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EDITOR'S LETTER

INFLUENCE: GETTING TO THE HEART OF OUR LEAGUE

CHRIS DOLIGALSKI

I am a big fan of alliterations. They tend to give any tagline or saying that extra “umph” to remain a memorable part of your vernacular. In the next four issues of The Sandspur, you will see our theme for the year:

INFLUENCE. INVEST. INVOLVE. INNOVATE.

While a catchy saying, these four words carry a hefty punch. They are verbs, action words – they capture the essence of The Junior League of Tampa with its perpetual movement and action. They also encompass a breadth of meaning. Influence, for example, can refer to so many different things. There’s the influence that we as the League have had and continue to have within our community; there are events and circumstances locally, regionally, and nationally that affect our community and League members; and there’s the influence that we have on each other as we face the many challenges and opportunities within our personal lives. Finally, there is the response elicited by the words themselves. Influence could easily be replaced with impact. But impact does not provoke the same visceral response. Influence is deeply personal; it’s emotional. My intention in choosing such words as our theme for the year is to push us out of our comfort zone and dive in to important, emotional, relevant topics.

As a relative newcomer to the Tampa community, what struck me most about The Junior League of Tampa was the passion with which each member operated. “These women are out to change the world,” I thought to myself. I wanted to be a part of that. Looking back now, the single best way to describe what I witnessed in those new member previews and early Provisional Education sessions was Influence. The women who represented the League to prospective and new members as well as to our community partners and those we served were determined to influence everything around them for the better.

In this issue, we bring you stories of influence from across the spectrum. You’ll read about influence through mentorship, activism, community engagement, and so much more. In doing so, my hope is that you will see the influence of The Junior League of Tampa. From community projects to our personal relationships with one another, influence is truly at the heart of this League.

Chrissy Doligalski
Editor
MEET THE SANDSPUR’S EDITORIAL STAFF

CHRISY DOLIGALSKI, Editor
Chrissy, originally from North Carolina, has been an Active member of JLT since 2014. She works as a pharmacist, taking care of heart transplant recipients and enjoys traveling, reading, and spending time with her husband Michael, baby William, and fur-baby Alena.

LISA BRYAN, Features Editor
Lisa is a first year Active and marketing manager for an international nonprofit. In her free time, she enjoys practicing yoga and running.

MARGARET CASHILL, Copy Editor
Margaret has been an Active member of The Junior League of Tampa since 2011. She works in marketing communications and comes from a publishing background. She and her husband have a 3 year old and newborn daughter.

NATALIE RODRIGUEZ, Photography Editor
Natalie has been an Active member of JLT since 2012 and has been involved with various committees, including serving as chair of the Gasparilla Invasion Party. Her background is in arts and architecture, and she currently works as the national marketing director for Core States Group.

NATALIE CLARK, Photographer
Natalie Clark is a Tampa native and joined The Junior League of Tampa in 2012. She is a mother of 3 boys and has a background in sports medicine and mental health.

Learn more about The Sandspur Contributing Writers throughout the magazine.

OUR MISSION
Founded in 1926, The Junior League of Tampa, Inc., is an organization of 1,900 women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.
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INFLUENCE AND EMPOWERMENT
Join our conversation with Renee Dabbs, JLT Sustainer and political powerhouse, as she discusses influence and empowerment.

A RUNNING HISTORY OF INFLUENCE
Women have broken many barriers throughout history. Read about the women who changed the world of competitive running and influenced history for the better.

90TH ANNIVERSARY PROJECT
Learn about the 90th Anniversary Project and the events that will occur throughout the upcoming year.

THE INFLUENCE OF MENTORSHIP
Developing the potential of women is a critical aspect of the JLT mission. See how a mentor/mentee relationship can influence your life.

ON THE COVER
Throughout our history, The Junior League of Tampa has made an indelible mark on the Tampa community, with support for iconic community organizations such as Mary Lee’s House, Feeding Tampa Bay, Glazer Children’s Museum and Baby Bungalow.

Designed by Sensory 5

IN EVERY ISSUE
Annual Campaign 46 | Behind the Balustrades 9 | Commemorative Gifts 48 | Editor’s Letter 4 | Endowment Fund 50
Letters to the League 10 | Out and About 56 | Sustainer President’s Letter 12 | Who’s Who 54 | Connect With Us 58
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The Influence of Voluntarism

NICOLE HUBBARD

On April 2nd, 2016, we celebrated our 90th anniversary – 90 years of providing hope and opportunity to thousands of youth and disadvantaged families. I am excited to celebrate all year long with our members, community partners, advocates, stakeholders, and friends! Our Sandspur theme for the year, Influence. Invest. Involve. Innovate., is a perfect representation of this milestone anniversary. Our rich history continues to prove that the dedication and selflessness of our founders 90 years ago created a community impact that is alive and thriving today.

