The JUNIOR LEAGUE Of ATLANTA Women Transforming Communities













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A Letter From the President

Women Transforming Communities



"We have a
demonstrated history
of successfully
identifying community
needs, developing
strategic solutions
and community
partnerships to
address the needs, and
mobilizing our trained
volunteers to serve."

-Jen Bennecke

President

A group of diverse individuals, the members of the Junior League of Atlanta, Inc. (JLA) are united together as women transforming community- promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving our community. In the league, members receive practice and training, impacting the community during our active service and beyond, living our mission to build a better community. As you review the highlights of the year throughout this annual report, you will see these extraordinary women putting our mission into practice.

The accomplishments are possible because of our partnership with other community and civic organizations and because of the wonderful generosity of our donors and sponsors. Whether you are a member, donor or community partner of the league, your contributions make a difference in the lives of women and children in Atlanta. Thank you!

Through our service to the community, we discover our individual passions and how to boldly raise our hands to serve and lead. We're committed to giving a voice to those who are not heard. We celebrate our accomplishments, our milestones, our community, and one another. We are women transforming ourselves and our community.

Sincerely, Jen Bennecke President, 2014-2015











Women Transforming Communities Through... The Junior League of Atlanta

History

The Junior League of Atlanta was organized 99 years ago by 45 women who wanted to make a difference in the lives of women and children in the Atlanta community. Today, the mission remains constant. The Junior League of Atlanta is one of the largest leagues within the Association of Junior Leagues International with a membership numbering more than 3,500 women. The Junior League of Atlanta has made several major gifts to the Atlanta community over the years to help improve and enhance the health and well-being of our community. The Centennial Fund has exceeded \$1M and will aid our organization in funding special projects to assist in the commemoration of the JLA's Centennial Anniversary in 2016.



Vision

We have a shared vision of the organization, which is to be a catalyst for community change by empowering women who are passionately focused on the health, education and welfare of women and children.

Reaching Out Statement

The JLA reaches out to women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism.



Mission

The Junior League of Atlanta 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 educational and charitable.

Impact

Since 1916, the Junior League of Atlanta has been instrumental in establishing many impactful organizations including:

Atlanta Children's Shelter Atlanta Speech School CHRIS Kids Literacy Action Power Over Prejudice Summit Trees Atlanta











Women Transforming Communities Through... Women's Community

Leadership Alliance

The WCLA has

At the 93rd annual conference of the Association of Junior Leagues International, the Junior League of Atlanta was awarded the honorable mention Vision Award for its work with the Women's Community Leadership Alliance (WCLA).

Galvanized by a desire to break the cycle of generational poverty, the Junior League of Atlanta joined forces with some of the city's leading nonprofits, including the Atlanta Women's Foundation, the Center for Working Families, Inc., the United Way of Greater Atlanta and the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta. Working as a coalition, they formed the WCLA in order to raise awareness of generational poverty, to develop a pilot program to address it, and to advocate for changes to public policy.



Women Transforming Communities Through... JLA LEADERSHIP

Community Advisory Board

The Community Advisory Board (also known as CAB) is comprised of a group of business and community leaders who live and work in the Atlanta area. CAB leaders provide guidance to JLA's leadership on how it can best execute its mission to serve the Atlanta community.



Chair

Bobbi Cleveland

The Tull Charitable Foundation

Representative Kathy Ashe

Former Georgia State Representative

Sarah Batts

The Junior League of Atlanta, Inc.

Jen Bennecke

The Junior League of Atlanta, Inc.

John Deushane

WXIA/WATL (11 Alive)

Kelly Dolan

The Atlanta Women's Foundation

Kweku Forstall

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Yvette Johnson Hagins

Whitefoord, Inc.

Milton Little

United Way of Greater Atlanta

Susan O'Farrell

BlueLinx

John O'Kane

Georgia State University

Dave Penrod

Belk, Inc. Southern Division

Doug Shipman

National Center for Civil and Human Rights, Inc.

