**General Information**

**Mission:** The Junior League of Rhode Island, 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.

**Vision:** The Junior League: Women Around the World as Catalysts for Lasting Community Change.

**Focus:** The Junior League of Rhode Island is committed to improving the Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts communities through various volunteer projects, training and advocacy efforts.

**Membership:** The Junior League of Rhode Island reaches out to women in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts of all races, religions or national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism.

**Publications** The Junior League of Rhode Island publishes the following:

***e-Anchor***: E-newsletter to membership (issued biweekly)

**The *Anchor:*** More formal newsletter to membership and external parties (issued quarterly)

**Past Project**

**Partners:** American Cancer Society; American Red Cross; Amos House Mother Child Reunification Program, Children’s Friend and Service; Child Welfare Services; Children’s Rights Coalition; Crossroads Rhode Island; Dorcas Place; Family Service of Rhode Island; Girl Scouts of Rhode Island; Hasbro Children’s Hospital; League of Women Voters; Meeting Street School; Memorial Hospital of RI; Project Autism, Project SVIC; Providence Family Learning Center; RI Community Food Bank; Roger Williams Park & Zoo; Ronald McDonald House; Safe Kids; Save The Bay; Smith Hill Center; Sojourner House; Saint Mary’s Home for Children; The Tomorrow Fund; Urban League; Volunteers in Action; and the Women’s Center of Rhode Island.

**Community**

**Impact: Children Aging Out of the Foster Care System**: At the April 2013 General

Membership Meeting, The Junior League of Rhode Island, Inc. (JLRI) voted to focus its community impact work on children aging out of foster care system.   Over the upcoming year, JLRI will be developing programs to support this new strategic focus. For more information on this important issue, click [**here**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001ziNCt22WSfvHieQL_UzBuSQNPMvxo_YRmCG9amULSBum73HnswF9hc2ejGvbmHWam0Cg1fMDNX7-tqaNtDESrzVo0L7n6coce2v80ycEtRD1LTI1tkm6Oye_2Ds8X6OFUwRddqWUWrAvghl_swVwPUMWTXd7NZL2_lfu5O0RW_CP5iJbHdo0cNfvSgRf_FN4zEpWQFVX0KaBnFIdfzBof_OUR6oNAQ3Dwv37yoTzRikJ2H4DE3HUXdjUc1jjRZce) to read the Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Child Welfare Factsheet focusing on youth aging out of Foster Care in Rhode Island.

**Position Statements**

**I. Position Statement on Voluntarism**

The Junior League of Rhode Island, Inc., whose purpose is to promote voluntarism, to develop the potential of its members for voluntary participation in community affairs, and to demonstrate the effectiveness of trained volunteers, support and promote voluntarism as an essential component of our society.

**II. Position Statement on Children**

The Junior League of Rhode Island, Inc., is committed to assuring that children have the opportunities and services essential for optimal physical, intellectual, emotional, mental and social growth and will advocate to see that such opportunities and services are provided.

**III. Position Statement on Environment**

The Junior League of Rhode Island, Inc., acknowledging the fact that all people have the right to live in an environment that improves the quality of their life, will advocate for protecting and improving that environment by promoting conservation, saving our natural resources, and eliminating the pollution of air, land and water.

**IV. Position Statement on Aging**

The Junior League of Rhode Island, Inc., is committed to ensuring that older individuals have the opportunities and services essential for optimal mental and physical health and social well-being. To this end, advocacy and project efforts will be directed toward the development of accessible services and opportunities; encouraging the provision and use of services that offer care in the least restrictive environment; and establishing mechanisms to hold providers of these services accountable and responsible to the needs of the consumer.

**V. Position Statement on Women**

The Junior League of Rhode Island, Inc., is committed to promoting membership and community awareness of, and advocacy for, issues relevant to the physical, mental, economic, and social well-being of women.

**VI. Position Statement on Education**

The Junior League of Rhode Island Inc., supports efforts to ensure that all people have access to an education that will provide them with the skills necessary to be productive members of our global society. The Junior League of Rhode Island is committed to and will advocate policies and programs to achieve that goal.

**What is The Junior League of Rhode Island?**

**Who we are …**

For more than 92 years, The Junior League of Rhode Island (**“**JLRI**”**), a nonprofit organization, has remained dedicated to its founding purpose: to promote voluntarism, to develop the potential of women, and to improve the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. We continue to be exclusively educational and charitable, working together through a network of projects, programs and services, and undertaking responsible volunteer roles within the community.

The Junior League of Rhode Island is affiliated with an international organization, The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (“AJLI”). Membership in the JLRI is open to any woman at least 18 years of age. The JLRI reaches out to all women who demonstrate an interest in and a commitment to voluntarism. The profile of our league continues to reflect the changing times in which we live, with over eighty-five percent of our Active membership employed full or part-time.