When I think of influence, I am reminded of something Steve Jobs once said: “When you grow up, you tend to get told that the world is the way it is and just to live your life inside the world, try not to bash into the walls too much, try to have a nice family life, have fun, save a little money. Seems not too difficult but what a limited life... You can CHANGE it, YOU can INFLUENCE it, and YOU can build the life and community you want to live within.”

I experienced this sentiment first-hand three years ago when I was volunteering at our Girl Power! project with the Joshua House and met a girl named Chavon. Chavon is a beautiful, intelligent teen who has lived her life bouncing between multitudes of foster homes. She didn’t want to participate in the group activity centered on self-esteem that day, but, as I was talking with her one-on-one, she opened up to me. We talked about her dreams of becoming a surgeon, as well as about the shortcomings she had experienced in life. By the end of the session, we had identified the short and long term goals that would help make her dreams come true. As the event was wrapping up, Chavon turned to me and said, “When will I see you again?” I cried on my way home. The fact that I was able to make a difference in a young person’s life in such a short period of time was eye-opening for me. I saw Chavon time and time again over the course of the year and was honored to help celebrate her 15th birthday with a Quinceanera celebration that was organized by JLT partners H.E.A.R.T. (Helping Every Adoptable Child Rise Together) and the Children’s Board Heart Gallery of Tampa Bay. One of the messages she heard loud and clear over the time we spent together was to always remember that no matter what life throws at her, SHE is in control and SHE can INFLUENCE others around her and create the life she wants to live.

Experiences like those with Chavon demonstrate that the benefits of volunteering are reciprocal. Not only are we able to make a positive impact on the community, but the experiences we gain in volunteering INFLUENCE our own lives as well. Every single one of us has the opportunity to create change in this world and in the process be transformed ourselves.

This is especially true for our upcoming year. In the midst of a political fever pitch, the League transcends party lines to meet the needs of our community through voluntarism and mission-driven action. Beyond red and blue, the League will be all green this year in celebration of our emerald 90-year anniversary, with a goal for each Active member to volunteer 90 hours of time – a goal that will be undoubtedly be met by our amazing volunteers.

Nicole Hubbard
President, 2016–2017
May 11, 2016

Dr. Stacy Carlson, President
The Junior League of Tampa
87 Columbia Drive
Tampa, FL 33606

Dear Dr. Carlson:

It is always gratifying to receive compliments and awards for my dedication to public service. However, being selected by the Junior League of Tampa and WEDU PBS for recognition as one of the 2016 Luminary is a unique honor.

This recognition is one I shall treasure all of my days! I am ecstatic the Junior League of Tampa and WEDU PBS chose to highlight my lifetime of advocacy as a catalyst for improving the lives of those in our community, state, country, and world. I am simply at a loss for words which effectively express the honor of having my legacy preserved as a means of inspiring future leaders.

Thank you, again, for the memorable commemoration of my life works and services to the community. I truly admire your collective ongoing efforts to make Tampa a better place to live, work, and enjoy all it has to offer.

Sincerely,

Arthenia L. Joyner
Senate Democratic Leader
State Senator, District 19

Cc: Cathy Kamm
Cc: Elena Dow

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Chairman of the Village

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2016–2017 SUSTAINER OFFICERS

BUILDING COMMUNITIES AND FRIENDSHIPS

DENISE CASSEDY

When I first joined the League, I joined for a fun, social American organization in the midst of London. My understanding of the League and its mission was minimal; little did I know that this organization would impact not only my life but thousands of lives during my time as a member. The influence of the League spreads farther and runs deeper than I could have ever imagined in an original pursuit of social fun.

The women in the League influence one another. We build off each other’s successful projects, encouraging members to continually push for community betterment. There is no competing success, only collective successes that grow; individual minds are seamlessly sewn together for one cause. What really impressed me in my Provisional year was the brilliance of the women alongside me. Amidst demanding careers, they all still carved plenty of time to stay active as valuable assets to the League and its mission.

So many women have formed lifelong friendships from their provisional days, and these friendships have endured long through Sustainer years. It seems that working on meaningful projects builds a camaraderie that transcends any coffee morning. As Sustainers, we all reflect on the projects and committees that held great meaning for us. We fondly remember headline projects that stole pieces of our hearts and left us with a warm glow. And we know that we are truly playing a role in something greater than ourselves. Amidst influencing the community, we find a way to influence each other. And that’s the beauty of The Junior League.

