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Cover Photo by Capitalines Photography Editor Beth Harwood features JLA Done-in-a-Day volunteer Ashley Metcalf at the Blanton Museum
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There aren’t enough pages in this magazine to cover the amazing things happening in The Junior League of Austin. We are bursting at the seams with exciting development opportunities for our membership, powerful programs for the community, and big plans for the future. In this Spring 2013 issue of Capitalines, you'll read about how we’re increasing our members’ capacity for leadership and what some of our community partners have to say about our impact. We share how we’re making college dreams reality through our work with mothers and daughters in the Con Mi MADRE Program as well the lessons our members learned this year about living in poverty. We’ll give a sneak peak at an academic project to codify our rich history leading up to our 80th anniversary next year and also show you fantastic photos from our Kids Giving Back program. We’re pleased to share more about our Capital Campaign, including our plans for a new building which will serve as a Community Impact Center as well as our new headquarters.

We spent some time recently reviewing Capitalines from years and years ago. While hairstyles and technology have evolved, what remains constant is a dedication for making an impact on the community. We hope today’s readers, as well as those in the future, can look at this issue of Capitalines as informative and inspirational. I’d like to thank the Capitalines committee and the countless JLA members who make this magazine possible. Please make note of our advertisers and review our donor section to consider how your retail dollars can be put to work in service of our vision to “strengthen our community through creative solutions to current and future challenges.”

Debra Espinosa
Editor 2012-2013
Amelia Bullock Realtors is a proud supporter of the Junior League of Austin

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Jacquelyn Noack
Gregory Noack
Laura Peirce
Carolyn Skyles

Sharon Smith
Carol Strickland
Jeanne White
Nila Williams
Thank you for supporting The Junior League of Austin this year as we have imagined a brighter future for Austin and inspired a new generation of leaders who will make a lasting impact on our community.

I continue to marvel at our impact on the community through our members, our programs and our partner agencies. I would need pages and pages to fully cover this year’s community impact in areas like education, health and hunger, poverty, assisting victims of neglect and violence, and others, but I can provide a few examples of what we have accomplished:

• Healthy food was provided to more than 1,500 Del Valle students each week through the Food In Tummies program.
• Coats for Kids once again collected and distributed over 34,000 coats to children and families in the Austin area, supported by a record breaking 2,800 volunteers.
• Our members served more than 40 agencies with more than 85 short-term projects and events through the Done-in-a-Day program.
• Nearly 4,000 students in grades PreK-12 benefitted from our ABC Grants for innovative classroom projects developed by local schoolteachers.
• We extended the impact of our 27 partner agencies by providing more than 400 League volunteers and $350,000 in funding.

A meaningful impact requires the sustained effort of a community, and a sustained effort is only possible through effective action and leadership. This year we provided more training opportunities than ever for our members, each one offering an opportunity to be inspired and grow with an issue, organization or activity. These opportunities included:

• The Connecting Leaders series where Sustaining Members and Community Leaders shared their perspectives on leadership topics.
• A new partnership with Leadership Austin to expand the leadership training for League members.
• Hosting a “poverty simulation” program which placed members in the circumstances of those served through our programs and partner agencies.

With proven programs for making a sustained and meaningful community impact, and by developing and inspiring our members to be the community leaders of the future, we are able to imagine the bigger and better things to come. This year we had a record class of 250 Provisional members, with an even larger class anticipated next year. Growing membership is an indication of our success, and allows us to do even more. One way we will do even more is through our planned Community Impact Center. Thanks to early major gifts, the Community Impact Center is quickly moving from imagination to reality.

I want to thank you for all that you have done during the last year and for your continued commitment to The Junior League of Austin. As we enter our 80th year, we recognize that our success is due to our supporters, partners, and members. With your help, the meaningful impact on the Austin community is just beginning, with an even brighter future ahead.

Cathy McHorse
President 2012-2013
How much do you know about The Junior League of Austin?
(Answers on page 35)

1) The JLA is working with an archivist to preserve historical artifacts as the League embarks on its ___th Anniversary Celebration.
   A. 30
   B. 50
   C. 80
   D. 100

2) During the 2012-2013 year, the JLA has contributed $___ to the community via community agency partnerships.
   A. $124,758
   B. $276,514
   C. $312,965
   D. $341,513

3) ___ local non-profit organizations participated in the JLA’s Poverty Simulation.
   A. 3
   B. 5
   C. 7
   D. 13

4) The JLA received ___ community placement applications for the 2013-2014 placement year.
   A. 36
   B. 56
   C. 64
   D. 72
A CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT KELLY BREEDEN

BY BETH IVERS

Why did you join The Junior League of Austin?
I joined because I wanted an organized way to give back to the community. I was excited that our League volunteers spend months researching where the League’s members should give their time and talents each year.

