During the 1990’s, a portion of the JLRI fundraising income was given away in the form of Community Assistance Grants.
 - The following RI agencies were awarded grants:
 - ❖ Down Syndrome Society
 - ❖ RI Furniture Bank
 - ❖ Smith Hill Center
 - ❖ Children’s Friend and Service
 - ❖ Southside Community Land-trust
 - ❖ RI Community Foodbank
 - ❖ Ronald McDonald House
 - ❖ Freewheelers Association
 - ❖ Attleboro Youth and Family Services
 - ❖ RI Meals on Wheels
 - ❖ RI Clothing Bank
 - ❖ RI Project AIDS
 - ❖ Dorcas Place
 - ❖ Providence Family Learning Center
 - ❖ RI Rape Crisis Center
 - ❖ South Providence Tutorial
 - ❖ Big Sisters of RI’ Women’s Resource Center of South County
 - ❖ Looking Glass Theater
 - ❖ Community Preparatory School - Camp Stepping Stones
 - ❖ Blackstone Valley Shelter



Pearls of the JLRI: Advocacy

- ❖ American Diabetes Association
 - ❖ Project Outreach
 - ❖ Starbirth
 - ❖ In-Sight
 - ❖ the RI Arthritis Foundation
 - ❖ Sojourner House
 - ❖ Adoption RI
 - ❖ East Providence Community Center
 - ❖ McCauley House
 - ❖ Rhode Island Family Services
- 2001: Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Bill, which the JLRI advocated for, was signed into law.
 - 2012: the JLRI held the first statewide training event focused on Childhood Obesity
 - 2013: the JLRI advocated for Autism with the Autism Project and helped to introduce a new IBCI Aging out of Foster Care to RI state Senators and Legislatures in Washington, D.C.