The Junior League of Austin

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

On the Cover

Michou Tran Shell, DDS | Active, Going Sustainer in 2015, Training and Education Committee, Endodontist (root canal specialist), Mother of two

Berenice Morales Craig | 2013-2014 Provisional member, Mother of two daughters, with a third due April 2014

Selena (Saucedo) Booth | Active member, Provisional Team Leader, Government Relations

Sonia Wilson | Sustainer, 1988 Volunteer Extraordinaire, Former Sustaining President, Austin Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors Executive Committee, Mother of three, grandmother of seven

Cover photo by Debra Doliner of Debra Gulbas Photography, JLA Photography Committee Chair

80th Anniversary artwork by Terrence Moline of TeamMoline
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FROM THE EDITOR

The best part about an anniversary issue is that it celebrates not only the accomplishments of one year of activities, but an accumulation of year after year of making a difference. In one year, The Junior League of Austin makes a phenomenal impact on the Austin community; Multiply that times 80, well, let’s just say it’s a bigger impact than we can cover in one issue, that’s for sure.

Our membership is an incredibly diverse group of women. When we speak of diversity, categories such as age, profession, and race come to mind, but there’s much more to it. Night owls are on their laptops returning e-mails past midnight and just a few hours before early birds squeeze in a morning jog before their volunteer shifts. Some women don’t miss a League event while others quietly fulfill their membership obligations and then turn their attention to other priorities. Part of League membership is working well with others who do things differently than you, knowing that in the end we’re all working toward the same 80-year-old goal of making a difference in the Austin community. And we are making a difference. On page 18, Beth Ivers recounts highlights from our League’s 80-year history, gives a snapshot of where we are, and hints at what’s to come.

I also want to call attention to page 22, where contributing writer and Sustainer Susan Shipp Robison describes how an old Austin establishment, Mobile Loaves and Fishes, is launching a brand new initiative, Community First! Then on page 28, Missy Sharpe highlights one of Austin’s newest resources, the Thinkery.

A great team is what makes a project like Capitalines a fulfilling experience rather than a list of to-do items and deadlines. I’m grateful for the leadership team of Doise Miers, Andrea Jacobs, Kristin Johnson and Missy Sharpe. The entire Capitalines committee is dedicated and fun, which is more than you can ask for. Please also let me call your attention to our impressive group of advertisers – they could spend their marketing dollars anywhere, but they choose to support The Junior League of Austin, and that alone makes them a notch above the rest.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy summer season, and happy 80th birthday to The Junior League of Austin! 80 years in I, for one, can’t wait to see what’s next.

Laura Lee Daigle
Capitalines Editor, 2013-2014
The Junior League of Austin
KLRU-TV, Austin PBS and The Junior League of Austin share a passion for creating an exceptional community. KLRU does this by telling stories that change lives, creating connections to strengthen our community, and sharing what is special about Austin with the rest of the world.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I embarked on this journey, serving as the president of The Junior League of Austin, I could not have predicted how the experience would impact my life. As I reflect on this year, I am grateful for the opportunities and memories that I will always treasure. What a gift—the chance to lead 2,400 inspiring women, to serve the community I love and to be trained on skills that will benefit me for the rest of my life.

I wish I could share each of the countless memories, lessons, and stories I have experienced this year. While there is not enough space or time to recount all of these great experiences, here is my top ten list from the 2013-2014 League year:

1. Witnessing the transformation of our members who challenge themselves to grow into their new placements, emerging as even stronger volunteers and leaders.

2. Helping a family who has waited outside of Palmer Events Center for hours pick out one single coat for each of their children at Coats for Kids.

3. Talking with Active and Provisional members who have supported our Capital Campaign, learning their personal stories of why they love JLA and feeling their passion for participating in this piece of our League’s history.

4. Visiting our community partner agencies with our Community Vice President, allowing me the chance to see the great work our volunteers conduct to help these agencies and hear how our members’ contributions are instrumental to each agency’s success.

5. Watching members who say they are afraid to speak in public or ask for donations do those things beautifully.

6. Beginning the year trying to remember people’s names, and now ending the year with new and true friendships.

7. Observing our members at the site of our future Junior League of Austin Community Impact Center as they envisioned the future for themselves.

8. Seeing a new committee develop that is helping our Sustaining members connect at a level that is meaningful to each of them.

9. Visiting with donors and hearing first-hand why they love and support our league.

10. Receiving the love and encouragement of our members who have come before us. These women stand ready to support us at any time, which is both comforting and humbling.

As the year draws to a close, I cannot express how thankful I am for the incredibly talented women who have trusted me to lead. They have taught me more than I could have hoped to learn. It is hard to comprehend the extraordinary knowledge, experience, talent, and commitment each member provides. I want to thank our membership for sharing these gifts that have allowed The Junior League of Austin to significantly impact the Austin community for the past 80 years and will ensure that this impact continues to grow for decades to come.

Kelly Breeden
President, 2013-2014
The Junior League of Austin

JLA president Kelly Breeden with her husband John and her daughters Madeleine (left), Julia (middle) and Isabella (right)
Photographer: Susan K. Hoemann, Evergreen Studios
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- Post bariatric body contouring
- Revision/reoperative challenges
FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

The Junior League of Austin is at a pivotal time in our history with the growth and expansion not only of the Austin community but of our League membership. We are one of a few growing Leagues in the Association of Junior Leagues International, which I believe is a testament to the foresight and planning of the many League members who have guided our journey to this point. Continuing their same thoughtful and deliberate approach to our mission work will be key to ensuring we remain effective and impactful for years to come.