Pat Willis

Voices for Georgia's Children

Comer Yates

Atlanta Speech School

Women Transforming Communities Through... JLA LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors

The Junior League of Atlanta Board of Directors provides vision across our multiple council systems to ensure that all our league programs are consistent with our mission. They guide our strategy according to yearly strategic priorities while serving as trustees and stewards on behalf of our members.



Jen Bennecke

President

Sarah Batts

President-elect

Cynthia Clanton

Sustainer Advisor

Deanna Anderson

Advisory Planning Chair

Grayson Pratt

Vice President of Internal Operations

Kelley Ibuki

Vice President of Community

Stacey Chavis

Vice President of Advocacy and Initiatives

Yvette Dupree

Vice President of Training

Ginny Nickles

Vice President of Fund Development

Kate Kauffman

Vice President of Membership

Ursula Reynolds

Vice President of Marketing

Emily Boyle

Nominating Chair

Nicole Motsek

Recording Secretary

Shannon Georgecink

Parliamentarian

Ali Gant

Assistant to the President

Sharon Klein

Director of Support Services

The JLA accomplishes its mission through the actions of women who share the same organizational values. The 3,500 members of the JLA contributed over 75,000 hours of service and over \$250,000 to our 104 community partners, serving over 700,000 women and children.

The JLA served community placements in an on-going capacity and also conducted over 180 community events this year. Among the events and activities, the JLA collected and distributed over 600 school supplies, over 5,000 diapers, 5,000 children's books, and thousands of handmade blankets and mommy squares.

Community Impact







Sponsored the building
of a home for an Atlanta
Habitat for Humanity
homebuyer



Hosted the inaugural JLA Women's Forum in May 2015, bringing together **150 women** interested in a leadership role in the nonprofit field



Partnered with Georgia Cares to document the personal story of a commercial sexual exploitation survivor in the short film



"Stripped Down: Set Free"

Partnered with Rotary International and President

Jimmy Carter to host "The World Summit: End Sexual Exploitation 2025"

at The Carter Center in April 2015





2014-2015 Community Placements

Atlanta Botanical Garden

Atlanta Community Food Bank

Atlanta Day Shelter for Women and Children

Atlanta Ronald McDonald - Egleston

Atlanta Ronald McDonald - Scottish Rite

Center for Puppetry Arts

Center for the Visually Impaired

Chastain Horse Park

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta - Egleston

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta - Scottish Rite

Families First

Georgia Radio Reading Service (GaRRS)

Georgia Shakespeare Festival

Grady Health System

Kate's Club

Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter,

American Red Cross

Open Hand

Rainbows - Georgia Chapter

Visiting Nurse Health System / Hospice

Young Audiences

Zoo Atlanta



"My favorite part of the JLA is membership! It is the root of what we are as an organization. Without connected active and sustainer members we would not have such strong training and community involvement. That being said, we work very much in concert with each other to make a difference in the Atlanta community.' - Kate Kauffman

2014-2015 Community Partners

A.G. Rhodes Health & Rehab Agape Youth & Family Center

American Red Cross

Anti-Prejudice Consortium

Arthritis Foundation

Atlanta Ballet

Atlanta BeltLine Partnership Atlanta Botanical Garden Atlanta Children's Shelter

Atlanta Community Food Bank

Atlanta Day Shelter for Women and

Children

Atlanta-Fulton Public Library

Foundation

Atlanta Habitat For Humanity

Atlanta Mission Atlanta Opera

Atlanta Ronald McDonald House

Charities

Atlanta Speech School Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers

Foundation

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta

C5 Georgia Youth Foundation

Camp Horizon

Cancer Support Community

Center for Black Women's Wellness,

Inc. (CBWW)

Center for Puppetry Arts

Center for the Visually Impaired

Chastain Horse Park

Child Advocate Network, Inc. d/b/a/

Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Children's Restoration Network

(CRN)

CHRIS Kids

Corrigan Care, Inc.

DeKalb County CAS A

Easter Seals of North Georgia

Everybody Wins!

Families First

Feel Beautiful Today

Ferst Foundation for Childhood

Literacy

FOCUS (Families of Children under

Stress, Inc.)

Foster Care Support Foundation, Inc.

