

The Junior League of Akron  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF AKRON JOINS OHIO JUNIOR LEAGUE FOOD DRIVE TO HELP HUNGER IN OHIO**

Akron, Ohio – January 23, 2012 – Junior League of Akron (JLA), along with Junior League of Dayton, Junior League of Toledo, Junior League of Stark County, and Junior League of Cincinnati, Junior League of Cleveland and the Junior League of Columbus will conduct a statewide food drive throughout the month of March. This program will take place in each of the local communities as part of an ongoing international initiative supported by the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) and its member Leagues to address the growing epidemic of hunger and food insecurity.

“By participating with the other Junior Leagues in Ohio, we hope to come together to provide food for hungry families in our local communities all across Ohio,” Keri-Ann Kalavity, Junior League of Akron President, said.

All donations from the Junior League of Akron’s food drive will benefit the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank.

According to the Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank, during any given week, more than 207,700 Ohioans receive emergency food assistance, 35% of whom are children under 18. The rate of hunger and food insecurity in Ohio is increasing at an alarming rate, with Ohio ranked as one of the top ten states in our country battling this challenging epidemic.

**ABOUT THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF AKRON**

Founded in 1926, the Junior League of Akron is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing opportunities for women to gain leadership and professional skills, as well as volunteer expertise, through work on vital community projects. During 85 years of service to Greater Akron, the organization has contributed tens of thousands of volunteer hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars to the community. Part of the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI), The Junior League of Akron includes more than 450 members – business leaders, entrepreneurs, working mothers, professional women and stay-at-home-moms – from nearly 30 communities throughout Greater Akron. The organization has spearheaded or supported the creation of some of the community’s most critical social service organizations and programs, including Family TIES, The Volunteer Center, Child Guidance Centers, Battered Women’s Shelter, Safe Landing Runaway Shelter, Mary Day Nursery (now Akron Children’s Hospital), Guardian Ad Litem, Immunization Coalition of Summit County, The Community Wish List, Oral Health Initiative and the Health Education Center.

To learn more information about the Junior League of Akron, please call [\(330\) 836-4905](tel:3308364905) or visit the website at [www.juniorleagueakron.org](http://www.juniorleagueakron.org).