



Connections

**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
EAU CLAIRE**

September/October 2008
Volume 15, Issue 2

Women building better communities



Back to School Program Celebrates Thirteen Years

Junior League of Eau Claire actives, sustainers and The Boys & Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley filled, packed, zipped and distributed 1,050 backpacks for registered students in Eau Claire, Altoona, Fall Creek, Augusta and Fairchild schools. The smiles and excitement of the children were a fabulous reward for all of those who volunteered. One Eau Claire high school junior girl actually cried upon receiving her backpack because it was the FIRST backpack she has ever owned. She is one bright talented young lady who is extremely appreciative, she now knows someone does believe in her!

In this our 13th year of giving a successful school start to many children, we are indeed grateful to the many faithful Junior League volunteers. THANK YOU!! We filled the backpacks in record time 9:00 a.m - 12:45 p.m.. WOW--there were lots of busy hands counting and sorting the wonderful backpacks. A huge thank you to our most incredible loyal Phyllis Mattson who called to set up the volunteers. Every year, she does an outstanding job; the success of having the volunteers organized is due to her calls. Please thank her when you see her.



This year, we were able to purchase \$30 backpacks for \$5.77. Many school supplies went up in cost; however, we were able to find some good pricing through Boys & Girls Club special affiliates. The school district also helped us out with finding their best prices and passing those on to us.

We look forward to year 14 next year. It will be our final year in partnering with the Boys & Girls Club before they take over the reins completely in 2010. They will always need our League help in filling the backpacks. Those League members with their heart and soul into this program will always be welcomed with open arms.

If you would like to make a donation to this wonderful program, it is not too late. We are already gearing up the fund raising for next year. You may send your check to Boys & Girls Club 201 East Lake Street, Eau Claire, WI 54701 with a note in the memo area of the check, Backpack Program. A separate note denoting Back To School backpack program would also be helpful.

With our deepest appreciation,
Tracey Smiskey--Boys & Girls Club co-chair
Marianne Klinkhammer--Junior League of Eau Claire co-chair

The Junior League of Eau Claire (JLEC) is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively charitable and educational.

2008-2009 JLEC President

A Message from Jill Fenn



Happy Fall JLEC Members!

Fall is not usually the season that is associated with new beginnings, personal growth and fresh starts. Everyone knows that Spring signals new things – the trees, the flowers, the birds and the bees. It's clear that Winter, with the New Year holiday, is the perfect time for reinventing yourself through new resolutions. And Summer, what other season is better known for its fresh new activities, the first summer campout, the first summer bike ride and the first summer swim. Yes, it's true, Fall is not usually known as the time of new beginnings...but, that's all about to change!

I must admit, I am one of those people that longs all year long for Fall! I feel a strong connection to the smell of freshly sharpened pencils and clean, waxed school hallways. I get butterflies in my tummy at the site of leaves falling from the trees and the feeling of crisp wind in the air. I live for visits to the local apple orchards, and my favorite outdoor decoration is by far a giant lumpy orange pumpkin! Yes, I believe Fall is truly a magical time.

This year I am especially ready for Fall, not only because the season signals the start of so many of my favorite things, but it also marks the beginning of our 2008-2009 JLEC membership year. I can't wait to share this year with you, and I know that through all the seasons, Fall, Winter and Spring you'll be given countless chances to experience your own personal growth, new challenges and fresh starts.

On September 30th we will officially begin the membership year with our first GMM. In addition to reconnecting with friends after the summer break, we'll revisit League business, and have the opportunity to participate in a 45-minute yoga class. Sheri Baemmert, a long-time League member, will lead us in what promises to be the first of many activities in which you will be challenged physically, emotionally, spiritually and mentally. The meeting will be held on the second floor of Stella Blues from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM. I'm thrilled that the management at Stella Blues has so graciously opened their doors to our organization! I encourage you to make plans with other League members for great food and socializing before or after our meeting.

Thank you for allowing me the honor of sharing this, my favorite time of year, with you! Whether you're taking a cool Fall evening stroll, enjoying the sights of the beautiful foliage, or racing through a corn maze at the pumpkin patch, may you continue to grow and change into the person you are meant to become! See you on the 30th!