Is that what you have experienced with The League?
Yes! However, I didn’t expect to build new skills and meet new friends. What I have found over time is that our League is a place where we are able to grow and build new skills by taking on new challenges in our placements while being surrounded by amazingly smart and capable women.

The JLA presidency is a big responsibility! What inspired you to take the job?
This organization not only changes the lives of the people that we help, but it also changes the lives of volunteers. To be in a position where I can support our members who are changing their own lives and the lives of those around them is such a blessing. I am so fortunate to have the opportunity.

What is your vision for your presidency?
We will be celebrating our 80th anniversary this year. My goal is to highlight our impact over the past 80 years on our community and on the lives of our volunteers and to dream about where we will be going in the future - especially through our new Community Impact Center.

What will success look like?
If our volunteers feel their membership in our League has given them opportunities that they wouldn’t have had otherwise, through building new skills, impacting areas of interest in our community and/or building connections and friendships, then we will have been successful.

IMAGINE, INSPIRE, IMPACT...WHAT OUR PARTNERS HAVE TO SAY

BY: BETH IVERS

“In 2012 a volunteer was washing the windows when I arrived at the clinic. I was concerned to see her doing this and said, ‘Why are you doing that?’ Her reply was simply, ‘because they needed washing.’ The JLA volunteers are truly here to help in whatever way is needed.”
Missy McCullough
Executive Director, Animal Trustees of Austin

“The support that we receive ranges from helping us run our non-profit, working in and stocking our Rainbow Rooms and shopping for our Holiday Wishes program. With the help of The Junior League of Austin, we were able to serve over 4000 children through the Rainbow Rooms in 2012.”
Ellen Ambrose
Board Chair, Partnerships for Children

“How quickly they (JLA volunteers) have grown within our groups. They are forming lasting relationships with the girls and are having a tremendous impact. I have been continuously impressed with the empathy and understanding they have shown our incredible girls!”
Beth Donnan
180 Facilitator, GENaustin

“Having Done-in-a-Day volunteers has made a big difference for our annual People’s Gallery opening reception. In prior years, I never seemed to have enough manpower. This year, my second year working with The League for this event, I felt like I could relax and trust that everything was in capable hands.”
Lani Golstob
Cultural Arts Division
Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office, City of Austin
“I am continually amazed at our Junior League volunteers who sacrifice their evenings with their children to help us serve ours. Some of the most victimized children who receive our services have never felt the warmth of a compassionate gaze that our Junior League volunteers are so happy to provide.”

Michael Torres
Executive Director, Center for Child Protection

“The Arc has been extraordinarily grateful for this partnership, which has brought us an amazing group of volunteers, an opportunity to expose an often invisible group of people to our community and to the League membership, and the chance to showcase our amazing art studio and gallery.”

Susan Eason
Executive Director, The Arc of the Capital Area

Junior League volunteers bring a true sense of community service and a strong desire to help women who have fallen into dire circumstances….and they understand and strive to accomplish the key goal of Dress for Success which is to help women learn to help themselves.

Judy Chambers
Executive Director, Dress for Success

“In total – we expect the Junior League volunteers to serve at 207 events, contributing approximately 830 hours during our 2012-13 Community Project placement. That’s over 100 full-time days! ZACH has 400 active volunteers. Junior League makes up only 3.5% of that number, but they contribute 16% of the workload!”

Holly Wissmann
Associate Director of Development, ZACH Theatre
STAY COOL THIS SUMMER
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The frosty treat below is one of over 250 recipes for in-home entertaining demonstrating Austin’s culture, attractions and seasons. For your copy of Austin Entertains contact cookbook@jlaustin.org

Chocolate Gelato
from Austin Entertains, page 71

1 ½ c. milk
1 c. cream
4 oz. semisweet chocolate, chopped
1/8 tsp. salt
½ c. sugar
4 egg yolks

Combine the milk and cream in a saucepan and mix well. Cook just until heated through, stirring occasionally. Add the chocolate and salt, stirring until the chocolate melts. Whisk the sugar and egg yolks in a bowl until pale yellow. Stir in the chocolate mixture. Return the mixture to the saucepan. Cook over low heat until slightly thickened, whisking constantly. Strain into a bowl. Let stand until cool. Pour into an ice cream freezer container. Freeze using manufacturer’s directions.