Over the past 80 years, the League has played a key role in shaping our community’s landscape through the various signature programs we have developed, the agencies we have partnered with and the organizations we have helped to launch. In the coming year, we will continue our community work while we plan for an eventual move to our new headquarters and Community Impact Center. At this unique juncture, our leadership will place emphasis on our strategic planning efforts to ensure our impact is on course to meet our community’s and members’ growing and ever evolving needs.

I am honored to serve as President of The Junior League of Austin for the coming year and excited to see the opportunities that will present themselves to the League. Our organization’s membership has had and will continue to have tremendous impact on Austin and our surrounding communities. Our membership remains dedicated to promoting volunteerism, developing leaders, and improving our community, now and for the next 80 years.

Gregory Noack
President-Elect 2013-2014
The Junior League of Austin
Life as a Provisional
New Members Learn About the League From the Inside Out
BY MISSY SHARPE

The newcomers to The Junior League of Austin may be rookies to Austin’s 80-year tradition, however they are also some of the most informed members in the organization. Provisional members come from every walk of life; whether they are new to Austin, have been living here for 30 years, doctors, stay-at-home moms, or from any number of other diverse backgrounds.

One Provisional, Doran Oatman, is a working mom who just had a baby in October. While she makes time for her psychotherapy practice and her newborn son, she also makes time each week for the League – whether it is a general, Provisional, or council meeting or volunteering. “The council meetings teach us what occurs inside the League, the general meetings give us a chance to see an overview and meet lots of Actives, and the Provisional meetings give us a chance to meet others in our class,” Ms. Oatman said. Like all Provisionals, she is required to attend 10 Provisional sessions, during which she learns about at least one of the 28 community partners the League works with.

New to Austin? Don’t know anyone in the Junior League of Austin? Have no fear – the sponsorship pool is here.

Every prospective JLA member is required to have members sponsor them for membership in order to join the provisional class. However, there is a sponsorship pool of Active and Sustaining members who are willing and waiting to help sponsor new members, helping them to learn about our League and introducing them to other members throughout the year.

One current member who took advantage of the pool was Stacey Mather. A few years ago, Ms. Mather was new to Austin and was looking for an organization to become involved in. “JLA jumped out to me as a way to meet people and volunteer in the community,” Ms. Mather said. The sponsor pool gave Ms. Mather the opportunity to join the League, and was such a positive experience that later she herself became a sponsor and mentor to new members. She enjoys helping other women and forming lasting relationships with people that she wouldn’t have had a chance to know otherwise.

“I wanted to provide Provisionals with answers to their questions and essentially be a resource past that first year,” Ms. Mather said.

“A LITTLE HELP FROM MY (NEW) FRIENDS
The Sponsorship Pool Builds Lasting Relationships
BY MISSY SHARPE

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“I wanted to provide Provisionals with answers to their questions and essentially be a resource past that first year,” Ms. Mather said.

This year, Ms. Mather and a handful other active members took their sponsorships to the next level, adding a bit more structure to their activities. They provided their assigned Provisionals with resources throughout the year, along with monthly get-togethers.

Margaret Hansen was one of the provisional members paired with Ms. Mather. She moved to Austin two years ago and didn’t know any actives to be her sponsor for joining the League. “Stacey has been incredibly helpful to me – not only is she great at checking in, but she makes me feel like someone is really invested in my experience,” Ms. Hansen said. “I think it’s wonderful that there are so many women who want to be a part of the League, but the sheer number can feel overwhelming at times.”

“I hope the Provisionals we had this year felt like they had several people to go to for help or to just be a friendly face at meetings,” Active Kelley Carmon said. “It was good for them to hear each of our experiences in the League as some are more active than others.”

Ms. Mather plans to continue being a resource to the women she sponsors past their provisional year as well. “I really want new members and Actives to be able to nurture the relationships they’ve built during the course of the Provisional’s active life in JLA,” Ms. Mather said. “I feel like we can be ‘sponsors’ for these women for the long-term.”
Making a Difference
Another important part of the Provisional life is fulfilling the Food in Tummies (FIT) shifts. The League’s FIT program provides approximately 1,500 children healthy food options for the weekends during the school year on a weekly basis. Provisionals are asked to fulfill 27 credits in order to become Active members. Because Ms. Oatman’s son came a month earlier than expected in the fall, she wasn’t able to do as many FIT shifts as hoped, so she is making up for lost time in the spring.

“I am trying to get my feet wet in all the different shifts from volunteering in the pantry to delivering bags to educating kids on making healthy food choices,” Ms. Oatman said.

Forming a Bond
While a love and passion for volunteering is the driving incentive to be involved in the League, Provisionals enjoy a chance to socialize with its fellow new members as well.

“I have made some great friends already in the League and I have baby play dates every few weeks with these girls and our kids,” Ms. Oatman said. “We talk about the League and discuss our future placements.”

While new JLA members may have a lot of obligations, the Provisionals are an essential part of growing the League and its important for new members to know the ins and outs of JLA life before their first Active year. Provisionals add to the over 100,000 volunteer hours the League contributes to projects and programs in the Austin community. The hard work that they put in their first year shows their dedication.

“Through their volunteerism and especially working with the Food in Tummies program, the work they do benefits so many children,” said Selena Booth, Provisional Team Lead. “The Provisionals of JLA are a huge part of what the League is as an organization. They also learn throughout the year about the many other programs that JLA offers and find where they feel they will best learn and grow in the following years.”

By becoming a member of The Junior League of Austin, you are joining the more than 2,400 Active, Provisional, and Sustaining members.