Frazer Center

Friends of Refugees

Fulton County CAS A

Fulton County Juvenile Court Citizen

Review Panel

GEEARS (Georgia Early Education

Alliance for Ready Students)

Genesis Shelter, Inc.

Georgia Asylum and Immigration

Network (GAIN)

Georgia Care Connection Office, Inc

Georgia Center for Child Advocacy,

Inc.

Georgia Radio Reading Service

(GaRRS)

Georgia Shakespeare Festival

GiGi's Playhouse

Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta, Inc.

Girls on the Run Atlanta

Girls, Inc.

Grady Health System

Grow Kids, Inc.

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies

Coalition of Georgia, Inc.

Heart of Passion

Historic Oakland Foundation



2014-2015 Community Partners

Junior Achievement of Georgia

Kate's Club

Kidz2leaders, Inc.

KIPP Metro Atlanta

La Amistad

Ladybug for Girls Foundation, Inc.

Literacy Action

Make-A-Wish Foundation of Georgia

and Alabama

MARR, Inc. (Metro Atlanta Recovery

Residences)

Mary Hall Freedom House

Meals on Wheels Atlanta

Mercy Care

Metropolitan Counseling Services

Moving in the Spirit

Multi-Agency Alliance for Children

(MAAC)

Multiple Sclerosis Center of Atlanta

Open Hand

Operation Hope, Inc.

Partnership Against Domestic Violence

Piedmont Atlanta Hospital

Piedmont Park Conservancy

Prevent Child Abuse Georgia

Rainbows - Georgia Chapter

Raising Expectations, Inc.

Reach Out and Read

Refugee Family Services

SafeHouse Outreach

Scottdale Child Development and

Family Resource Center, Inc. of Central

DeKalb

Sheltering Arms Early Education and

Family Centers

Sisters by Choice

Southeastern Horticultural Society

Special Olympics Georgia

Street Grace

TeenAngels Society, Inc.

The Adaptive Learning Center

Wellspring Living

Center

The Sullivan Center Visiting Nurse Health System Wesley Woods Whitefoord, Inc. Young Audiences, Woodruff Arts YouthSpark, Inc. Zoo Atlanta

Junior League of Atlanta to give back in a tangible way to the Atlanta community." - Stacey Chavis

The JLA has three main areas of focus and impact—commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of women and children, generational poverty, and early childhood education. Building and improving awareness were at the root of many events conducted by the JLA this year for its volunteers and community partners. Our membership has an unwavering commitment to tackle these three issues in the Atlanta community. Listed below are some of the trainings, events and educational activities performed during 2014-2015:

State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC)

JLA is one of 12 Junior Leagues of Georgia that partner to advocate in support of women and children. Five representatives from JLA attended SPAC Day at the Capitol.

Political/Public Affairs Committee (PAC)

Forty-one members and 10 legislators attended Junior League of Atlanta Capitol Day

Thirty people attended Advocacy 101 Training

Members mobilized to advocate for public policy change, and Georgia passed the Safe Harbor bill, providing protection to trafficking survivors



Trainings

Hunger 101 Training with the Atlanta Community Food Bank

Human Trafficking Legislative Wrap-Up Training with Georgia Cares

Commercial Sexual Exploitation/Human Trafficking Documentary Screening, Business Breakfast and Committee Member training at Wellspring Living

Capacity Building

Two hundred fifty people attended Capacity Building Trainings (trainings consisted of Marketing for Nonprofits, Major Gifts, Key Essentials of Being on a Board of Directors, and Turning One-Time Volunteers into Engaged Supporters)

One hundred fifty women attended the inaugural Women's Leadership Forum

Ninety-eight members attended the Board Bank Fair

Thirty-six women attended the Board Readiness Fundamental Training







Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is a huge issue in the Atlanta community. Since one of the league's main issues of focus is ending domestic minor sex trafficking, the JLA partnered with Wellspring Living to establish The Junior League of Atlanta Clothing Closet at Wellspring Living for Girls.

Wellspring Living for Girls is dedicated to serving survivors of sexual exploitation through restorative therapy. They offer programs that securely house girls who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking with a focus on trauma therapy, education, life skills and confidence.

