

Historic Timeline

The Junior League of Summit is proud to honor the organizations funded and founded during our seven decades of service. Here are some highlights of our years of service to the communities of Berkeley Heights, Chatham, New Providence and Summit.

The 1930s - A Strong Beginning

1930-1931	The League starts the first corps of volunteers at Overlook Hospital
1932-1933	The League initiates the Motor Corps – Volunteers drive the needy to welfare agencies and settlement houses
1933-1934	The League Thrift Shop is acquired

The 1940s - Emphasis on Community and the War Years

1940-1941	The League raises funds for the Summit Home for Children
1944-1945	Provisional Class Project establishes a Mental Hygiene Clinic at Overlook
1944-1946	League members volunteer at and provide refreshments for the service men at Camp Kilmer, including USO dances.

The 1950s – Settling into 37 DeForest

1950-1951	The League Consignment Shop opens
1952-1953	The League Thrift Shop moves to 37 DeForest Avenue
1952-1955	The League celebrates 25 years with the Silver Anniversary Ball. The League establishes the Summit Child Care Center

The 1960s – Impacting the Community

1960-1962	The League provides volunteers at the Summit Free Public Library and Runnells Hospital
1961-1962	League organizes and funds the Summit First Aid Squad
1963-1964	League establishes Y.E.S. – Youth Employment Service
1965-1966	JLS funds the Community Pre-School at St. John's Lutheran Church

1966-1967	JLS establishes the Santa Claus Shop JLS initiates Meals on Wheels for SAGE
1967	The Junior League of Summit, led by Junior League member May Gold, founded Summit Speech School, the first “speech” school for deaf children in New Jersey, on the grounds of Overlook Hospital.

The 1970s – Working Together

1970-1971	JLS establishes the Spanish-Speaking Program for Family Service Association
1971-1972	JLS donates seed money to establish the Teen Arts Festival
1976-1977	JLS donates Jaws of Life to the Summit Fire Department
1977-1978	JLS establishes the Summit Area Community School
1978-1979	JLS establishes Caring Kids Program

The 1980s – Performing Many Services

1983-1984	JLS donates seed money for TV-36 “Communities on Cable” LARKS become a strong singing force in our communities singing for local nursing homes.
1984-1985	JLS establishes Senior Connections – bus service for senior citizens
1985-1986	The Dining Room is funded at Children’s Specialized Hospital
1986-1987	JLS funds Resource Center for Women JLS develops Kids On The Block program
1987-1990	JLS provides funding to American Red Cross, YMCA, NJYouth Symphony and Area Historical Societies

The 1990s – Building the Next Generation

1990-1991	JLS builds the new Memorial Field Playground
1991-1992	JLS develops Women to Woman, Help for the Homeless, and a teen volunteer after school program for Summit High School students
1992-1993	JLS develops STOP (Substances Taking Over People)

1994-1995	JLS develops Peace Camps – conflict resolution programs for children
1996-1997	JLS builds the new Mabie Playground
1999-2000	JLS establishes the JLS Community Project Endowment Fund

The 2000s – Women Building Better Communities

2000-2001	JLS is selected as Outstanding Community Organization in Philanthropy by the NJ Chapter of Fundraising Executives
2002-2003	JLS hosts “Walk for Remembrance” and raised \$50,000 for 911 victims JLS purchases SAFE Home to support women and children who are victims of domestic abuse
2004-2005	JLS goes online!
2005-2006	JLS sponsored statewide conference on human trafficking JLS creates new library for the Summit Speech School JLS purchases second SAFE Home JLS provisional members create the Special Olympics of New Jersey

The 2010s – Supporting local Non-Profits

2010-2011	JLS community grant allocation was doubled to \$40,000 to celebrate 80 year anniversary
2011-2012	JLS launches signature project, Coordinated Approach To Child Health (CATCH) providing kits and training to four local preschools
2012-2013	JLS provisional members create a children’s garden at Jefferson Primary School
2014-2015	JLS launched a Capital Campaign raising \$200,000 JLS holds a 85 th Anniversary Gala raising \$25,000 for the Annual Fund
2015-2016	JLS undergoes a much-needed renovation at 37 DeForest Ave. while the shop stays open at the Canterbury House while grants, projects and scholarships proceed as usual.
2016-2020	JLS addresses the ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) population by creating GRACE (Giving and Receiving Assistance for our Community’s Essentials) by providing fresh and shelf stable food and essentials to local food insecure population.

	In 2020, the JLS provided \$15,000 in COVID grants to 5 non-profits to help cover essential expenses.
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Organizations the JLS has founded:

GRACE

Summit Child Care Centers

Summit First Aid Squad

Summit Speech School

Summit Area Community School

Senior Connections Bus Service

SAGE – Meals on wheels Program

Family Service Association – Spanish Speaking Program and Santa Claus Shop

Y.E.S.

Caring Kids Program – Summit Public Schools

Memorial Field Playground

Mabie Playground

Home SAFE