Interested in joining The Junior League of Austin?
Applications begin in November for the 2015-2016 year. Please contact admissions@jlaustin.org with questions.
For more information, visit: www.jlaustin.org

Stacey has been incredibly helpful to me – not only is she great at checking in, but she makes me feel like someone is really invested in my experience...

- Margaret Hansen, JLA Provisional member

Pictured from Left to Right: Top Row - Stephanie Williams, Kelley Carmon, Stacey Mather, Tiffany Norman Front Row - Emily Porter, Amanda Prater, Rachel Plymire
It often surprises Austinites to learn that there is a zoo in town. “So many people haven’t heard of the zoo in Austin, but those who have love it, and they go regularly,” says The Junior League of Austin member and zoo volunteer, Tiffany Ducummon.

The Austin Zoo is different than a traditional zoo in that it is a sanctuary for rescued animals. The zoo started out as a goat ranch and became the Good Day Ranch in 1990, catering to animals in need. In the beginning, most of the animals that resided at the ranch were goats, pigs, fallow deer, donkeys, and ponies. There were just a few exotic animals, but that number has grown over the years as more exotic and domestic animals have been rescued. The Austin Zoo works to educate visitors with the message that wild animals are to be admired and protected and they should not be adopted as personal pets.

League volunteers serve as docents, which means they are available to help answer guest questions and educate visitors about the animals at the zoo. As Ms. Ducummon says, “people generally don’t take the time to read all the information cards for each animal; so having someone there to tell the animals’ individual stories really makes a difference and enhances visitors’ overall experience.”

JLA volunteers specialize in the “big cats” which include lions, tigers, jaguars, panthers, leopards, cheetahs and cougars. All of these big cats are either threatened or endangered so they must be taken care of to avoid extinction.

Ms. Ducummon says she enjoys visiting the same animals on a repeat basis because she feels like they come to know and recognize her. “The lion in the picture, Amara, likes to play chase inside her enclosure when I’m walking around and I think Caesar doesn’t like me very much because he always tries to spray me!”

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Emerging Leaders
Developing Leadership Potential for The Junior League and Beyond
BY LISA KENYON

While The Junior League of Austin (JLA) provides a wealth of opportunities for members to develop their potential through volunteer work and community engagement, there are not as many opportunities for all members to take on leadership positions within the League each year. That’s why in 2013, in partnership with Leadership Austin, the Emerging Leaders Program was born. The Emerging Leaders Program concludes its second year this spring with more than 100 JLA members to date utilizing the program to take their leadership skills to the next level.

Leadership Austin, an organization with a strong track record of developing leaders in Austin dating back to 1979, provides leadership training to individuals with a passion for the Austin community. The curriculum offered to JLA members is based on Leadership Austin’s Emerge program, and was further developed in partnership with JLA to offer a program tailored to its membership. The program consists of six workshop sessions and is facilitated by Leadership Austin experts. Participants progress through the six sessions as a cohort of 60 individuals, which helps build a level of comfort and camaraderie among those in the program. The sessions are part lecture, part interactive, and include numerous group activities. Members are encouraged to apply what they learn about their leadership skills, potential, and interests to help them with their JLA placement choices and in managing their placement responsibilities.

“The Emerging Leaders came about … to have a more explicit focus on leadership training for ALL League members, not just those tapped for leadership positions,” Cathy McHorse, 2012-2013 JLA President, said. “Why should JLA re-invent the wheel when there is already an organization offering something like what we wanted?”

The Emerging Leaders Program is also designed to help participants identify their personal leadership style and understand their strengths and challenges. Participants delve into four main concepts over the course of the program: communication styles; group development; conflict styles; and leadership goal setting. Through these concepts they learn such tools as testing themselves through Myers-Briggs, exploring how to handle group development, utilizing the Thomas-Kilmann Conflict Mode Instrument to determine how they respond to situations, and creating a specific action plan to meet their goals.

The program provides a great opportunity for participants to form new relationships with fellow members, continue to develop their potential, support each other’s success, and be leaders in the Austin community.

Technology Chair Hadley Hempel completed the inaugural program last spring and says about the program, “The Emerging Leaders Program was a great experience and taught me a lot about how to be a more effective leader. In addition to gaining useful leadership skills, the program also gave me the opportunity to connect with other JLA leaders.”

While there is much to learn in the Emerging Leaders Program, in the end, participants will develop a deeper appreciation of their innate leadership capabilities.
Oak, the traditional gift used to mark an 80th Anniversary, seemed an appropriate theme as The Junior League of Austin (JLA) considered how to celebrate its own 80th Anniversary this year. The League has grown into a vibrant and strong fixture in the Austin community much as a beloved old oak tree does over the years. Perhaps even more important, however, are the seeds of impact that the League has planted through the years. These seeds were nurtured until they were strong enough to stand on their own and have impacted the community in ways that extend far beyond JLA’s measurable footprint.

Far and Wide
Each year, the League contributes between $750,000 and $1,000,000 in financial grants to the Austin community and its members volunteer more than 100,000 hours of their time in service, pushing for solutions to some of Austin’s most pressing problems. These contributions equate to a total gift to the Austin community of more than $3.2 million dollars on an annual basis.

Most recently, JLA resources have supported a partnership with Mother’s Milk Bank, contributed to the Dell Children’s Medical Center Capital Campaign, provided relief after Hurricane Katrina and launched FIT – Food In Tummies, a model program addressing hunger in school-aged children. In earlier years, the League committed resources to found SafePlace and establish the Ronald McDonald House. The League has also been instrumental in the planning and growth of two vital Austin-area resources for children - the Settlement Home and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Travis County. In the 1930s, JLA provided resources for the salary of the Settlement Home’s Executive Director and social worker - the first social worker in Austin. In the 1980s, JLA provided resources for the Executive Director salary at CASA of Travis County.

