

**S0729 The Junior League Of St. Louis
Addenda, 1915-2005
284 Folders**

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The Junior League of St. Louis records were donated to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection May 20, 1999.

The Junior League was founded in New York City in 1901. The organization was created during the Progressive Era to give wealthy debutantes a purpose. They got involved with raising funds and volunteering at New York's Settlement Houses.

The Junior League of St. Louis was started in 1915. It evolved from the Junior Equal Suffrage League and was sponsored by Josephine Poe January. Like their New York sisters, the St. Louis Junior League began by putting on various fund raising events to benefit local charities. In 1917 the St. Louis League started their first program, the Occupational Therapy Workshop, as part of the relief effort for World War I.

With increased membership in the 1920's the organization opened the Open Door, a shop to raise funds for charitable activities. They opened a Tea Room in 1927, which was eventually opened to the public with the proceeds used to sponsor the Grace Hill Nursery.

World War II saw the Junior League of St. Louis working with the USO, Red Cross, Salvation Army and other organizations to support the war effort. As the war ended the League switched it emphasis to children. They established the Forest Park Children's Center, which eventually merged with Edgewood Children's Center.

Their Junior Kindergarten was the model for the Head Start Program. Originally restricted to elite socialites, the Junior League of St. Louis has always stressed volunteerism. Although the practice has passed into history, new members were required to wait tables at the Junior League of St. Louis lunch room to prepare them for possible volunteer jobs in the community.

The Junior League of St. Louis has lifted restrictions on membership and a glance at the records will show the growth and value of this volunteer organization.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains board minutes, newsclippings, newsletters, publications and volunteer files of the organization.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series 1 Board Minutes

This series contains board minutes. Arranged alphabetically.

Series 2 Newsclippings, Newsletters and Publications

This series contains League Letter, pamphlets and newsclippings. Arranged alphabetically.

Series 3 Junior League's Volunteer Files

This series contains the Junior League's volunteer files of the organization. Arranged alphabetically.

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