Regards,

Denise Cassedy
Sustainer President, 2016–2017
SUSTAINER
SAVE THE DATES

October 18th
Sustainer Fall Bridge Luncheon

October 25th
Fall Lunch Bunch at O Cocina and Flights

November 11th
Sustainer Fall Meeting & Luncheon at HGM

November 4th
Fall Cocktail Party

November 5th
Food 4 Kids Sustainer Volunteers

December 3rd
Food 4 Kids Sustainer Volunteers

For more information, please contact Ashley Porch or Laura Campbell, Sustainer Chairs 2016-2017, at sustaineradmin@jltampa.org
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From their most memorable League placements to their goals for the year to the people who influence their lives, learn more here about the dynamic leaders on The Junior League of Tampa's 2016–2017 Executive Board.

President Nicole Deloach Hubbard

Born and raised in the Orlando area, 2016-2017 President Nicole Hubbard is a mentor, friend, visionary, tireless volunteer and the epitome of a team player. Nicole credits her fast pitch softball and Hall of Fame coach, Marge Ricker, and her parents with instilling an unrelenting drive, determination, and appreciation for ‘team’. Nicole will enter her year as President well prepared for the varied challenges ahead; she has past leadership experience with each aspect of the League, from Membership to Community and Fund Development. She also has a deep appreciation for the role of mentors in one’s leadership journey, and counts many in the Tampa community including several Active and Sustaining members among her mentors. As such, Nicole plans to focus on membership and training during her year as President, connecting Actives with Sustainers, and helping to build the talent bench critical in sustaining the League’s future. It’s no surprise that Nicole has established many goals for her presidency year. Among them are the Hike to 90 campaign (#90for90) where members will be encouraged to volunteer 90 hours throughout the year in honor of our 90th anniversary, efforts surrounding child sex trafficking and the relaunch of the Abolish Campaign, hosting the Association of Junior Leagues International Winter conference, the inaugural Dragon Boats fundraiser, and honoring our past community partners through the 90th Anniversary Legacy Project. She says all of her past placements, including her year as President-Elect where she helped implement the new governance structure as the 1st President-Elect to lead the inaugural Management Council while also serving on the Executive Board, taught her so much not only about our community and the League but about herself, pushing her to grow outside of her comfort zone. Outside of the League, Nicole is a chief Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist with one of the largest anesthesiology groups on the west coast of Florida, wife to husband Matt and mother to two beautiful children Austin (7) and Ansley (5).

"The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individualized stars in the world, but if they don’t play together, the club won’t be worth a dime.” – Babe Ruth
President-Elect Katie Cappy

2016–2017 President-Elect Katie Cappy is no stranger to new experiences. Within the League, Katie has held positions in almost every area of the League, from membership and finance to community placements. She counts Food 4 Kids, her first chair position, and Placement chair among her favorites. Personally, Katie moved often as the daughter of a Navy pilot throughout childhood before settling in Tampa. Katie knows that these experiences will serve her well in her role for the year as she helps propel projects that will occur in the coming 12 months, as well as her role as the leader of the Management Council. Wife of 12 years to husband Ryan and mother to Kenzie (age 9) and Tyler (age 7), Katie knows that she can tackle the challenges of the upcoming year with her support system of family and friends. When asked about influences in her life, Katie credits the amazing women whom she has learned from throughout her League career. “They have inspired me through their passion, intellect, and determination, and I look forward to taking a piece of what each one has taught me to tackle all that this year will hold.” Katie is excited to carry the torch of those who came before her in continuing the League’s mission and the positive impact on our community.

Community Director Laura Everitt

2016–2017 Community Director Laura Everitt comes into the year with a breadth of experience from her time in The Junior Leagues of Charlottesville, New Orleans, Nashville, and Tampa. A native of Virginia and die-hard UVA fan, Laura works as an urban planner, specifically focused on transit systems. Outside of the League, Laura loves on her two dogs Dauphine and Bourbon (named, of course, for the famous New Orleans streets). She says that while serving as the Community Director feels like a big job, she is honored to have the opportunity to help the League build on its history of 90 years of making an impact in the Tampa community. This coming year, Laura is most excited to work with community leaders outside of the League in order to better understand what our community needs and how we as a League can address those needs. Another high point of the year will be the annual Sustainer Emeritus Tea. “For me, it is our history that sets us apart from other organizations. I love learning about how much we have already accomplished as an organization and hearing about how our Sustainers are using the skills they developed in JLT to better Tampa,” she says.
EXECUTIVE BOARD

Finance Director
Ginny Daniel

Ginny Daniel is a Florida native, University of Florida graduate (Go Gators!) and JLT Active since 2008. Her League career has been diverse as she approaches the placement process with an open mind, which has given her the opportunity to learn something new each year. She counts her two years on the nominating committee as her most formative for the upcoming year as Finance Director, as it gave her a new and important perspective on effective leadership within the League. The 2016–2017 year is exciting for Ginny not only from a League perspective, but also personally, as her fiance Mike and his children Drew (8) and Gabby (6) will be celebrating their wedding in January 2017. Her main goal for the year is to ensure that we continue to be good stewards of our funds and tell our financial story to our members and funders so that they understand what we are all about. She knows that in order to move our mission forward it is important to have strong operations and administration practices in place.

