INTERVIEW by Lisa stamos • photography by Jim prisching



Medbh Huschitt at her father's property in Barrington Hills.

Meet BJWC's New President

THE QUINTESSENTIAL WOMEN'S SERVICE ORGANIZATION IS WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

ARRINGTON AREA RESIDENT Medbh Huschitt is the new president of Barrington Junior Women's Club. (Her first name, Medbh, is a girl's name of Gaelic origin. It is pronounced "Mave".) Barrington Junior Women's Club (BJWC) has been a service and social epicenter of the Barrington area since 1936, when it was sponsored for its start by the erstwhile Barrington Women's Club. Women from the Northwest Suburbs meet, plan, fundraise, and serve causes that are focused primarily on women, children, and seniors in need. We caught up with Medbh in August to learn about her and the nonprofit she leads.

Tell us a little about yourself.

My husband was born and raised in Barrington, and I grew up sort of allover (from Ireland to the Northwest Suburbs). We met at Carmel High School and got married at Saint Anne after college. We spent a few years out in Colorado, but when we decided to start a family of our own, it was a given that we would end up back here! We now have two kids and love that they get to grow up in such a wonderful area with both of our families close by.

How did you learn about BJWC?

I found out about BJWC when I was a new mom looking for a way to make friends and give back to

the community. Fast forward a few years later and I am so glad that I went to that first meeting and I am honored to represent BJWC as its president this year.

How does BJWC fit into your life?

As president, BJWC is a large time commitment. However, as an organization, we understand that everyone has families and things going on. One of the great things about BJWC is you can fit it into your schedule and commit as much or as little time as you have. We have members from across the board with so many different talents, which is what helps make BJWC such a strong organization.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Thursday **September 30th** at **6:00 PM**Saturday **October 16th** at **10:00 AM**

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As one of Barrington's longest-running organizations, what has helped to keep BJWC so strong?

Our members! I am amazed every year at the projects and ideas that come from our members. These women are so dedicated to giving back and supporting BJWC as a pillar organization within our community.

What do you like about the BJWC members?

These women inspire me to be a better mom, better person, and bigger asset to the community. They are so quick to help out someone in a time of need and devote countless hours to making our community better.

What are the main services BJWC provides to the community? What is your service area?

BJWC's mission is to focus on philanthropy and community service in the greater Barrington area and Northwest Suburbs. Our main focus is supporting women, children, and seniors. One of our popular programs is our Safety Town summer camp held annually for kids entering kindergarten through first grade. We also work directly with organizations like BACOA, The Community Meal, and Barrington Giving Day among many others and hold events like our Fall Fashion Show every year to raise funds for our grant and scholarship programs. In the spring of 2021, our grant program awarded over \$55,000 to local shelters and nonprofits despite the on-going pandemic.

BJWC had to pivot like every other group. How are things going now with all your community services?

This past year was a bit of a crazy one! BJWC had to pivot and offer virtual services to Sunny Hill Elementary in place of our previous tutoring program. We also had to get creative in ways to give back to the seniors who live in the local assisted living programs we work with. In addition, we took our largest fundraiser to a completely virtual platform and we were able to pass our fundraising goal—which was amazing! This year we are hoping to get back to more in-person service opportunities. This fall we have already started working with BACOA Meals on Wheels deliveries and are partnering with The Community Meal.

Is the Club accepting new members? If so, how can they get involved?



Medbh Huschitt is the youngest president of BJWC in modern history.

Yes! If you would like to get involved in BJWC please reach out to: BJWCMembership80@gmail.com, and we can get you all of the necessary information. All are welcome to join us on September 7, 2021, at 7 p.m. at Barrington's White House for our first General Meeting of the year. Also, please check out our website (bjwc.org) and follow us on Instagram @BarringtonJuniorWomensClub.

Upcoming BJCW Events

Please join us for the following meetings and events!

First 2021/2022 General Meeting: All are welcome! Tuesday September 7, 2021, at 7 p.m. at Barrington's White House.

First Executive Committee Meeting: August 31, 2021, at 7 p.m, Moretti's

New Member Coffee: September 25, 2021. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Contact us for location details.

New Member Mixer: October 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at Neoteca.

2021 Fall Fashion Show Save the Date! November 6, 2021, at Avante Banquets.