Peace, health and harmony,

~ Jill

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Back To School.....Marianne Klinkhammer
Brenda Weisenbeck
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Community R&D.....Valerie Fedie
Marianne Klinkhammer
Education/Speakers.....OPEN
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Public Advocacy.....OPEN
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FINANCE

Casino Night.....Liz Kennedy-Wiechert
Kate Gillett
Cookbook.....OPEN
Fund Development.....OPEN
Grant Writing.....OPEN

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Membership Handbook.....Joanna Schneider
Nominating.....Jenny Fesenmaier
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Liz Kennedy-Wiechert
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Refreshments.....MaryAnn Dickoff
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Sustainer Rep.....OPEN
OPEN
Volunteer Service Coord.....Joanna Schneider

Junior League of Eau Claire

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www.juniorleague-ec.org

Member Spotlight—Brenda Weisenbeck

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: I grew up about 10 miles south of the little town of Durand.

Q: How did you become involved in the Junior League of Eau Claire?

A: I became involved about 15 years ago when I was standing in line at Randall's Grocery Store (no longer there) and I picked up a card giving information about League. Since I was curious about the organization and eager to do more community work I sent in the card. I was contacted about coming to the next meeting and the rest is history!!

Q: What committees have you been involved in?

A: For obvious reasons my biggest committee commitment has been to Back to School. This committee also complimented my teaching profession. I have also served on the Board for a couple of years., Membership., Dental Sealants, and this year I signed up for Celebration of Women. Many times I just fill in where I am needed.

Q: What has been your favorite JLEC event and why?

A: Favorite event.....Hmmm.....there have been so many in the past 15 years. I think maybe the Bunco Events and The Celebration of Women. I love our annual spring banquets also.

Q: What is something we may not know about you?

A: Being that we have had so many new members in the past few years, I am not sure what these gals know about me. So, let me name a few.....I am the oldest child of 6, I was a teacher for 33 years, I was a part-time make-up artist at Macy's for six years, Nicole Lasker then recruited me and now I work full time at Laskers....great job.....thank you Nicole!!!, I love to bike, kayak, walk, read, watch movies, try new wines and restaurants, work in my gardens, travel, be in warm weather anywhere, etc. If anyone wants anymore info. on me feel free to call me!



Brenda (left) and Marianne Klinkhammer (right) register participants at the Back to School Project.

Special Notes...

- In the July/August newsletter, Bobbi Giles was inadvertently left off as a former board member. We truly appreciate all of her hard work and dedication to League as President Elect, President and Past President. Now as chair of the Endowment, she continues to serve in an important capacity and we wanted to send her a big "THANK YOU!"
- Congratulations to Sadie and Scott Gunderson who welcomed their daughter Piper Ann Gunderson (6lbs 10 oz) on July 13, 2008.
- Congratulations to Liz Kennedy-Wiechert and family who welcomed their son Oliver Eric Wiechert (7lbs 5oz) on August 19, 2008.



Piper Gunderson



Oliver Wiechert

Dental Sealants

On behalf of Healthy Communities: Eau Claire, thank you to those who participated during the 2007-2008 school year. For those who have not had an opportunity to be a part of this program, there are many chances for you to volunteer this year.

Eau Claire County statistics indicate that 10% of children are living in poverty. These children have very limited access to dental care. In partnership with Healthy Smiles for Wisconsin: Seal a Smile Initiative, the City-County Health Department, the Eau Claire Regional Dental Hygienists' Association, Junior League of Eau Claire, and Sacred Heart Hospital, dental sealants were placed on qualifying second graders in Eau Claire County.

During the 2007-2008 school year:

- 14 schools were visited.
- 824 children received oral health education along with information for children and parents about the importance of dental sealants.
- 311 (38%) second graders qualified (using free and reduced lunch statistics) for the dental sealant program with 234 (75%) participating.
- Of the 234 screened, 210 (90%) received dental sealants with an average of 3 dental sealants per child.
- 77 (34%) children screened had untreated dental decay with 25 (11%) needing urgent care.
- Each child with untreated dental decay averaged at least two teeth with dental decay.
- Of the 77 children identified as needing treatment, 28 (36%) have received treatment to date.



2008-2009 Dental Sealant Schedule	
Date	Location
September 25th	Altoona
September 26th	Roosevelt
October 23rd	Northwoods
October 24th	Lakeshore
November 7th	Meadowview
November 21st	Augusta
December 5th	Robbins
January 23rd	Manz
February 6th	Putnam Heights
February 20th	Locust Lane
March 6th	Flynn
April 3rd	Sam Davey
April 17th	Longfellow
April 24th	Sherman
May 8th	Fall Creek

The goal for this coming school year is to target second graders in fifteen different schools who participate in the free and reduced lunch programs. The objective of this program is to provide dental screenings, place dental sealants, and educate parents of high-risk children about dental health in order to help prevent future disease.