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**IT ALL STARTS HERE**

**Application:**
Agency applies to be a JLA Community Project

72 applications received for 2013-2014 placement year

**Completion:**
Projects wrap up by early summer and the process begins again

**Review:**
Initial review team and reviewers examine agency financials, do on-site visits, and perform one-on-one interviews

**The Life of a Placement**

**Partnership:**
JLA volunteers work at least fifty hours each on community projects over the placement year—often much more

**Vote:**
The League membership votes on a slate of projects proposed by the Researchers Committee

**Placement:**
After two placement fairs and volunteer sign-up through the online Community Portfolio, volunteers are assigned to projects

**27 community projects selected in 2012-2013**

**447 volunteers placed at community projects in 2012-2013**

**72 applications received for 2013-2014 placement year**

All agencies, including current JLA community projects, go through the full application process each year

If placements don’t get six volunteers signed up, they don’t “make” and must try again next year

Members of the Research Committee hard at work evaluating placement opportunities for the 2013-2014 League year.
LEARNING TO LEAD - HOW THE JLA BUILDS COMMUNITY LEADERS

BY: STACEY MATHER

Junior League members serve throughout Austin. They can be found in staff and executive positions for local organizations and government entities as well as serving on non-profit boards and committees. The women in these roles learned how to lead as part of The Junior League of Austin’s commitment to developing the potential of women and training leaders for service in our community.

The JLA’s twenty-seven community placements serve as training opportunities in addition to addressing needs within the community. League members serving in these placements learn about community needs and how they are filled by local organizations. Sustaining member Toya Haley shared that community placements helped her to appreciate the value of the viewpoints of the various stakeholders. Community placement volunteers get to see the perspectives of the organization’s staff and board and clients in addition to the League’s perspective. According to Toya, “this perspective gives you a greater awareness of the community and increases our impact.”

Within community placements, project chairs collaborate with the organization and serve as the face of the JLA. Project chairs are also responsible for overseeing the JLA volunteers, ensuring that they are able to complete all required hours and address any member needs. The Austin Smiles JLA Project Chair, Stephanie Ashby, shared that this role had the greatest impact on her leadership development. This opinion was also shared by the Meals on Wheels JLA Project Chair Araminta Everton. Araminta stated that “serving as a project chair has challenged me to step up and apply my leadership training and skills. I have felt more connected to the League this year, and the placement has provided a much broader and deeper perspective on our collective work and impact on the community.”

In addition to community placements, in-league placements help to build additional leadership skills. Sustaining member Karen Johnson states, “the JLA offers many great opportunities to be a leader and offers a safety net to help prepare for you serving in the community.” JLA members receive on-the-job training to help them build on existing strengths and also acquire new skills that will benefit the community. These skills may include grant writing, fundraising, event planning, and public relations. This year, the JLA partnered with KVUE to provide communications training to the PR Committee. This training helped prepare members for handling the League’s public relations activities. PR Committee member Elizabeth Simmons shared that the training provided helped her to understand that “every interaction is an opportunity” and how “being the ‘voice’ of a group provides opportunity to inform, direct, guide, and drive action.”

Some League training is also informal. According to Done-in-a-Day Committee Chair Camille Jobe, “some of the best training I have received is from other League members helping me through the job and mentoring me.” Board of Directors member and Communications Council Vice President Teri Williams also shared this view and added that the JLA has helped her to become a better delegator and sharpen her communication skills for external audiences.

2013 VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE - SUZY BALAGIA

BY LAUREN CRAWFORD

The Junior League of Austin is proud to present the 2012-2013 Volunteer Extraordinaire Award to Suzy Balagia, a former president of the JLA and active volunteer in the Austin community. Since 1985, the Volunteer Extraordinaire award is presented annually by the League to a sustaining member who has utilized past League training to continue to demonstrate and promote voluntarism in the community. By the time she became president of the JLA in 2003, Ms. Balagia had already served in several leadership positions in the League and on the boards of many area non-profits. Her theme as president - A Legacy of Service, Here for Good - is one she has clearly taken to heart. Since serving as JLA president, Ms. Balagia continues to serve on area boards and has chaired several events and galas, including Hospice Austin’s Beauty of Life, I Live Here/I Give Here’s See Jane Give, Leadership Austin’s Best Party Ever.
In addition to skills built through JLA placements, other training opportunities are offered to supplement placement experiences in building strong, capable leaders for our community. The Connecting Leaders program is a monthly series that offers training on a variety of topics, including managing meetings, donor development, learning from failure, and leveraging the League experience to benefit the community. These programs, taught by JLA sustaining members, provide specific training on areas that complement the League’s placement training.