Membership Director
Melissa Knight Nodhturft

Melissa Knight Nodhturft, the 2016–2017 Membership Director and JLT Active since 2009, approaches each placement with a mindset of member engagement from her time as Provisional Education Chair to inaugural Luminaries Chair and Secretary. Melissa is a native Floridian and graduate of the University of Florida Levin College of Law, as well as a past Peace Corp volunteer who served in Honduras for 3 years following her undergraduate work. A resident of Davis Islands, Melissa and her husband Philip love spending time on their dock and traveling whenever they can. Melissa’s primary goal for the upcoming year is to help keep the bigger picture in mind, and stay on course by translating strategic priorities into volunteer work executed by our colleagues on councils, committees, task forces and other assignments. As an empathetic extrovert, Melissa is most excited to get back in to the realm of member engagement, as she works to create connections among rookie and veteran leaders and new and lifelong members, so that all members feel connected to the common thread of the JLT mission.

"To accomplish great things we must not only act but also dream, not only plan but also believe." – Anatole France
**Strategic Planning Director**

Kate Caldarelli

Kate Caldarelli, originally from Boston, MA, has lived all over the world but hopes to call Tampa home for good with husband Brian and sons William (age 4) and Joey (age 2). A transfer to The Junior League of Tampa from The Junior League of London in 2012, Kate’s primary goal for the year is ensure the League continues to focus on the right strategic priorities and continues to effectively measure the results. She is most excited to broaden her understanding of the League and its impact as she shifts from her previous role as the Child Welfare Manager on the Management Council. As this year’s Strategic Planning Director, she hopes to understand the entire impact the JLT makes on our community while having a view into what is on the horizon for the future of the League.

"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."  
- Abraham Lincoln

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**Nominating Director**

Danielle Dennis

2016–2017 Nominating Director Danielle Dennis counts her time as Project Development Education Committee Chair and the transition to Children’s Literacy Chair the following year as among her most important and formative placements. An Active since 2008, Danielle is a native Floridian but lived across the US before returning to Tampa in 2007 for her career at the University of South Florida. The youngest of 7 children, Danielle and husband Michael Beattie enjoy time with their fur-babies, Dempsey, Orion, and Sonoma. Her main goals for the upcoming year include working with the nominating committee to articulate a clear, comprehensive Nominating process for future committees to follow in addition to, of course, presenting the 2017-2018 leadership slate. Raised by a single mother, Danielle credits her mom with influencing her to become a strong, independent, and reflective woman.

"A ship in the harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are for.”  
- John Augustus Shedd
**Nancy Crane**

Born and raised in Asheville, North Carolina, 2016–2017 Sustainer at Large Nancy Crane joined the League there in 1974 then transferred to The Junior League of Tampa in 1976 when she moved here with her husband, Steve. A Sustainer who utilized lessons learned within the League to build a successful career in the nonprofit world, Nancy began as the Executive Director of MORE HEALTH, Inc. in 1992 and currently serves as the Director of Development at Quantum Leap Farm. Nancy looks forward to sharing her nonprofit experience with the bright and talented women who volunteer their time throughout the Tampa community. Her main goal for the year is to mentor, guide, and assist the women of the League. She is also excited to learn more about the strategic plan and vision for the future. When asked about those who have been most influential in preparing her for the year’s challenges, Nancy credits 2015–2016 Sustainer at Large and longtime friend Cindy Coney with getting her ready to serve again.

**Jenny Spencer**

2016–2017 Secretary Jenny Spencer transferred to The Junior League of Tampa in 2008. From the heartwrenching stories that made her placement as Love Bundles chair so fulfilling to the skills she’s learned as the inaugural Fund Development manager, Jenny Spencer brings a lot to the table. Her main goal for the year in serving on both the Executive Board and Management Council is to ensure the continued success of the new JLT governance structure. Originally from upstate New York, Jenny met her husband Peter sailing Tampa Bay in 2004, and family time with children Ava (age 6) and Evan (age 4) is still best spent on the water. It’s no surprise, then, that Jenny is most excited to help make the launch of our newest fundraiser, Dragon Boats, a success this year! When it comes to influential mentors, Jenny counts JLT President Nicole Hubbard among them. She credits Nicole for pushing her out of her comfort zone and in to a rewarding and successful placement as Fund Development manager.