A Legacy of Impact
The Junior League of Austin Celebrates 80 Years of Service
BY BETH IVERS

A brief overview of some of the League’s partnerships over the past 80 years
Growing Good People

Seeds of new growth are not limited to formal projects the League undertakes or organizations that are sponsored. In fact, these seeds may be even more prevalent in the lives of the women who are members of the League. Countless women have gained skills through their work in the League and frequently go on to impact the community in their own way. Whether it was Hallie Slaughter approaching Mayor Tom Miller to champion the need for fluoride in Austin’s water, Jeannette Fish who advocated for and created the trail on Shoal Creek, or Mary Herman who helped start the telethon for the Children’s Hospital so many JLA members have left their own unique mark on Austin in ways they might not have had the skills or experience to make happen were it not for the League. As Mary Herman said, “I learned it all in the League! The League gave you a safe place to try things. If you failed, you had a cheering section around you that would help you figure out how to solve the problem.”

Onward and Upward

As the League looks ahead to its next 80 years, it is poised to continue to make an impact. With more than 2,400 in its membership, it is one of the largest and most vibrant Leagues in the world, and it has undertaken a great new challenge to plant its next seed in the community by kicking off the Breaking Ground… Building on a Legacy Campaign to fund the new Community Impact Center. As envisioned, this new 48,000 square foot facility will serve as hub of activity where new programs can be launched, leaders can be trained, the community can come together to collaborate to serve those in need, and the legacy of impact that began 80 years ago will continue to grow.
On April 17th, 2014 the Junior League of Austin hosted a “Planting Seeds of Impact: 80 Years of Community Leadership” celebration. This event recognized the many ways The Junior League of Austin has helped shape Central Texas for eight decades. Guests enjoyed cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and live entertainment at the Driskill Hotel, site of the first A Christmas Affair fundraiser and a setting that truly reflects the best of Austin.
BookSpring: Launching Children Into a World of Reading

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”
- Dr. Seuss, I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!

BY LISA KENYON

Early childhood literacy impacts a child’s self-esteem and the lack of literacy skills can lead to long-term academic and social difficulties. BookSpring is an Austin non-profit organization that envisions a community “where all children have the opportunity to become literate,” thus increasing their chance for success in life. BookSpring formed in 2008 as a merger of two literacy organizations whose service to the community dates back more than 30 years. The Junior League of Austin (JLA) enjoys a strong partnership with BookSpring, providing funds, books, and volunteers in an effort to carry forward the mission of providing essential literacy programs to the Austin community.

According to a 2009 report commissioned by Jumpstart, “The absence of early literary stimulation is the harbinger of sustained educational difficulties. Unfortunately, 37 percent of children arrive at kindergarten without the skills necessary for lifetime learning.” This is a problem that disproportionately affects disadvantaged children who have little access to books or quality reading programs. These difficulties can in turn lead to increased school drop-outs, barriers to obtain and maintain employment, and an increased risk for poverty and crime.

BookSpring is dedicated to giving children access to age-appropriate books and fostering an excitement for reading in children with the aim that they will maintain that enthusiasm throughout their lives. BookSpring focuses on these goals by providing reading programs, structured engagement, and books to children and their families.

JLA members volunteer primarily for the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) program. Their activities may include sorting and cataloging books for distribution or assisting with the execution of a RIF program. The impact on children is immeasurable. Regan Flaherty, JLA BookSpring Project Chair, explains that children come in to a RIF event enthusiastic and engaged in the activities. Upon book selection however, the room often goes silent as the children take to their new discovery. They are often surprised and excited they get to keep their books. As Ms. Flaherty notes, one child was overheard saying, “Wow, now I have two books.”

BookSpring provides a much needed service to the community. Studies show that exposure to reading at as early as age two can provide a critical foundation for a child’s ability to learn and help prepare them for opportunities toward a much brighter future. Through the support of BookSpring, its many volunteers and financial supporters, children in financially depressed communities have an opportunity to build a strong foundation that will help carry them through life.

BookSpring provides 5 signature programs to the greater Austin community:

Reading Is Fundamental (RIF):
A theme-based reading experience, during which volunteers read to and engage children in literacy-related activities. Children choose a book that interests them which they are able to keep. RIF serves over 21,000 children each year.

Reach Out and Read (ROR):
BookSpring works in conjunction with clinics and pediatricians to promote early childhood reading skills by providing books to families. Children are encouraged to read out loud and parents are encouraged to read to their children. More than 18,000 children each year receive a book through ROR.

BookClub:
Parents of pre-K and kindergarten children take a six-week course to develop good literacy habits and model them for their children. Families receive a new book each week and practice reading to their children. Last year 276 parents at 12 schools participated in BookClub and more than 1,000 books were given to children.

ReBook:
Donated children’s books are made available to children who may not otherwise have access to books. Volunteer Book Drives are a major source of providing donated books. Tens of thousands of books have been distributed across Austin.

Read-A-Thon:
A two-week event where students and book lovers raise funds to purchase books and support BookSpring’s programs based on the number of minutes they read.

For more information, please visit BookSpring.org
Taking on a Community
The Mobile Loaves and Fishes Program is no Longer Just Delivering Food; it’s Building a Neighborhood for the Disabled and Homeless

BY SUSAN SHIPP ROBISON, SUSTAINER, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Mobile Loaves and Fishes (MLF) is a community project of The Junior League of Austin. MLF started in 1998 with catering trucks delivering food, clothing, and essentials to the homeless. According to Alan Graham, Mobile Loaves and Fishes President and Founder, “Everything we do is about relationships. The biggest lesson we have learned over the years is that we are not a food ministry. We merely use food as a conduit to connect human to human and heart to heart.” Since its conception, MLF has served more than 3.5 million meals, has 16 trucks in five cities covering four states and serves meals 365 days a year.