The JLA has also partnered with Leadership Austin to provide the Emerging Leaders program. This program helps to further develop members’ leadership skills to prepare them to lead within the community. JLA President Cathy McHorse stated that the goal of the Emerging Leaders program is to “take what we learn here and put it into the community.” Because of this, the program was designed to not be League-specific, thus allowing the information to be easily transferred to other organizations. These additional training opportunities help members to hone their skills and prepare them for future leadership service.

The JLA is dedicated to providing trained leaders to serve throughout Austin. The training received via placements and additional programs helps members gain the skills necessary to help fill needs within the community.

“The League exposed me to a wide range of community awareness, offered superior training, and supplied a group of lifelong friends who are also committed volunteers.”

- Suzy Balagia

When asked about Ms. Balagia’s nomination, nominating committee chair Dori Flores said the committee was “blown away” by Suzy’s achievements. “It’s hard not to be impressed by the number of volunteer roles Suzy has participated in,” Dori said, “and we thought surely she’d already received the Volunteer Extraordinaire award!”

Ms. Balagia used her time in the JLA to stretch herself -- to her, the League provided a “safety net” which allowed her to work on placements out of her comfort zone. Calling her nomination “humbling,” she explained that the JLA provided her with the opportunities and training to build on her past experiences and continue to grow as a leader and volunteer. Suzy says, “I consider this Volunteer Extraordinaire award to be a tribute to all those who have encouraged me to make voluntarism a way of life.” Suzy Balagia’s lifelong dedication to improving Austin through voluntarism and leadership makes her a true Volunteer Extraordinaire.
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New Balance (Central Austin)
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Footwear
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New Balance (South Austin)
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DEVELOPING THE POTENTIAL OF WOMEN-
CON MI MADRE

BY LAUREN CRAWFORD

The Con Mi MADRE program sends 73% of its high school graduates on to two- or four-year colleges. Founded as the Hispanic Mother-Daughter Program in 1992, Con Mi MADRE began as a Junior League of Austin project. In its first year, the Hispanic Mother-Daughter Program served exclusively sixth-grade girls who showed the potential to succeed in college, and their mothers. Three years later, the program began a partnership with the School of Social Work at the University of Texas and moved its offices into the School of Social Work on the UT campus, where they remain today. Through the partnership, graduate-level social work interns assist with Con Mi MADRE’s family case management and individual and family counseling services. The long-standing and mutually beneficial partnership between Con Mi MADRE and the UT School of Social Work received the 2012 Community Partnership Award from the University of Texas. In 1995, the Hispanic Mother-Daughter program began to expand beyond serving only sixth-grade girls. That year, seventh-graders joined the program, and now young women from sixth grade through high school graduation participate. Over time, the program became so successful that it outgrew its roots as a Junior League of Austin program, and in 2008, Con Mi MADRE launched as an independent non-profit. Sandy Alcalá, Con Mi MADRE Executive Director and former JLA President, shepherded the organization through that process. The Hispanic Mother-Daughter Program was Sandy’s first placement in the JLA, and she remembers that “there were such high expectations of everyone involved in the program - it really set the bar high for me, showing me what the impact of the League in the community could be.” The League remains very involved with Con Mi MADRE, both as a community partner and with a permanent seat on the Con Mi MADRE board.

Con Mi MADRE continues to grow and adapt to how modern participants communicate. Perhaps unsurprisingly for a group that works with middle- and high-school-age students, Con Mi MADRE has a very strong social media presence. Con Mi MADRE’s twitter feed (twitter.com/ConMiMADRE) provides scholarship application due date reminders, links to success stories from past alumnae, inspirational quotes, and more. Con Mi MADRE also has active Facebook and Pinterest pages, which highlight everything from photos of Con Mi MADRE events to recipes and movie recommendations. These posts, though varied, all point to the vision of Con Mi MADRE - young Latina women finding success in high school, college, and beyond.