"It is the set of sails, not the direction of the wind, that determines which way we will go."  
- Jim Rohn
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- Happy Everything

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Now in its sophomore year, the Management Council is a critical piece in The Junior League of Tampa's new governance structure. Comprised of nine dedicated volunteers, the Management Council addresses day-to-day leadership matters within the League. Learn more about these dynamic women and the influence they intend to bring to their positions this year.

Advocacy Manager
Cathy Kamm

Cathy Kamm, an Active member of JLT since 2008 and this year’s Advocacy Manager, has a passion for advocacy. From her most memorable placement as a Connected by 25 coordinator to her pro bono legal and guardian ad litem work, Cathy is excited to draw on her experiences to show League members what they can do to make a difference for the community. A mother of two boys, Collier and Merritt, and wife to husband Grayson, Cathy sees the League's advocacy programs as a unique opportunity to make a difference both individually and collectively. One of her favorite quotes is “One person can make a difference, and everyone should try.”

Communications Manager
Meg Bock

This year’s Communications Manager Meg Bock has been an Active member of the League since 2011. A past Holiday Gift Market Chair, Meg knows the importance of teamwork and effective communication. This year she hopes to clearly and effectively portray the League’s mission and vision both to members and to the Tampa community through projects, volunteer opportunities and trainings. Originally from Denver, Meg is recently engaged to her fiancé, Anthony.

Community Child Welfare Manager
Selena Ward

Selena Ward, a 2011 transfer from The Junior League of Atlanta, is the 2016-2017 Community Child Welfare Manager. A mother of three, wife of an Army veteran and self-admitted JLT cookbook lover, Selena has big plans to influence the League this year. She plans to connect each and every JLT member to one of the community projects and help her find her "aha moment" of voluntarism. In addition to encouraging voluntarism at events such as our 90th Anniversary Legacy Project and Family Food Fest, Selena hopes to foster mentorship within the League.

Community Education Manager
Kendra Velilla

Kendra Velilla is excited to bring her past League experiences, specifically as a Placement Mentor, to her role as the 2016-2017 Community Education Manager. An Active member since 2013, Kendra’s goal is to ensure JLT members understand our issue areas and how our projects provide a positive impact in the community. An avid Florida State fan, Kendra can be found in Tallahassee cheering on the Seminoles most fall Saturdays.
Chrissy Doligalski

Chrissy, originally from North Carolina, has been an Active member of JLT since 2014. She works as a pharmacist, taking care of heart transplant recipients and enjoys traveling, reading, and spending with her husband Michael, baby William and fur-baby Aliena.

Fund Development Manager
Leslie Hodz

This year’s Fund Development Manager Leslie Hodz is no stranger to fundraising. A past Fundraising Chair for a committee of the year, Leslie plans to develop the women in our League by providing a greater understanding of nonprofit donations, corporate sponsorship and grant writing. A mother of two and wife to husband Adam, Leslie hopes to connect all Fund Development Committees into one cohesive group. This year Fund Development will also launch the League’s newest fundraiser, Dragon Boats, and as Leslie says, “Paddles Up!”

Membership Manager
Taylor Shine Jones

Active since 2009, Taylor Shine Jones has worn many hats within the League, from community to communications to membership placements. She is excited to bring that breadth of experience to her position this year as Membership Manager. Someone who believes leading by example is crucial, Taylor plans to focus her year on member satisfaction and retention, as well as empowering her membership chairs. A fourth-generation Tampanian, mother to 18-month-old Blakely and wife to husband Wesley, Taylor’s Tampa roots and love of The Junior League run deep.

Operations Manager
Caroline Vostrejs

Returning in 2016-2017 as the Operations Manager, Caroline Vostrejs has her sights set on one major goal this year—conversion of our digital platform from Closerware to Digital Cheetah. Caroline expects the change to greatly benefit the mission of JLT by providing benefits to committees and volunteers alike. These range from document storage and sharing to improving the ease of signing up for volunteer opportunities. A native Floridian, Caroline is married to husband Ryan and has deep JLT ties. Her mother Diane Rottensteiner is a Sustainer and her sister Andrea Webb is the League’s Technology Chair.

Assistant Treasurer
Shannon Tompkins

Shannon Tompkins, 2016-2017 Assistant Treasurer, has many goals for the year, from providing members with a better understanding of League finances to showing everyone that finance is FUN! Wife to husband Ray and Active since 2009, Shannon has held many positions within the League, including community, communications, membership and fund development. She hopes to influence the League this year by encouraging women to make the League better through their involvement, whether it be advancing community projects through volunteer efforts or improving the organization financially through fundraising.