In addition to the truck ministry, MLF is developing the Community First! Village, a 27-acre planned community for the disabled and the homeless. Perri Verdino-Gates, Communication Coordinator for MLF said, “Our goal is to bring the homeless off the streets and into a community and a home. We are building a neighborhood not a shelter.” Nine years ago, MLF began this project. They have raised over $4 million dollars and have plans to bring residents home to Community First! Village by the end 2014.

Community First! Village will eventually house 200 people with affordable housing options. Verdino-Gates explained, “the residents will work together to build a community. Most of the residents will live in an RV designed for one person including a kitchen, bed, and bathroom.” Other structures include a micro-house, designed by UT Architecture students, or a durable canvas-sided tent. Structures include a community bath area, a camp-style cooking area, and a community center for worship, study or fellowship. In addition, the village will include a medical facility to support health and wellness.

To help build that sense of community, residents will work in Genesis Gardens. The gardens include 150 fruit trees, chickens, and a 3 acre organic vegetable garden. The harvested food will provide Community First! residents and those served by MLF trucks with fresh eggs, fruits, and vegetables. Verdino-Gates said, “Residents will also help with the canning program. They use produce from the garden to make basil pesto and pickles and can honey from the bee hives.”

MLF has also developed ROADS (Relationships & Opportunities Allowing for Dignity & Security). This program offers a variety of ways for the disabled and the homeless to use their talents to earn income. “The homeless sell their handcrafted items such as bird houses, greeting cards, and furniture made in our workshop,” stated Verdino-Gates, “while others operate mobile vending carts selling ice cream, chips, and water at local events.” ROADS’ purpose is to create ways for the homeless to earn dignified income that allows them to be a part of Community First! Village.

Volunteers have helped pave the way for the upstart of Community First! Village and help is still needed. Volunteers use their time to clear land, help build gardens and chicken coups, and help with general maintenance of the grounds.

MLF has come to understand that the primary cause of chronic homelessness is a profound loss of family that leaves people isolated, lonely, and disconnected. Community First! Village hopes to change that by building a place for them to call home.

For more information, visit www.mlf.org
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In Their Own Words
JLA Project Chairs Share How Their Projects are Making Strides in the Community

CASA

“I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to serve with CASA as a guardian ad litem for children in the foster care system. It is a privilege to stand in solidarity with children who have experienced abuse and neglect and to enter into their lives. Through CASA, I am able to form deeply meaningful relationships with some of the most vulnerable members of our community and to advocate for them in our courts. I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and honor of offering presence and voice to the children I have served through CASA.”

- Sheri Tolliver, CASA Project Chair

Faith in Action - West Austin

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my placement with Faith in Action Caregivers. Their program helps the elderly maintain their independence by taking them to appointments, running errands they may have, and anything else they may need transportation to.

For many people, Faith in Action can be the difference between self-reliance and living in a retirement home. I’ve enjoyed getting to know the people that I drive and consider many of them friends. Many of the participants also enjoy having another person to chat with & keep them company. I’ve often found myself thinking about them outside of a drive, wondering how they’re doing or about something they’ve shared.

This experience has been an incredible one; my drives are the one of the highlights of my week. I am so grateful for the League and their support of this fantastic organization!”

- Brandi Horne, Faith in Action Caregivers - West Austin Project Chair

The Settlement Home

“I love the Settlement Home for Children’s Run Club because it one of the only placements that give you the closeness of an in-league placement and the satisfaction of a community placement! It is the best placement the League has!”

- Shah Dixon, The Settlement Home Project Chair
Meals on Wheels

“The smiles on the clients’ faces when I deliver their groceries remind me why I enjoy helping Meals on Wheels. I know that they truly appreciate us.”

- Chelsea Holden, Meals on Wheels Project Chair

Dress for Success

“The opportunity to affect one woman’s confidence in entering the workforce just by providing clothing, a makeover or a simple word of encouragement is a true privilege. The clothes are just the beginning to all Dress for Success offers, and they are changing women’s lives.”

- Ashley Wilson, Dress for Success Project Chair

Austin Humane Society

“Our members got to help out during an adoption event at Austin Humane Society this March. It was a fun event because our members were helping dogs and cats find a forever home. Members were able to work and educate the community about these four-legged friends. Overall, this placement is rewarding both the member and the animals.”

- Eileen Eiden, Austin Humane Society Project Chair

Volunteer Extraordinaire:

Mary Gideon Herman
2014 Junior League of Austin Volunteer Extraordinaire Award Recipient

Each year, The Junior League of Austin honors one of its own as a Volunteer Extraordinaire. Nominations are offered through the full League membership and determined by the Nominating Committee. This year, we are proud to recognize Mary Gideon Herman.

Ms. Herman began her League career more than 40 years ago and has a very distinguished JLA resume including President and A Christmas Affair Chair. Her service and contributions to the League are immeasurable and have made significant impact to our organization ranging from being instrumental in the renovation of our current property — the Square on Parkcrest — as Headquarters Chair to leading the Nominating Committee during her time as an Active member.

Beyond the League, Ms. Herman’s influence and service-minded approach have benefited the Austin community and dozens of its community and non-profit organizations. Currently she serves on the Board of Directors for the Texas Book Festival, the Ann Richards School Foundation and the Communities in Schools Leadership Advisory Board.