The goal of Con Mi MADRE is simple, but daunting: help young Latina women, often potential first-generation college attendees, prepare for life after high school, college enrollment, and post-college success. One of the most important components of Con Mi MADRE’s unique program is the involvement of the student’s mother, and by extension, the entire family. Through semi-annual mother-daughter conferences with Con Mi MADRE staff and volunteers, parent programs such as a computer class for mothers, and optional family case management and counseling services, Con Mi MADRE engages entire families in the college dream. College Academy, which takes place between the participants’ junior and senior years, is effectively college application boot camp, with intensive work on college research and application essays and follow-ups throughout the senior year. Con Mi MADRE also coordinates college visits and mentoring and leadership training opportunities. Academic success is not the only focus; financial literacy and healthy living are also part of the program. Through its support of Austin-area Latinas and their mothers, Con Mi MADRE allows college to become a real, tangible goal for girls and their families, and helps them achieve that goal every step of the way.

Con Mi MADRE will not forget its roots – “I don’t ever want us to lose our history and our pride in who built us - The Junior League of Austin.”

- Sandy Alcalá
KIDS GIVING BACK
JLA members and their children participate in the Kids Giving Back event held in the Food in Tummies (FIT) pantry at the Junior League headquarters on January 26, 2013. Kids Giving Back is one of the events hosted by JLA which provides members with the opportunity to expose their children to voluntarism early on.
Participants took a glimpse at a lifetime of challenges and saw how many structural differences exist between the people living in and out of poverty.

On a cool February night, seventy-one Junior League of Austin members came together to look through the eyes of another at the harsh reality of poverty. The JLA hosted a poverty simulation to allow members to better understand the challenges faced by people living in poverty. Austin ECHO, which stands for Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, conducted the simulation along with seven local agencies that serve people in need. The evening began with a video of fellow Texans sharing their personal struggles with poverty. The simulation followed the video, with League members stepping into similar situations of the people whose stories were shared. Participants received a packet that contained their stories and then began to use what little resources they could find to survive. In one night, participants saw their circumstances change and began to face the challenges their new lives presented.

This author became a small child, hungry and sick, as my young parents struggled to keep a roof over my head and heat on to keep me warm. Another League member transformed into a scared mother of two facing eviction because she lost her job and couldn’t pay rent. Another member became a teenager who was excited to get a part-time position that provided additional funds to help her family survive. The group quickly discovered how unforeseen and uncontrollable events such as sickness and weather could often sink one deeper into the darkness of poverty.

In my case I was a young woman with a child, no place to live, and no education. I had to find food for my child, shelter for both of us, and try to find a job. I was shocked by how difficult these tasks were; even with great social services, the sheer logistics of traveling without a car, waiting in lines just to be sent to another agency, and the hopelessness of limited employment opportunities due to lack of education was extremely stressful. There were times during the simulation that I realized I hadn’t fed my family for a whole week, and I was stuck without any hope of moving forward.

- Tiffany Gallagan, Provisional
During the simulation, participants learned how agencies make a difference by helping people get out of poverty. The JLA partners with many Austin non-profits to provide trained volunteers and much-needed funds to help organizations make a bigger impact on the community. In the past 15 years, the JLA has provided almost $750,000 and over 450 volunteers to local organizations who provide food and housing to people in need. This includes current placements like the Sustainable Food Center and Mobile Loaves and Fishes, where members assist the organizations with providing food to those in need. As part of the simulation, participants learned that having access to basic needs like food and housing provided much-needed relief and a foundation to build on to provide a better life for their families. Participants observed and felt the impact that these organizations make on those struggling with poverty.

Participants also saw a glimpse of how the JLA’s Food-in-Tummies (FIT) program helps address hunger issues. FIT provides over 1,500 backpacks full of food each weekend during the school year to every child at Hillcrest Elementary and Baty Elementary, children facing food insecurity in Del Valle ISD. JLA members serve in a variety of roles to support this program, including raising funds through A Christmas Affair, applying for grants, seeking program sponsorships, and implementing the program. Since the program was launched in 2009, 900+ volunteers have served and over $660,000 has been raised to address child hunger issues within our community. As a group, participants shared the fear that parents face when worried about ensuring enough food for their children and felt the joy in providing a meal. Simulation participants saw how the JLA’s programs make a difference in addressing food insecurity.

The simulation shared a small part of what it means to live in poverty. While participants discovered the situations commonplace among those struggling to function from day-to-day, they also saw first-hand how local agencies and the JLA partner together to serve those in need to make a tremendous difference to children and families within the Austin community.