Treasurer
Marie Carson Hebbler

Active since 2012, 2016-2017 Treasurer Marie Carson Hebbler has spent the past two years serving in inaugural roles as Abolish Movement™ Committee Chair followed by Assistant Treasurer on the newly-formed Management Council. Originally from Alabama, where she met her husband of 19 years, David, Marie embraces a culture of servant leadership. With regard to the connection between leadership and influence, Marie says “when you have an opportunity to lead, you have the opportunity to make things better for people.” Marie intends to continue her work from last year streamlining the League’s internal processes so that our volunteers and committees can serve effectively and efficiently.
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<td>Megan Duffey</td>
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<td>Tracie Domino &amp; Hannah Gross</td>
<td>Holiday Gift Market</td>
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<td>Caroline Wright</td>
<td>Kids in the Kitchen Provisional Project</td>
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<td>Heather Walsh</td>
<td>JLT Market Place - Cookbook</td>
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<td>Lyndsey Siara</td>
<td>Love Bundles</td>
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<td>Project Dev. and Eval. Committee</td>
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<td>Allison Torrence</td>
<td>Placement Monitor</td>
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<td>Jennifer Del Valle</td>
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<td>Luminaries</td>
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<td>Public Affairs</td>
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<td>Sustainer President</td>
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<td>Transfers</td>
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STAGE MIGHT
POISE, CONFIDENCE AND A BOLD SENSE OF CAN-DO

AT BERKELEY, THE ART OF SELF EXPRESSION BEGINS EARLY.

BERKELEY PREPARATORY SCHOOL
AN INDEPENDENT EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS IN PRE-K TO GRADE 12
www.berkeleyprep.org

ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSES: Pre-K to Grade 5: Thursday, November 10, 9-11 am | Grades 6 to 12: Sunday, November 6, 2-4 pm
Addiction Hurts

Fear, anger and craving become rooted in brain changes caused by addiction

Recovery Heals

Stress, sadness, anxiety, loneliness . . .
seeking relief can lead to heavy drinking or drug use. The vicious cycle that leads to addiction takes hold.

Addiction “hijacks” the brain. Trying to quit feels like extreme hunger or losing a soul mate. Negative brain changes take hold. Most people who try to quit on their own, relapse.

Effective treatment is based on brain science. BoardPrep Recovery engages the individual and family, creating the time and space necessary to restore the brain function needed for lasting recovery.
Many of history’s most notable and influential women have changed the world through actions that, though deliberate and strong-willed, were often not expected to have such far-reaching impact.

Within the vast world of sports, women have faced substantial obstacles in their individual and collective quests to be recognized as capable competitors.

For all of us watching women compete and medal at the Olympics in Rio this August, it may be difficult to imagine women’s participation in related sports was so recently and so arbitrarily limited.

But historically, many sports remained off-limits to women until barriers were forcefully challenged. The marathon—a 26.2-mile race rooted in Olympic tradition and ancient history—is no exception. It was long believed that women were not physically capable of running such distances.

At a time when women generally were not permitted to compete in marathons in the United States, Roberta “Bobbi” Gibb and Kathrine Switzer challenged preconceived notions of women’s athletic limitations.

In 1966, Gibb became the first woman to run the Boston Marathon, even though she was not recognized as an official entrant or finisher. (At the time, women were not permitted to register or compete.) Gibb would later explain that she sneaked into the race by dressing in her brother’s clothing, hiding in bushes near the starting line and jumping into the crowd of runners as they crossed. She returned to the race in 1967 and 1968, again unregistered.

In 1967, Kathrine Switzer joined Gibb in the race. Switzer became the first female to run the Boston Marathon as a registered competitor. She obtained an official entry and race number by using a gender-neutral version of her name.

When Switzer’s identity became apparent mid-race, a race official attempted to remove her from the course. Switzer’s boyfriend, who was running with her, shoved the official aside so Switzer could continue running. A photographer captured the scuffle and it quickly became worldwide news, sparking an international dialogue about the abilities and rights of female athletes.

In 1972, following Gibb’s and Switzer’s impressive performances, the Boston Marathon included an official women’s division for the first time. In 1996, thirty years after her first race, Gibb received official recognition as the female winner of the 1966, 1967 and 1968 Boston Marathon races.

Diana Chapman Walsh, who later became president of Wellesley College in Wellesley, Mass., witnessed Gibb’s groundbreaking first race in 1966. Walsh described the crowd’s reaction when it learned a woman was running the course: “We let out a roar
that day, sensing that this woman had done more than just break the gender barrier in a famous race.*

In April, exactly fifty years after her 1966 race, Gibb served as the grand marshal of the 2016 Boston Marathon. The female winner of that year’s race, Atsede Baysa of Ethiopia, gave her trophy to Gibb in honor of Gibb’s accomplishments decades before.

