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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF PHOENIX CELEBRATES 90 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE IN ARIZONA

The League will host an Anniversary Gala on April 26 at Warehouse 215.

PHOENIX, April 15, 2025 – The Junior League of Phoenix is celebrating 90 years of meaningful community impact in the Valley of the Sun. Over the past 90 years, JLP has invested millions of dollars into local initiatives and continues to contribute thousands of volunteer hours annually. A 90th Anniversary Gala will be held on April 26 to mark the momentous occasion and “Honor the Past While Inspiring the Future.”

Originally incorporated as the Welfare League of Phoenix on October 22, 1930, the League officially became a member of the Association of Junior Leagues International on February 9, 1935. Since then, the Junior League of Phoenix has been instrumental in changing the fabric of the greater Phoenix community. From helping war efforts to advocating and funding efforts to preserve Camelback Mountain, renovating Rosson House and Orpheum Theatre to bringing Komen Race for the Cure to Phoenix, establishing the Ronald McDonald House, assisting with building the Phoenix Zoo Education Center, Arizona Science Center, Ryan House and Children’s Museum of Phoenix; the Junior League of Phoenix has made a positive difference in the Valley of the Sun.

“For nearly a century, the Junior League of Phoenix has shaped the civic and cultural fabric of our city,” said Stephanie Viboch, Junior League of Phoenix president 2024-2026. “We’ve done this by training women to lead with vision, serve with purpose, and act with heart. Our 90th anniversary is both a celebration and a recommitment—to lead boldly, serve collaboratively, and ensure women’s voices are shaping the future of Phoenix. As we look ahead, we invite all who believe in the power of women to join us in building what comes next.”

In order to best impact the community through policy-driven programs and sustained commitment of resources, the Junior League of Phoenix maintains a focus area that is evaluated every few years and voted on by membership. Beginning in 2023, JLP members adopted a new focus area: Empowering Women and Girls. Phoenix is the 5th largest city in the country and JLP has been committed to developing the potential of women for 90 years. This focus area identified the need for girls and women to receive support and guidance during significant life changes. Financial

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independence and education have been historically lacking for women and girls. By focusing on making women and girls in the Phoenix community financially and academically successful and powerful, the Junior League of Phoenix will be able to help reduce gender disparities. The current community partners that JLP works with, as voted on by membership, are Live and Learn and the Girl Scouts Arizona-Cactus Pine Mobile Building Space.

“More than 15 years ago, the Junior League of Phoenix helped bring the vision of Ryan House to life,” said Tracy Leonard-Warner, executive director of Ryan House. “Their early support laid the foundation for our mission to enrich the quality of life and create cherished memories for children and their families while offering a much-needed break from 24/7 caregiving as they navigate life-limiting or end-of-life journeys. We’re proud to continue this meaningful partnership as JLP celebrates 90 years of impactful service.”

The Junior League of Phoenix is more than just volunteering. JLP’s mission is to advance women’s leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. This includes training members to be future leaders whether that be serving on a board, leading a company, or running for elected office. JLP members are provided with training opportunities in various subjects such as community leadership; fundraising; diversity, equity and inclusion; and interpersonal skills. Past JLP members include former Arizona Secretary of State, Betsey Bayless, the first female mayor of Phoenix, Margaret T. Hance and the first female Supreme Court Justice, Sandra Day O’Connor.

“The training and leadership opportunities provided by the Junior League were the very best non-profit college education I could have asked for without paying tuition,” said Nancy Roach, retired CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities Phoenix and Sustaining Member of the Junior League of Phoenix. “I am forever grateful for JLP, which led me to and assisted me in my almost 25-year career as a non-profit leader, which has allowed me to make a difference in our community.”

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Founded in 1935, the Junior League of Phoenix, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of 700+ women dedicated to advancing women’s leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. JLP is a volunteer organization for women interested in making an impact in their community. Over the past 90 years, JLP has invested millions of dollars into local initiatives and contributes thousands of volunteer hours annually. More info: www.jlp.org.

The Junior League of Phoenix is a member of The Association of Junior Leagues International, an organization of transformational female leaders who set bold goals, open their circles, disrupt convention and change the conversation for the betterment of civil society. Today, there are close to 300 Leagues across the United States, Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom. More info: <https://thejuniorleagueinternational.org/>