Prior to this, her list of volunteer roles include supporting the Austin Community Foundation, Brackenridge Hospital, UT Intercollegiate Athletics for Woman, Heritage Society of Austin many, many more organizations. Ms. Herman’s expertise in strategic and organizational planning, plus her fundraising and community knowledge, have been invaluable to countless Austin organizations.

Friends and colleagues share that Ms. Herman always gives the League credit for her community involvement, connection to wonderful friends, and gaining the ability to organize and work with others.

As a Sustainer, Ms. Herman continues her support of the JLA most recently by serving on the committees for the League’s new Community Impact Center. Mary is an example of living our mission throughout her full journey as an Active and Sustaining member of The Junior League of Austin.

About the Award:

The Volunteer Extraordinaire is awarded to a Sustaining member who, during her years as both an Active and Sustaining member of The Junior League of Austin, has gone above and beyond the call of duty in her volunteer activities in the community. Since 1985, this award has been presented to members who have utilized their past League training to demonstrate and promote volunteerism into the community beyond their active years with the League.
The Junior League of Austin Past Presidents

Gladys Greenlee Bowman+  1933-34
Ruth McClevey Bremond+  1934-35
Mamie Ray Earnest+  1935-36
Julian Devereux Weeks+  1936-37
Margaret Ann Caldwell Scarbrough+  1938-40
Ina Williams Walker  1940-42
Hilda Rudd McElhenney+  1942-44
Frances Coopwood Morgan+  1944-46
Mary Tucker Muse  1946-47
Julia Matthews Perry Robinson  1947-48
Virginia Nalle Page+  1948-49
Elizabeth Schneider Rogers+  1949-50
Mary Helen George Ammann+  1950-51
L. Ellen Steck Ross Carter+  1951-52
Eleanor Niggli Tyler+  1952-53
Frankie Gist Peterson+  1953-54
Eleanor Stayton Gammon  1954-55
Mary Ireland Graves Dougherty+  1955-56
Mary Lee Wilson Crusemann+  1956-57
Hallie Groos Slaughter*  1957-58
Elora Watt Smith  1958-59
Sue Kone Drake  1959-60
Beverly Nash Bell++  1960-61
Mary Lucile Wicker O'Brien+  1961-62
Elnor Willis Pittman+  1962-63
Marjorie Dodge Granger+  1963-64
Irene Hopkins Harwood+  1964-65
Alice Kleberg Reynolds Meyer+  1965-66
Nancy Price Bowman+  1966-67
Barbara Louise Davis Neff+  1967-68
Eugenia Betts Miller  1968-69
Shelby Reed Hearon  1969-70
Diane Hierholzer Finch Grant*  1970-71
Marian Marley McCrummen  1971-72
Alison Gray Kimberlin*  1972-73
Josephine Klotz Roche  1973-74
Josephine Drake McRee  1974-75
Barbara Leonard Smith*  1975-76
Margie Craig Cowden  1976-77
Susan Dean Stayton*  1977-78
Susan Page Driver  1978-79
Carolyn Kellam Curtis  1979-80
Marilla Black King  1980-81
Nancy Chapman Collins  1981-82
Ann Johnston Dolce  1982-83
Clare Ritchie Hudspeth  1983-84
Regan Kimberlin Gammon  1984-85
Mary Gideon Herman*  1985-86
Libby Snyder Malone  1986-87
Pamela Pitzer Willeford  1987-88
Cynthia Hendrick Kozmetsky  1988-89
Christina Kazen Attal  1989-90
Judith Allen Shelton  1990-91
Elizabeth Walters Atherton **  1991-92
Melissa Owens Jackson  1992-93
Paula Thompson Herd  1993-94
Kristen Jones Holland  1994-95
Cookie Gregory Ruiz  1995-96
Hallie Powell Cardwell  1996-97
Emily Heebner Baker  1997-98
Nancy Cummins Prideaux  1998-99
Nancy Edsel  1999-00
MariBen Ramsey**  2000-01
Joan Talley  2001-02
Joan Talley  2002-03
Amy Johnson Dunham  2002-03
Suzy Balagia  2003-04
Diana Falkenberg  2004-05
Laura Wolf  2005-06
Beth Smith  2006-07
Kelyn Laney  2007-08
Melissa Greenwood Morrow  2008-09
Kathi Haralson  2009-10
Sandy Alcalá  2010-11
Morgan Hardin  2011-12
Cathy McHorse  2012-13

*Denotes services at the regional level
**Denotes service on the ALJ Board of Directors
+Deceased
Done-in-a-Day (DIAD) provides short-term assistance to non-profit agencies by offering volunteers, including the DIAD committee, JLA Provisionals, and Sustaining Members, for community-based events. Volunteers help with events such as picnics, food bank distribution, children’s shoe collection and delivery, and many more.

If your organization would like to partner with The Junior League of Austin’s Done-in-a-Day program, applications may be submitted online at www.jlaustin.org or email diadresearcher1@jlaustin.org for more information.

Thank you
Junior League of Austin for developing Austin’s philanthropic leadership for 80 years!

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– Andrew Carnegie

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The new home of Austin Children's Museum isn't just about a new name and 40,000 square feet of new space. It's a whole new chapter and concept. The Thinkery opened its doors in December, and its mission is to promote "STEAM" learning—science, technology, engineering, art, and math—as well as healthy living.

As a partner with the Thinkery, The Junior League of Austin (JLA) provides 25 volunteers both during the school year and the summer at the new Children's Museum. Through a grant from the League, the Thinkery works with volunteers on three projects: guest evaluation, supporting exhibits and the summer camp program.