Gibb has been inducted into the Road Runners Club of America Distance Running Hall of Fame and the Sports Museum of New England Hall of Fame. She has received numerous other acknowledgements and awards. She has also appeared in and produced multiple sports documentaries and detailed her life journeys in a memoir.

The impact of Switzer’s 1967 performance has been similarly significant. Switzer has received multiple awards for her accomplishments in sports as well as journalism.

Notably, Switzer, who has dedicated much of her life to advancing opportunities for girls and women interested in running, was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame in 2011. The Seneca Falls, N.Y.-based organization honors the achievements of American women.

Gibb and Switzer may not have contemplated the magnitude of their choice to run the Boston Marathon, but as they crossed the finish line of one of the country’s most famous sporting events, they tore through red tape that had held back women before them.

By simply deciding to run in a race for which they were qualified, but which excluded female participants, Gibb and Switzer paved the way for countless young women.

Of course, the accomplishments of influential women throughout history stretch beyond sports and athletic competition. Take the quiz to the right to identify your strengths and learn how other women have channeled their own strengths to influence others!

---

**QUIZ: HOW CAN YOU INFLUENCE THE WORLD AROUND YOU?**

The ability to make a difference comes in all shapes and styles. How can you channel your personal strengths to influence the world around you? Take this quiz to see what kind of influence you may have!

1. How do you believe you can most effectively have an impact in your community?
   a. **Education**
   b. **Philanthropy**
   c. **Competition**

2. What is your primary strength or passion? *(See what kind of influence you could have based on your answer to question one!)*

---

**READING AND WRITING**

If you chose education: The power of reading and writing is widely appreciated, and teaching others to learn and express themselves through literature is a valuable contribution to any community.

If you chose philanthropy: You can make a difference by volunteering with philanthropic organizations that promote literacy. For example, The Junior League of Tampa has multiple committees (such as Children’s Literacy and Family Literacy Nights) and many members involved in community literacy projects.

If you chose competition: Fourteen women have been awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature since 1909, all of whom used their talents to advance the contributions of female writers worldwide.

**SPORTS AND FITNESS**

If you chose education: Michelle Obama implemented her “Let’s Move!” initiative to raise awareness of the childhood obesity epidemic facing the United States, and to give parents and children tools to live healthier, more active lives.

If you chose philanthropy: In 1996, Molly Barker formed Girls on the Run®, a nonprofit that utilizes running to inspire girls to be active, realize their potential and develop their personal strengths.

If you chose competition: Countless female athletes have competed worldwide, both in Olympic events and as professional athletes, and have garnered support for female sports.

**SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES**

If you chose education: Social activists such as Gloria Steinem have championed women’s rights by bringing awareness to issues of social injustice and concern.

If you chose philanthropy: Mother Teresa dedicated her life to civil service and is known for her tireless and inspiring work to improve living conditions in some of the world’s most afflicted regions.

If you chose competition: Jeannette Rankin became the first woman to serve in the U.S. Congress when she was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for Montana in 1916. Rankin was instrumental in the passing of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which granted women the right to vote.

**MATH/SCIENCE**

If you chose education or philanthropy: Reshma Saujani is the founder and CEO of Girls Who Code, an organization devoted to teaching girls computer programming and encouraging their education and pursuit of careers in computer science.

If you chose competition: Sally Ride became the first American woman in space in 1983. She was selected to join NASA in 1978 from a pool of more than 8,000 applicants who had responded to a public advertisement.
Influence & Empowerment:  
A CONVERSATION WITH SUSTAINER RENEE DABBS

by KARLA S. MASTRACCHIO

One of the tenets of The Junior League of Tampa’s mission statement is developing the potential of women, and I, like many JLT members, have been influenced by at least one woman in the League. I know I’ve been made better because of women in JLT who have enabled me not only to succeed, but to try new things and learn from my mistakes. I like to tell people that the League is an impressive group that is oddly unintimidating because most women—even the highly accomplished women—are readily accessible and willing to support each other.

Our League is fortunate to have many members who have been deliberately focused on empowering women. Many League members are also community leaders and use the skills they have garnered within the League to influence their communities and empower others to do the same. I was excited to meet with JLT Sustainer Renee Dabbs to gain her insight on this topic.

Renee is a member who goes above and beyond to work with women and help them realize their own potential. She has been instrumental in developing influential women within the community and giving League members the confidence and opportunity to successfully impact issues that they care about.

To someone who has never interacted with her before, Renee’s accomplishments can be intimidating. Her resume speaks for itself. She is an experienced organizational strategist who has a portfolio of clients ranging from CEOs of companies to political campaigns. As a strategic consultant, she works with corporate, not-for-profit and political organizations to help them determine key metrics and plans on how to deliver breakthrough results. She most recently worked on the 2016 Republican National Convention, where she led strategic consulting and event planning for corporate and political clients. Her firm managed more than 90 events the week of the convention.