Over 200 articles of new clothing were collected in September 2014 through a leaguewide clothing drive. Girls who come to Wellspring Living will be able to select outfits that are theirs to keep. New clothes provide the girls with a "sense of confidence to start their journey to recovery," according to 2014-2015 JLA President Jen Bennecke. The Clothing Closet at Wellspring Living is a tangible way that JLA members are making a difference in the lives of women who are victims of sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

Carter Center Event

The JLA partnered with Rotary International and President Carter to host The World Summit: End Sexual Exploitation 2025. Government, nonprofit, business and civic leaders gathered to raise awareness about sex trafficking and share best practices for implementation in our community.

Stripped Down: Set Free Video

In Spring 2015, the Junior League of Atlanta, in partnership with Georgia Cares, documented the harrowing personal story of Keisha Head, a survivor of commercial sexual exploitation, in the short film "Stripped Down: Set Free." At 16, Keisha was forced into a life of prostitution on the streets of Atlanta. Keisha's no holds barred approach to telling her story gave us incredible insight into how parental mental illness, homelessness and poverty can lead young women unknowingly down a path to prostitution. "Stripped Down: Set Free" is currently available for the public to watch on the Junior League of Atlanta YouTube Channel and has been viewed over 300 times. An extended cut of the video is also available that explains in-depth the circumstances that led her to prostitution and what she did to escape the cycle of poverty and violence in order to create a better life for her children. "Stripped Down: Set Free" was first presented to the public by Georgia Cares and the Junior League of Atlanta at the World Summit: End Sexual Exploitation 2025 in May 2015 at the Carter Center.

More than 350 girls are sexually exploited in Georgia every month. The average age of a sex trade industry victim is 14.

Generational Poverty

For nearly 22 years, Atlanta Habitat for Humanity and The Junior League of Atlanta have partnered to aid womenled households and provide the tools necessary to break out of generational poverty.

JLA and Atlanta Habitat have been partners in various ways for many years. "This year, as we were looking at our focus on generational poverty, we reached out to Habitat to build onto our legacy with the Atlanta Women's Build to help to truly make a difference in women's and children's lives." savs JLA President Jen Bennecke. On the weekend of February 21, 2015, the JLA sponsored the building of a home for a new Atlanta Habitat homebuyer.

The construction and purchase of the home affects more than just the homebuyer and her family. The JLA women who volunteered to help build the home gained new skills and felt a sense of empowerment through helping another woman better her life.







Early Childhood Education

"A Heart for Service"

is an exciting new book that promotes childhood literacy and community service. With a focus on early childhood education, the JLA worked with the Atlanta Speech School to create a book that would best impart literacy skills to preschool students, while also focusing on voluntarism and the wavs that a parent or caregiver can serve alongside a child.

The JLA board of directors approved the book project in September 2014, and the Atlanta Speech School's team quickly transformed the league's theme into a story ready for publication by April 2015. JLA hosted a reading and craft event at the Ronald McDonald House to celebrate the book's release. JLA members read the book and donated copies to JLA community partners Reach Out and Read, Sheltering Arms, the Atlanta Children's Shelter and the Scottdale Child Development Center.



The Atlanta Speech School and The Junior League of Atlanta join together to publish a book with a two-fold purpose to promote early literacy and emphasize the importance of community service.

Women Transforming Communities Through... JLA ENGAGEMENT

In 2014-2015, the JLA saw the largest increase in membership in at least 11 years. The Junior League of Atlanta was founded in 1916 by Isoline Campbell and 45 women who were determined to make a difference in the Atlanta area. For more than 98 years, the purpose of the JLA has remained the same—to train women to build better, stronger communities.

Today, the JLA has over 3,500 members that serve in all aspects of the organization as provisionals, actives and sustainers establishing the chapter as one of the largest leagues within the Association of Junior Leagues International. The JLA is comprised of women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism.

The tireless efforts of our members are what allow JLA to make effective improvements in the lives of others. The training and education required of members encourages growth and personal improvement necessary to make Atlanta a better community.