**What we do …**

***Community Service Projects***

The Junior League of Rhode Island seeks to strengthen and enhance services essential and fundamental to each woman’s well-being. We initiate and participate in collaborative partnerships to help disadvantaged and at-risk women and children realize their potential and become productive members of society.

Our members volunteer in a variety of activities to accomplish our mission. For example, our Community Project Committee organizes volunteer projects throughout the year which involve arts and crafts projects at group homes, creating visual aids for autistic individuals, soup kitchens; working in local food banks; conducting food, book, toy and clothing drives; and organizing healthy eating activities for under-served children.

***Advocacy***

The JLRI routinely researches community/governmental issues within our current focus on women and children. We organize advocacy through letters, testimony and collaboration with other nonprofit service organizations to help effect change in these areas.

***Training***

The mission of the JLRI is to train its members for effective participation in the community and in managing a non-profit organization. Considerable emphasis is placed on leadership and board training, as well as in a wide variety of other developmental areas in which members express an interest.

**Frequently Asked Questions about**

**the Junior League of Rhode Island**

**What is The Junior League of Rhode Island?** The Junior League of Rhode Island, Inc. is a nonprofit, volunteer organization of women committed to improving our community through effective action and leadership. Our current community partners are with the Amos House and Autism Project.

**What is a Provisional?** All JLRI members are required to satisfactorily complete the year long

Provisional Education Program, during which time they are referred to as “Provisionals”.

**What is an Active?** JLRI members become Active members after successfully completing the Provisional Education Program, or by transferring as a member in good standing from another Junior League. Active members have full voting privileges and are expected to meet all membership obligations as outlined in our Bylaws.

**What is a Gold Active?** A Gold Active member must be a Sustaining member or an Active member of JLRI for four (4) years excluding their New Member year, including at least one (1) year in a leadership role. Their community service and fundraising commitments should be met, or exceeded each year, as well as, their financial contribution. Gold Active members are eligible to vote.

**What is a Sustainer?** After 6 years of Active membership in the JLRI (not including your Provisional year), a member can choose to become a Sustainer. Sustainer’s must pay membership dues, but have no other commitments, and no voting privileges.

**What type of time commitment can I expect as a member of the JLRI?** As an active member you will be annually placed on a committee. We hope that you will be an active and contributing member to your committee. Meetings and events are scheduled by each committee, and are flexible, based on the needs of the committee members. Committee schedules vary (i.e. some committees are busier at certain times of the year than others), but on average expect one to two committee meetings or events per month. Most committee meetings are scheduled in the evenings, but this will vary yearly by the changing composition of the committee.

Active members are required to attend five (5) General Membership Meetings (GMM, or meetings for the entire membership) per year. The GMM’s begin with a Social at 6:00 pm and the business portion of the meeting begins at 6:30 pm; they are held at various locations throughout Rhode Island. These meetings are a fun opportunity to get together with your friends in the JLRI, and usually include an interesting speaker, interactive discussion and/or training activity.

In addition, active members are required to fulfill four (4) community service shifts in support of our mission and our current community partners.

The last type of time commitment is with our fundraising events. All active members are required to give four shifts. Volunteer opportunities will be outlined by the Chairs of the fundraising committee.

**What is the financial obligation and how is the money spent?** Membership dues are $135 for Active members and are due on March 1st for the following year. Membership dues are $135 for Provisional Members as well as a one-time Provisional Education Course Fee of $50. These are due before the first provisional class meeting.. Please note that payment plans are available, and are worked out on an individual basis with the JLRI Treasurer. If you are interested in this option, please contact your Provisional or Active Placement Advisor. Membership dues are necessary in order to cover our administrative and training development expenses.

**What types of volunteer opportunities will I have as a member of the JLRI?** One of the greatest strengths of the JLRI is the diversity of volunteer opportunities that we offer to our members: from hands-on volunteer work to numbers crunching, and everything in between. As we discussed before, each year as an Active member you will receive a committee placement on one of our many interesting committees. Our current committees include: Meetings and Training, Fundraising Committee; Placement Committee; Nominating Committee, Provisional Education Committee; Community Project Committee; Public Relations Committee, and Annual Giving Committee.

**How do I find out more about these committees, and how do I get on the committee of my choice?** As a member of the JLRI you will receive our membership hand book, whichoutlines each committee, and its purpose, training/enrichment opportunities, and timecommitment. Each spring we hold a Placement Meeting for the Provisional Class, where representatives from eachcommittee are available to answer your questions and tell you more about theircommittee. In addition, you will have a Placement Advisor, who will workwith you to help ensure you are satisfied with you committee placement and your overall JLRI experience. Every year you will submit your top three choices for your committee placement. Every effort is made to meet these requests.

**I would like to become a member of the JLRI, what do I do next?**  Below is an Application Form. You may complete the application and send it with your check to the address on the form. We look forward to getting to know you and working with you in the future!