The Junior League of Austin would like to thank the following organizations for their participation in the Poverty Simulation: ECHO, Foundation for the Homeless, Front Steps, Good Will, Lifeworks, Safeplace and Salvation Army.
PAST PRESIDENTS
OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF AUSTIN

Gladys Greenlee Bowman + 1933-1934
Ruth McElveen Bremond + 1934-1935
Mamie Ray Earnest+ 1935-1936
Julian Devereux Weeks+ 1936-1938
Margaret Ann Caldwell Scarbrough+ 1938-1940
Ina Williams Walker+ 1940-1942
Hilda Rudd McElhenney+ 1942-1944
Frances Coopwood Morgan+ 1944-1946
Mary Tucker Muse+ 1946-1947
Julia Matthews Perry Robinson+ 1947-1948
Virginia Nalle Page+ 1948-1949
Elizabeth Schneider Rogers+ 1949-1950
Mary Helen George Ammann + 1950-1951
L. Ellen Steck Ross Carter+ 1951-1952
Eleanor Niggli Tyler + 1952-1953
Frankie Gist Peterson + 1953-1954
Eleanor Stayton Gammon 1954-1955
Mary Ireland Graves Dougherty + 1955-1956
Mary Lee Wilson Crusemann+ 1956-1957
Hallie Groos Slaughter * 1957-1958
Elsa Watt Smith 1958-1959
Sue Kone Drake 1959-1960
Beverly Nash Bell +* 1960-1961
Mary Lucile Wicker O’Brien + 1961-1962
Elinor Willis Pittman + 1962-1963
Marjorie Dodge Granger + 1963-1964
Irene Hopkins Harwood + 1964-1965
Alice Kleberg Reynolds Meyer + 1965-1966
Nancy Price Bowman 1966-1967
Barbara Louise Davis Neff + 1967-1968
Eugenia Betts Miller 1968-1969
Shelby Reed Hearn 1969-1970
Diane Hierholzer Finch Grant* 1970-1971
Marion Marley McCrummen 1971-1972
Alison Gray Kimberlin * 1972-1973
Josephine Kotz Roche 1973-1974
Josephine Drake McRee 1974-1975
Barbara Leonard Smith * 1975-1976
Margie Craig Cowden 1976-1977
Susan Dean Stayton * 1977-1978
Susan Page Driver 1978-1979
Carolyn Kellam Curtis 1979-1980
Marilla Black King 1980-1981
Nancy Chapman Collins 1981-1982
Ann Johnston Dolce 1982-1983
Clare Ritchie Hudspeth 1983-1984
Regan Kimberly Gammon 1984-1985
Mary Gideon Herman * 1985-1986
Libby Snyder Malone 1986-1987
Pamela Pitzer Willeford 1987-1988
Cynthia Hendrick Kozmetsky 1988-1989
Christina Kazen Attal 1989-1990
Elizabeth Walters Atherton ^ 1991-1992
Melissa Owens Jackson 1992-1993
Paula Thompson Rerd 1993-1994
Kristen Jones Holland 1994-1995
Cookie Gregory Ruiz 1995-1996
Hallie Powell Cardwell 1996-1997
Emily Heebner Baker 1997-1998
Nancy Cummins Prideaux 1998-1999
Nancy Schoenvogel Edsel 1999-2000
Maribeth Ramsey ** 2000-2001
Joan Granger Talley 2001-2002
Amy Johnson Durham 2002-2003
Suzy Balagia 2003-2004
Diane Catalani Falkenberg 2004-2005
Laura Wolf 2005-2006
Beth Nance Smith 2006-2007
Kalynn Laney 2007-2008
Melissa Greenwood Morrow 2008-2009
Kathi Livingston Haralson 2009-2010
Sandy Segura Alcalá 2010-2011
Morgen Cesarano Hardin 2011-2012
* Denotes additional service at the regional level
^ Denotes service on the AJLI Board of Directors
+ Deceased

MISSION STATEMENT: The Junior League of Austin 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.

VISION: The Junior League of Austin will strengthen our community through creative solutions to current and future challenges.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER? To find out how, visit: www.jlaustin.org
Since the founding of The Junior League of Austin, archivists have collected artifacts from the life of the organization. This collection, including nearly 80 years of historical documentation such as meeting minutes, issues of Capitalines and League Lines, historical information on the thousands of volunteer opportunities, invitations to A Christmas Affair, and more, fills a room in the League’s headquarters. With The Junior League approaching its 80th Anniversary Celebration and moving to a new headquarters, the question was raised about what to do with all of the information.