“We have been partnering with JLA for years and have always enjoyed the wonderful volunteers that come to us from JLA,” Dana Mahoney, Volunteer Coordinator for the Thinkery, said.

During the school year, there is a team of three volunteers who helps to develop and administer the evaluation for guests. Currently, the evaluation team volunteers are trained on how to best implement the evaluations on the Thinkery floor with the guests. Other League volunteers support the creative exhibits. A typical shift involves moving from room to room at the museum, tidying up exhibits, helping with a special class, or anything else that needs to be done to keep the Thinkery running smoothly.

“The new facility is amazing, and I love how it offers something for everyone,” Jessica Baggetta, Austin Children's Museum volunteer, said. “They’ve had a tremendous response since the Thinkery opened, and I’m glad to be volunteering somewhere like this in our community.”

This summer, another set of volunteers will run the Thinkery’s camps. League volunteers commit to full-day or half-day volunteer shifts. The full-day camp guides co-teach 25 students grades 1 through 5 while the half-day camp guides co-teach 18 students in kindergarten or pre-k with fun activities.

“When volunteers are able to commit to a full-day shift it creates some continuity and security for the kids and the staff,” Ms. Mahoney said. “This also saves training time and allows for a smoother, more enjoyable day for the kids.”

The Thinkery isn’t just for kids. The adult evening series provide innovative exhibits accommodating adults ages 21 and up, where participants can mingle and enjoy cocktails while exploring hands-on activities and live demonstrations.

“With all the additional space, the Thinkery really caters to all age groups,” Megan Haywood, JLA Project Chair for The Children’s Museum, said. “Additionally, everything is dual English-Spanish, which is nice considering our large Spanish-speaking population in Austin.”

If you are looking for a fun family activity, the convenient parking, bright red building, and STEAM concept at the Thinkery provides a place for everyone to go and play.
The FIT-Food In Tummies mission is to educate children, parents and the community in order to promote nutritional health and maximize student potential. Healthy bodies start with healthy food, and below is a favorite kid-friendly FIT recipe:

**FROZEN YOGURT FRUIT POPS**

Prep time: 15 minutes

**INGREDIENTS:**
- ½ cup Greek yogurt
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 2 Bananas cut into large slices
- 12 skewers, 6’ long
- Favorite toppings (pecans, cashews, sprinkles)

**DIRECTIONS:**
1. In a bowl, mix yogurt and honey and place bowl in freezer for 5 minutes to harden
2. Prep toppings in separate bowls
3. Insert skewers into banana slices
4. Dip fruit into yogurt using a spoon to help spread
5. Spread toppings over the yogurt covered fruit
6. Place pops on a cookie sheet and cover with wax paper for 2 hours
7. Remove pops from freezer and EAT!

For more information visit: thinkeryaustin.org
As The Junior League of Austin celebrates 80 years of service in our home community, we reflect on the impact we’ve made in Central Texas during our 2013 – 2014 fiscal year. More than 2,400 members lent their hands and hearts in volunteer opportunities with 28 community partner agencies. Through 100,000+ volunteer hours, we supported programs that improve animal welfare, alleviate hunger and malnutrition, advance the arts and environmental causes, eradicate homelessness, among other worthy missions. The financial commitment of The Junior League of Austin also remained strong in the past year as we contributed close to $750,000 to our community through our signature programs and by supporting our community partners to help them fulfill their missions.

Our Signature Impact Programs continued to focus on the health, well-being and educational needs of children in Central Texas. The Food In Tummies Program distributed more than 46,000 backpacks of food to children at high risk for food insecurity. And through Coats for Kids, at least 32,000 children received a warm winter coat. The ABC Grants Program provided $12,500 in supplemental funding to exceptional teachers in Austin-area school districts to enhance their classroom curriculum.

A Christmas Affair, one of The Junior League of Austin’s most well known events and one of the country’s largest holiday markets, also completed another successful year. A Christmas Affair has become one of Austin’s holiday traditions, and funds raised through this event enable The Junior League of Austin to give back to our home community through monetary grants and signature programs averaging $750,000 annually.

Beyond the impact we make through volunteer time and financial commitments, women of The Junior League of Austin often go on to serve in many community leadership roles as board members, executive directors, development officers and volunteers for other non-profit organizations. The training our members receive through their experience with The Junior League of Austin and our community partners helps prepare them as the next generation of community volunteer leaders. We are proud of this legacy.

The Junior League of Austin values our partnerships and expanding membership within a very diverse and rapidly growing community. We look forward to continuing our service to Central Texas for the next 80 years and beyond.
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THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

$9,500 Done-in-a-Day
$155,301 Coats for Kids
$12,500 ABC Grants
$231,326 FII
$331,388 Community Program Grants

100,000+ volunteer hours
$12,500 in supplemental funding to exceptional teachers in Austin-area school districts
46,000 backpacks of food to children at high risk for food insecurity
$750,000 yearly average in monetary grants and signature programs
32,000 children received a warm winter coat

Save the Date for
A Christmas Affair 2014

November 19th - 23rd
Palmer Events Center

SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDE:
PREVIEW PARTY ON NOVEMBER 19TH
BRUNCH ON NOVEMBER 20TH

MARKET DAYS
NOVEMBER 20TH - 23RD

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Thank you to our Donors

Benefactor Sponsors | $35,000

**Nelson Puett Foundation**
The Nelson Puett Foundation is a proud sponsor of The Junior League of Austin and the [FIT](#) - [Food in Tummies](#) Program.

**Randalls Food Markets**
Randalls is proud to be a long-time supporter of The Junior League of Austin, working together to enrich the lives of those in our community. The Junior League programs and remarkable volunteers are a tribute to the strength of women and the power of community.