2014-2015 MEMBERSHIP STATS



Members



Active Members



Sustaining Members

Training is at the heart of the JLA's mission. Over 160 training opportunities were provided throughout the year in order to create a comprehensive experience for all members to effectively serve the Atlanta community. Training events include General Membership Meetings, the JLA Leadership Institute, Fundamentals, District Meetings, Leadership Retreat, Provisional Training and more.

Four General Membership Meetings (GMMs) were held throughout the year; three of which discussed a JLA area of focus. Almost 1,000 women were trained on commercial sexual exploitation of children and human trafficking, generational poverty and early childhood education. Over 400 members completed one of the Leadership Institute's certificate programs, over 100 women were trained through Fundamental events, over 1,000 members participated in fall and spring District Meetings, 125 leaders took part in the Leadership Retreat, and 345 women completed Provisional Training.

Junior League of Atlanta Leadership Institute (JLA LI)

Founded in 2012, the Junior League of Atlanta Leadership Institute is a specialized outcome-driven training program facilitated by the JLA. The goal of the JLA LI is to help the league fulfill its mission by offering a certificate-based program where members have the opportunity to earn leadership development certificates on an annual basis. Certificates were offered in the areas of advocacy, fundraising, volunteer management, marketing and board readiness.



JLA Women's Forum

The inaugural JLA Women's Forum brought together women interested in having a leadership role in the nonprofit field. Attendees heard from fellow women leaders in Atlanta on topics related to leadership development, impactful service, and making their dollars count. One hundred and fifty community partners and JLA members participated in this inaugural event.

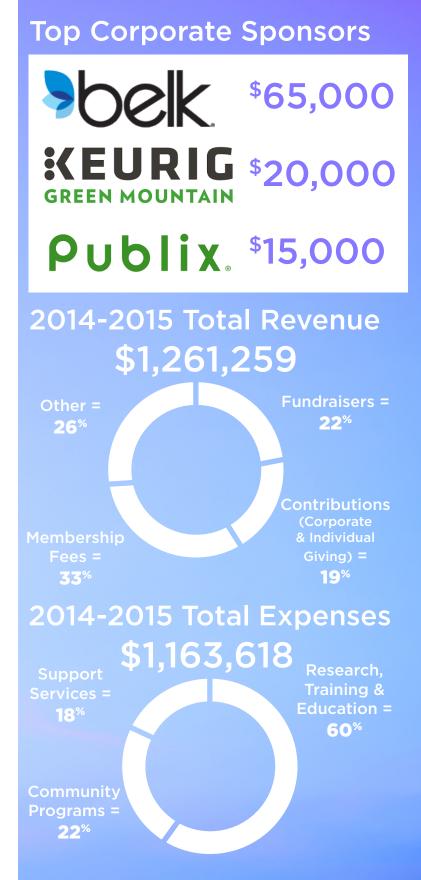
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The Annual Fund

2014-15 was a record-breaking year for the JLA Annual Fund. \$16,000 was raised in just seven days as a part of the Belk Little Black Dress Challenge. Additionally, 300 members contributed during the Dues Round Up Challenge, an annual fund competition among members. Goals were exceeded with approximately 500 members donating to the Annual Fund.

The Nearly New Shop

Named "Best Thrift Store" in 2013 and 2014 and "Best Vintage" Clothing" in 2014 by INsite Magazine, the Junior League of Atlanta's Nearly New Shop is our oldest and largest fundraiser. The Nearly New Shop accepts donations of gently used clothing, household items, books and furniture that are then sold to the public. The Nearly New Shop has raised more than \$4 million in net revenue over the past 65 years with proceeds benefiting the JLA's community partners. In 2014-2015, approximately 1,400 volunteers served more than 4,000 hours at the shop. The Nearly New Shop relocated to the Toco Hills Shopping Center during summer 2014 where it continues to build its customer base as well as sales.



2014-2015 Corporate Donors





AJC Living Intown Magazine Atlanta Beverage Company Atlanta Bread Company Atlanta Dermatology & Laser Surgery

Atlanta Fine Homes Sotheby's

International Realty

Atlanta Hawks & Philips Arena

Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles Magazine

Atlanta Magazine

AT&T

Balloonacy

Beautiful Briny Sea

Belk, Inc.