“We have a fabulously detailed historical record,” said JLA Archivist Becky Bray. “It truly is a snapshot of the non-profit history of Austin.” In order to best preserve our heritage she contacted the Austin History Center (AHC). The information they were able to provide would allow the League to archive each of the pertinent documents in safe and proper storage. Through the AHC, Becky was connected with the Library Sciences Departments at Texas State University and The University of Texas. Through discussions with Texas State, Becky obtained the support of graduate student Martha Winters. After conversations with Martha and her teachers, it was determined that the history of the League was of historical significance and should be preserved. Martha devoted 10 to 20 hours per week in 2011 and 2012 to The League as part of her graduate program. She reviewed and inventoried each of the documents and designed an archiving program that was consistent with the requirements and needs of the AHC.

Martha worked meticulously through all of the documents and created an Archival Organization. The system Martha devised is like a giant card catalogue system. This structure breaks down and categorizes each of the items by Series – sub series and then a description. (For example: JLA II-A Board of Director Meeting Minutes, January XX 1976). The specified documents are then placed into that folder and stored. The goal is to have one copy of each document. The more fragile documents dating from the 1930’s are copied onto archival paper (for general use) with the original being stored and referenced only as necessary. This organization structure allows for easier document location through a consistent filling system. To date, over 1,200 files have been created, which is only a small fraction of the total files that have been archived.

The project is still underway, and Becky looks forward to having the files organized in such a way that tells story of the life of the League and the tremendous impact its members have had on the community. “Once we have everything organized and inventoried, we will be able to understand the history of The League,” says Becky. “What is clear, is that we have been extremely active in addressing the ‘current’ needs of the City of Austin. Since the League was founded, we have been on the forefront of issues facing the community and have been looked up to as leaders in community involvement. When we see an issue that needs to be addressed, we determine the best course of action and then go address it.”
The Junior League of Austin’s Capital Campaign for the new Community Impact Center has started! Though it is still in the early phases, we wanted to share with you some highlights about the campaign. Gregory Noack, Capital Campaign Coordinator, says, “we are delighted with the momentum garnered in the first few months of the campaign and encouraged by the positive responses our campaign steering committee has received from potential donors.”

The Capital Campaign is designed to help The Junior League of Austin transition to a new location that will better serve Austin and its nonprofits. The Community Impact Center, to be located on Bluffstone Cove in northwest Austin, will serve as a community center.

We envision the Community Impact Center as a place where our members can come together in partnership with the community, united by a resolve to “do something” in response to today’s pressing needs. In true League spirit, this means the time has come for The Junior League of Austin to break new ground and transform the way we serve the greater Austin community.

A central purpose of The Junior League of Austin is to empower dynamic women within the community to effect change, while serving as a training ground for their civic and professional leadership development. While our members’ backgrounds boast diversity - from CEOs to working mothers, from executive directors to full-time volunteers - each woman’s purpose is to make a major impact on the greater Austin community. Beyond the basic tenets of voluntarism, League training provides on-the-job experience in the areas of executive leadership, strategic planning, financial oversight, fundraising and project management.
Carol Keeton Strayhorn, former Austin ISD School Board President, Mayor of Austin and Texas Comptroller, and a sustaining member of the Junior League of Austin.

Former Austin ISD School Board President, Mayor of Austin and Texas Comptroller, Carole Keeton Strayhorn is a prime example of the type of determined leader who emerges from the ranks of The Junior League of Austin. Says Strayhorn, “The League is a collective brain trust – the very best of the power of women – who share a total commitment to positive impact, who teach accountability by example and who speak up and speak out.”

As an active and effective voice for good in the community, the League has pushed for solutions to some of Austin’s most pressing and important issues over the past century. In response to the needs of Austin’s community, the League administers, staffs, and funds five of its own Signature Impact Programs. These highly visible community initiatives include:

- **Coats for Kids**: With the help of program partners Jack Brown Cleaners, KASE 101 and KVUE, the League spearheads this annual initiative that to date has provided over 600,000 warm winter coats to eligible children and teenagers in Central Texas.

- **FIT (Food in Tummies)**: In collaboration with the Del Valle Independent School District, the League manages this innovative, nationally recognized program providing much needed weekend nourishment to over 1,500 Austin children grades Pre-K through 5th grade.

- **ABC (Aid for Better Classroom) Grants**: The League’s educational grant-making program provides supplemental funding - over $191,000 to approximately 400 Central Texas teachers - in recognition and promotion of innovative instruction.

