FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Sharon Morgan, acapr@jlaustin.org, (512) 431-9482
Laura Lee Daigle, prchair@jlaustin.org, (512) 653-4027

The Junior League of Austin Presents: A Christmas Affair 2016
“Merry and Bright”

Austin, TX – (Release date, TBD) – This Fall, The Junior League of Austin proudly presents our 41st annual A Christmas Affair event at Palmer Events Center, November 16-20. The theme for this year’s A Christmas Affair is “Merry and Bright,” reminiscent of the mid-century modern era with silver tinsel, fun cocktail parties and holiday market. Every A Christmas Affair ticket purchased helps The Junior League of Austin carry forth its mission of developing the potential of women and improving the Austin community, by providing essential funding and volunteer hours to programs such as Coats for Kids and FIT-Food in Tummies along with more than 30 local community non-profits.

This year’s A Christmas Affair features more than 200 merchants from across the country and The Junior League of Austin expects more than 25,000 shoppers to attend. There is a force of 1,300 League volunteers working behind the scenes to help staff the event, ensuring that no detail is overlooked and every piece of tinsel is in its place. The four-day holiday market opens to the public Thursday, November 17, from noon to 9:00 p.m.; Friday, November 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, November 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, November 20, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tickets for Market Days are $15 per guest, which includes a shuttle ride to and from Barton Creek Mall. Thursday through Saturday, guests may purchase lunch in the Silver Bell Bistro tearoom, located on the upper level of Palmer Events Center for $16.50 plus tax per guest. Menus may be viewed at www.jlaustin.org. New this
year, all tickets purchased before or on November 15, will be electronic tickets, allowing for an even more hassle-free experience.

In addition to the holiday market, **A Christmas Affair** offers parties and children’s events to add to the holiday festivities. The first experience of **A Christmas Affair** is Wednesday, November 16 with the preview gala, **A Christmas Affair to Remember**. A special VIP donor reception begins at 6:00 p.m., doors open to all guests at 6:30 p.m. Following a seated buffet dinner guests will have the opportunity to bid on silent auction items and shop the **A Christmas Affair** market. Guests can also buy a special glass of champagne at the Bubbles and Bling table for a chance to win a custom handcrafted piece of fine jewelry designed by Lindsey Scoggins. Tickets for this event are $150 per guest.

Thursday, November 17 starts off with widely popular ladies brunch, **Holiday Hustle and Bustle** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. A delicious brunch buffet and three hours of private shopping, prior to the market opening to the public. Tickets for this event are $60 per guest.

On Thursday evening, November 17, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. our signature girls night out event, **All That Glitters**, is an evening of ‘50s glam with hors d’oeuvres from **Pink Avocado** while “After Party” plays a mix of favorites to dance the night away. Surprise boxes are available for purchase from Kendra Scott. Tickets are $60 per guest.

Invite a friend or your special someone to our cocktail party, **Baby, It’s Cold Outside**, Friday, November 18, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Dance the Night away to music from “Chandler and the Bings” while enjoying **Bohemian BBQ**. Be sure to bid on your favorite item in the silent auction. Tickets are $50 per guest.

New this year, on Saturday, November 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. is our Sunrise Sip and Shop, **Making Spirits Bright** party. Enjoy an hour and a half of private shopping before the market opens to the public while sipping a cocktail you’ve created at the bloody mary and mimosa bar. Tickets are $35 per guest.

Bring the whole family down to **A Christmas Affair** with our children’s event. **Breakfast with Santa** is a crowd favorite. Friday, November 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., join Anna and Elsa at the **Frozen Winter Wonderland** with Santa. The Que Pastas will be back with songs to get the kids dancing while they also make a “Frozen” themed craft. Saturday, November 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., the **Sleigh Bell Breakfast** features children’s musician Joe McDermott to kick-off the day, with a musical delight and Jennifer of Make-It-Sweet with a mini-class on fun food crafts. Sunday, November 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., decorate gingerbread houses and be entertained by Austin’s own Stacy Gray at **Candyland Christmas**. Tickets are $28 per guest and required for kids of all ages. This year, Santa will also be sticking around for lunch on Sunday, November 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at **Santa’s Enchanted Forest**. Santa and his animal friends from Tiny Tails to You Petting Zoo will be there and
Strumero will entertain guests with folk-rock music. Lunch and crafts are provided. Tickets are $35 per guest and required for kids of all ages.

Ticket holders for the children events, **Breakfast with Santa** and **Lunch with Santa**, will have private access to **Santa’s Corner** and photos with Santa during the events. Additional photo opportunities at **Santa’s Corner** are available throughout **A Christmas Affair**, for more information, visit [www.jlaustin.org](http://www.jlaustin.org).

Tickets for all events and Market Day shopping passes are now on sale at [www.jlaustin.org](http://www.jlaustin.org).

###

**A Christmas Affair**
For more than 40 years, **A Christmas Affair** has kicked off the holiday season in Austin. What began as thirty booths in the Driskill Hotel has grown into the largest League event of its kind in the nation. More than 25,000 patrons attend annually. Thanks to a variety of events, from the Preview Party Gala to Breakfast with Santa, and more than 200 merchants from across the country, this four-day shopping extravaganza allows Austin to share with us in the spirit of giving. As The Junior League of Austin’s largest fundraiser, **A Christmas Affair** funds our mission and programs and allows us to continue our work of elevating women and serving our community.

**The Junior League of Austin**
The Junior League of Austin is an organization of more than 2,500 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. On an annual basis, The Junior League of Austin contributes more than $800,000 to the Austin community and its members volunteer approximately 150,000 hours with local non-profits. For more information about The Junior League of Austin, call 512-467-8982 or visit [www.jlaustin.org](http://www.jlaustin.org).

###