Becky Blalock

Blue MedSpa

BNY Mellon

C. Parks Catering and Events Cambridge Wealth Counsel

Chick-a-Biddy

Cigartainment

Constellation Brands

Design Galleria Kitchen and Bath

Studio

Eagle Rock Distributing Company

General Mills

Georgetown Cupcake Buckhead

Julie Bee's

Kendra Scott Design, Inc.

KIND

Keurig Green Mountain, Inc.

Lefko Design + Build

Lenox Cupcakes

Mama Bath & Body

Marriott Marquis Hotel

Mercedes-Benz of Buckhead

Milner, Inc.

Nancy G's

Nestlé Purina PetCare Company

Piedmont Healthcare

PIRCH

Publix Super Markets Charities

Pure Barre

Room & Board

SafeRide America

Shake Shack Buckhead

Southwest Airlines

Spontaneous Entertainment

Star 94

Sub-Zero & Wolf Appliances

Sweet Sassy Molassey Bakeshop

Swoozie's

The Christie Cookie Co.

The Container Store

The Fresh Market

The Rock Ranch

The Whole Dog Market

Verizon Wireless

Village Green Flowers & Gifts

West Stride

Williams-Sonoma

ZICO Beverages



"I have always had a passion for the community aspect of JLA - not just the partners and placements of JLA, but also the community of amazing women I have met in JLA." - Ginny Nickles

Funding to Community Partners



Grady Health Foundation.



\$14,800

\$13,955

\$15,000







\$9,366

\$15,000

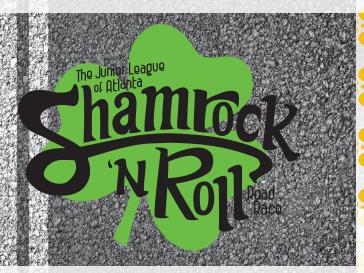
\$13,000



\$21,500



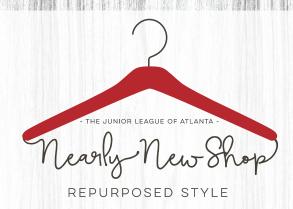
\$12,713



Named the "Best Charity Running Event" by Best Self Atlanta Magazine in 2014, the JLA's Shamrock 'n Roll Road Race consists of a 10K, 5K, kids 1K and post-race festivities. This family-friendly event is held in March each year.



The JLA's Tour of Kitchens, entering its 19th year, features a view into Atlanta's finest residential kitchens. The two-day event has raised more than \$1 million since its beginning to aid the JLA and carry out its mission toward community initiatives benefiting at-risk women and children. This event is held in March each year.



The Nearly New Shop celebrated its 65th anniversary and has recently moved to a new location. Since opening its doors in 1949, the JLA's Nearly New Shop has served thousands of customers and raised more than \$4 million. The shop offers gently used merchandise, including designer clothing, children's clothing, household items, toys, books, jewelry and furniture.



Cookbooks

The JLA is proud to have an award-winning cookbook for sale in support of raising funds to fulfill our mission - Atlanta True Grits. In addition, we are proud to offer a beautiful set of notecards illustrated by beloved Atlanta artist Jack Shields. We also have cookbooks from other Junior Leagues available for sale. Stop by JLA headquarters to see what we have in stock!

The 1916 Society

The 1916 Society is a special group of women that have pledged to give \$1,000 or more in one league year! Their giving helps us achieve our outlined initiatives and fuels the mission of The Junior League of Atlanta. We utilize our participation in giving and voluntarism to leverage change for women and children in the Atlanta community.









HOW CAN YOU TRANSFORM THE COMMUNITY?

Join

Any woman over the age of 22 can make an impact and gain invaluable training through membership in the JLA.





Donate

Help fund the JLA's mission by making a donation to the annual fund.

Partner

Join forces with the JLA to positively affect Atlanta.



Support

Participate in JLA's fundraisers (Shamrock 'N Roll Road Race, Tour of Kitchens, Nearly New Shop and cookbook sales).



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