- **The Emergency Fund**: Crisis funding totaling over $250,000 to date, is awarded during emergencies and disasters to non-profit agencies to prevent a disruption in community services.

- **Done-in-a-Day Program**: Valuable volunteer manpower is provided to partnering non-profits in need of short-term staffing for events or special projects.

When we purchased our current headquarters in 1983, membership totaled 975 women who served a population of 373,000 citizens. Nearly three decades later, our membership has more than doubled and Austin’s population has tripled. Our current headquarters has allowed us to serve the community well for the past 30 years, but is now stretched to its limits providing the square footage and functionality necessary to carry out the work of an organization 2,200 women strong. As Austin’s need for critical non-profit support grows, our membership is ready to take on the challenge of serving the community in ways beyond current expectations.

To learn more about how to give to The Junior League of Austin’s Capital Campaign, visit The Junior League’s website at: www.jlaustin.org.

The red dots represent the locations of the many Junior League of Austin projects throughout the City of Austin.
The Junior League of Austin is making an impact. Over the past year, our volunteers have touched the lives of many in our community through Signature Impact Programs such as FIT (Food in Tummies), Coats for Kids, our ABC Grants program, and through meaningful community partnerships at more than 30 area nonprofits. During the 2012-2013 year, The Junior League of Austin continued its tradition of voluntarism by providing over 100,000 hours of care and commitment to adults and children served by these programs and projects, transforming the face of Austin, one person at a time.

Our 2,300+ members, Active, Sustaining and Provisional, engage their JLA leadership training to make a lasting impact on the Austin community. The saying “it takes a village” describes how we are able to continue our positive impact in our community. For example, last year The Junior League of Austin addressed the health, well-being and education of Central Texas children directly by providing:

- more than $160,000 in resources and 30,000 winter through Coats for Kids.
- volunteers and almost $240,000 to fill 1,500 back packs with nutritious food distributed each week of the school year via Food In Tummies.
- over $11,000 in ABC Grants to local school teachers leading innovative teaching projects.

Furthermore, The Junior League of Austin collaborated with over 30 area non-profit organizations, investing more than $350,000 in their missions, and sharing the time and talent of over 450 community and Done-in-a-Day volunteers. These partnerships allowed for significant impacts on alleviating poverty and food insecurity, increasing domestic violence awareness, advancing the arts, and elevating environmental stewardship to new heights, just to name a few examples.

As a collective group of passionate women, we will continue to work tirelessly for a better community in which we live. This year, we celebrate 79 years dedicated to developing the potential of women, improving our community and promoting voluntarism; it is because of this dedication we continue to imagine possibilities, inspire others, and make significant impact on a diverse and rapidly growing community.

Thank you for joining us as we carry this legacy of service forward.
President Cathy McHorse with ABC Grant Award Winners

- ABC Grants $11,700
- Coats For Kids $169,058
- Community Project Grants $341,513
- Done In A Day $13,000
- Food in Tummies (FIT) $239,027

44% $31%
22%
2%
The Junior League of Austin thanks the following donors for their support of our charitable work in the community. League volunteers serve the community through well-known programs such as Coats for Kids, and also in partnership with non-profit agencies, increasing their capacity with out members as a volunteer workforce. With every dollar raised for community programs, The League triples its impact when combined with the commitment of our trained volunteers. For example:

- With $2,000, the League will provide a week of activities for children with diabetes while providing education about managing their illness; our volunteers will be Camp Group Leaders.
- With $500, the League will support a Girl Scout troop, which serves girls and their mothers who are incarcerated; our volunteers will be Troop Assistants.
- With $80, our FIT (Food In Tummies) volunteers will feed a hungry child weekend meals for a school semester.
- With $45, warm winter coats will be purchased for three children; our volunteers will fit those children and their new coats at Coats for Kids.

These are only a few of the ways The Junior League of Austin impacts our community. Thank you again to all our donors!

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FROM PAGE 10: QUICK QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Answer: C. 80th. The goal is to have the files organized so that it tells the story of the JLA. For more information, see page 17.

2. Answer: D. $341,513. The JLA collaborated with over 30 area non-profit organizations while sharing the time and talent over 450+ volunteers. For more information, see page 30.

3. Answer: C. 7. The JLA appreciates the time and efforts of these organizations in helping those living in poverty. For more information, see page 24.

4) Answer: D. 72. Twenty seven community placement partners were selected from the submissions. For more information, see page 15.
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