**Whole Foods Market**
Whole Foods Market is proud to be working with The Junior League of Austin [FIT](#) - [Food in Tummies](#) program for the 2013-2014 year to help support schools and inspire families to improve children's nutrition and wellness. Through partnerships with innovative organizations, schools, and educators, our Whole Kids Foundation™ works to provide children with access to fresh, nutritious meals with the goal of ending the childhood-obesity epidemic. We believe Whole Foods Market’s partnership with the FIT program is a great opportunity to help fulfill this mission in our hometown.

Title Sponsors | $20,000

**96.7 KISS FM***
KISS FM’s commitment to [Coats for Kids](#) solidifies a combined dedication to serving children in need. It is through local partnerships with dedicated organizations, such as The Junior League of Austin, that we believe we can make a difference in the lives of Central Texans.

**IBC Bank**
2013 marked the fifth year IBC Bank was a proud sponsor of the League’s [A Christmas Affair](#). IBC Bank’s motto is “We Do More” and to us, that is more than just a tagline. Like The Junior League of Austin, IBC works relentlessly to give back to the local community through charity and volunteer efforts. Congratulations to The Junior League of Austin for a successful year.

**Spirit 105.9***
SPIRIT 105.9, The Spirit of Austin, provides encouragement and hope through uplifting music and the message. We are an encouraging, family-friendly radio station aiming to be a beacon of light to the city of Austin. SPIRIT 105.9 is live and local, programmed with the families of Austin and central Texas in mind. As we come alongside you to celebrate the season, check out our Christmas music at SPIRIT 105.9, celebrating the reason for the season and lifting your spirit. www.spirit1059.com

**SXSW Community Fund of Communities Foundation of Texas**

Grand Sponsors | $15,000

**Sterling Affairs Catering & Event Planning***
Sterling Affairs is the caterer of choice for the most stunning and spectacular event centers in Central Texas. With over 15 years in the business, we have performed over 10,000 events in the Austin-Central Texas area. Whether you need a buffet, plated meal, hors d’oeuvres, or stations, Sterling Affairs Catering has a menu that will fit your needs. Sterling Affairs is far more than merely a catering company; we are a full-service company that can also provide you with event planning, rentals, and management.

The Junior League of Austin thanks our donors for their support that enables us to serve Central Texas while training our more than 2,500 members to become future community leaders! Our donors’ dollars combined with our members’ service makes a significant impact throughout Austin. The contributions are appreciated and the ongoing encouragement is treasured!
Lead Sponsors | $10,000

**Austin Monthly Magazine***

*Austin Monthly* is thrilled to lend our support to The Junior League of Austin’s *A Christmas Affair* this year. The Junior League of Austin is not only an amazing organization, fully dedicated to the community, but the event is also a historic holiday celebration that Austinites look forward to attending every year. We’re happy to be part of the fun and look forward to making new memories.

**Bank of America**

As a global company serving clients through operations in more than 40 countries, Bank of America approaches investing through a national strategy under which it works with local leaders to identify and meet the most pressing needs of individual communities. Under this strategy, Bank of America is proud to support the Coats for Kids and *FIT - Food in Tummies* programs of The Junior League of Austin.

**Charles H. Phipps Family Foundation**

The Charles H. Phipps Foundation is one of the original believers and supporters of the *FIT - Food in Tummies* Program, providing The Junior League of Austin with help and insight into hunger within Central Texas. Pairing with many non-profits addressing hunger within our community, the Charles H. Phipps Foundation continues to support the FIT Program year after year, finding ways to feed hungry children, provide families with nutrition education, and help to bring awareness to the issue of hunger within Central Texas.

**St. David’s Episcopal Church**

The Grants Committee for Community Outreach (GCCO) of St. David’s Episcopal Church provides proceeds from the Next-To-New Shop. The Next-To-New Shop is a consignment, resale, and antique store that serves as an outreach ministry of St. David’s. St. David’s Episcopal Church has a long history of helping people in need within the Austin community, and the tradition continued this year with an award to the *Food in Tummies (FIT)* program, where funds will be used to provide weekend nourishment for 32 weeks to 1,500 Pre-K through 5th grade students at two elementary schools in Del Valle ISD.

**Strong Events***

Strong Events has had the privilege of working with The Junior League of Austin on *A Christmas Affair* for over twenty years. Our dedicated staff of event professionals enjoys collaborating with the decorations committee to create an imaginative and beautiful space for *A Christmas Affair* each year.

**Texas Fertility Center**

Thomas Vaughn, M.D., Kaylen Silverberg, M.D., Lisa Hansard, M.D., Natalie Burger, M.D., Summer James, M.D., Anthony Propst, M.D.

The Texas Fertility Center is once again honored to be a sponsor of The Junior League of Austin’s *A Christmas Affair*. We are particularly pleased that our contribution will support Coats for Kids, an important project that distributes winter coats to many of the most needy children in Central Texas.

**Wells Fargo**

Benefiting the communities where we live and work has been at the heart of Wells Fargo’s culture since our company was founded, and that heritage continues today through our continued support of The Junior League of Austin. Programs like those of The Junior League of Austin greatly add to the quality of life in our communities, and this is why we are active supporters of this wonderful organization.

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*Indicates In-Kind Donor

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### How do financial contributions impact our community?

- Provide more than 34,000 Central Texas children with a warm winter coat through Coats for Kids.
- Distribute 1,500 backpacks with healthy weekend snacks every week of the school year through *Food in Tummies*.
- Invest more than $750,000 and 100,000 hours of volunteer service to our 25 local nonprofits who participate in community project partnerships.
Thank you to our Donors

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