Help is needed from those who have and have not yet had an opportunity to volunteer. This program is a tremendous undertaking and requires many volunteers. We again received grant monies to continue the program this year. However, when funding comes from grants, objectives must be met or the funds must be returned. We need dental professionals, staff, and community volunteers to make this a success.

Please refer to the 2008-2009 Dental Sealant Schedule for dates that volunteers are needed. Friends and co-workers are also welcome! The workday is usually 8:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. for Junior League members. For questions or to sign-up, please contact Linda Bohacek at 715-833-9636.

2008-2009 General Membership Meeting Schedule

Please Join Us!

Social – 6:30 – 7:00
Business Meeting 7:00 – 8:00
Break 8:00 – 8:15
Activity 8:15 – 9:00

September 30, 2008

Location: Stella Blue's (2nd Floor)
 Yoga with Sheri Baemmert

October 28, 2008

Location: Girl Scouts
 Leadership Skill Development Training

November 25, 2008

Location: L.E. Phillips Senior Center
 Meeting and Relaxation and Meditation
 by Sheri Baemmert

January 27, 2009

Location: Chiropractic Offices of Smith and Prissel
 Leadership Skill Development Training

February 24, 2009

Location: Eau Claire Children's Theater
 Belly Dancing with Sheri Baemmert

March 24, 2009

Location: Banbury Place
 Leadership Skill Development Training

April 28, 2009

Location: Riverside Plaza
 Placement and Henna Tattoos

May 19, 2009 Banquet

Location: Eau Claire Golf and Country Club

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
September		1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16 New member social	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25 Dental Sealants - Altoona	26 Dental Sealants - Roosevelt	27
	28	29	30 General Membership Meeting				
	2008						

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
October				1	2 Fall sealant social	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17 Big Band Swing Casino	18
	19	20	21	22	23 Dental Sealants - Northwoods	24 Dental Sealants - Lakeshore	25
	26	27 General Membership Meeting	28	29	30	31	
	2008						

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
November							1
	2	3	4	5	6 Dental Sealants - Madouette	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20 Dental Sealants - Augusta	21	22
	23	24 General Membership Meeting	25	26	27	28	29
	2008	30					

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
December		1	2	3	4 Dental Sealants - Robbins	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31			
	2008						

General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, September 30th
Stella Blues, Second Floor

6:30—Social Time
7:00—Meeting
Followed by a 45 minute Yoga session led by Sheri Baemmert

Please wear comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat if you have one!



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF EAU CLAIRE

Women building better communities

316 Eau Claire Street
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Return Service Requested

Upcoming Junior League Events



Big Band Swing Casino Night

Mark your calendars! On Friday, October 17th, the Eau Claire Golf and Country Club and Vegas Nights will once again come together as the Junior League of Eau Claire hosts "Big Band Swing Casino Night". Roll the dice to the sounds of swing and go all in for a night to jump and jive for.

This is our only fundraiser currently planned for this 2008-2009 year. Proceeds from the event will be used to help fund the projects we have coming up, such as Kids in the Kitchen and Community Table. Please plan to attend and help us to make it a giant success. You will be sorry if you miss this, it will be a night to remember!

An exciting silent auction and raffle prizes will wrap up the evening. Tickets are currently on sale for \$60 a piece and include delicious Eau Claire Golf & Country Club appetizers, music & dancing, and a bit of game play. Please call Rachel Zacho at 715-497-4737 to secure your reservation.

New Member Social

Our Fall New Member Social will be held Tuesday, September 16th at 7pm. Liz Falkner has graciously agreed to open her beautiful home and host this year's social. Please join us at 1415 Park Avenue for a glass of wine, a few treats and to help kick off the Junior League of Eau Claire year by meeting our prospective members. All members are encouraged to attend and share your Junior League insight. If you know of someone who may be interested in joining the Junior League of Eau Claire, please forward names and information to Jessica Schreiner-Donnelly, VP of Membership at jessica_schreiner@baxter.com.

Fall Sustainer Social

Save the Date – Thursday, October 2 at 12pm! The Junior League of Eau Claire Board will be hosting a fall social for all Sustainers and Past Presidents of League. The lunch social will be held at the home of Jill Hecker Fernandes. It will be a great way to share the upcoming events for the 2008-2009 League year. Thanks Jill, for opening up your home to us. A formal invite will follow.