Prior to entering campaign politics, Renee built a successful 16-year career with Procter & Gamble, where she managed a $220 million business and a
Karla has been an Active member of JLT since 2011 and has served on the Provisional Education, Cookbook, and Training Committees. She works at US Centcom as a media analyst and at University of Tampa as an English and journalism professor. She is married and has one fur kid – a rescue named Madison.

That’s a pretty hefty list of accomplishments. But what makes Renee great is that she is not only successful, but accessible. To some extent, she is representative of The Junior League as an organization.

Renee and I crossed paths some years ago. Neither she nor I could remember when or where, but she had a reputation for becoming involved with organizations like The Junior League that develop female potential. When we met for coffee at Pane Rustica one weekday morning for this interview, I was delighted by how helpful she was and how much insight she had to offer, but I was not surprised. She is a wonderful reflection of the culture of JLT.

Given her vast professional experience, emotional intelligence and passion for developing influential women, Renee was kind enough to meet with me and offer her thoughts on a wide variety of topics including female influence, community involvement and leadership.

**KM:** What are the things in your career you would most like to highlight?

**RD:** I have a strategic consulting firm as my day job, spent 16 years at Procter & Gamble and ran a media firm in Tampa. My career has been very diverse and I have had the opportunity to try many different roles. I have always focused on skills versus jobs. Skills are very transferable.

**KM:** Describe your leadership style.

**RD:** I’m absolutely an external processor, meaning that I love working on teams and working through issues. I am also a process person. I can think big but I also think about the steps to get there.

**KM:** Can you define engagement? It means so many different things to so many different people.

**RD:** For me, I get a lot of satisfaction from one-on-one engagement—being there and showing up.

**KM:** You took a group of women to the RNC. What sorts of leadership skills do you think they will develop from this experience?

**RD:** I asked them to attend because I wanted to be surrounded by talented women who will do what it takes to get the job done. I think they would tell you they worked hard and had fun. These are women that roll up their sleeves and take charge. Because of their involvement the week went a lot smoother.

**KM:** Can we talk about the importance of political participation for a moment? Why is it important that women participate in the political process?

**RD:** Over 50 percent of the voting population is women and at the end of the day we need to weigh in. We need to engage in areas we are interested in and influence the outcome. When women are involved outcomes are better. Traditionally, we often wait to be invited to participate. My goal is to create an environment where women are proactive and know how awesome they are—and consequently don’t need to wait around to be asked to engage.

**KM:** JLT focuses a lot on developing the potential of women. In what ways has JLT developed you professionally and personally?

**RD:** Personally, I’ve loved being surrounded by amazing women who use their talent in diverse and engaging ways. Any time I interact with these women, I walk away feeling like I’ve grown as a person. It’s easy to get people to follow you when you have a stake in their financial security. It’s much
harder to manage volunteers than employees for that reason. JLT is made up entirely of inspiring and talented women that we follow because we respect their vision and leadership.

**KM:** What is your favorite thing about JLT?

**RD:** The people. The willingness of women in the League to support each other always exceeds my expectations. It’s a safe place for leaders. By safe, I mean that it’s a space where women can test their skills. If it doesn’t work out, they help you help you figure out what went wrong and how you can do better the next time. I call that “turn, pull, shove and catch.”

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**KM:** What is the best thing about being a consultant?

**RD:** The diversity of my clients’ needs. I love putting metrics in place and seeing organizations grow and hit those metrics.

**KM:** What are three traits that describe you?

**RD:** Focused, determined and passionate.

**KM:** What are three traits that describe you?

**RD:** Focused, determined and passionate.

**KM:** What made you decide to become a political person?

**RD:** Friends would say I have always been political but I wouldn’t call myself a political person. I have a skillset that the industry can benefit from and that continues to be valued. I also know the importance of getting in the process and making things happen. I started WeWill Tampa Bay so that women had the opportunity to increase their political acumen regardless of their career.

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**KM:** What advice do you have for others who might want to follow in your footsteps?

**RD:** Try things outside of your comfort zone. Men jump of a cliff and figure it out on the way down. Women need to just jump. Also, learn to take feedback from others as a gift but not to take any one piece of feedback as something that defines you.

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**KM:** What is your least favorite thing about that process?

**RD:** Women can be very hard on each other... I wish we weren't.

**KM:** When working to empower other women, what is your least favorite thing about that process?

**RD:** Women can be very hard on each other... I wish we weren't.

**KM:** Who is your biggest influencer in the League? Why?

**RD:** Mindy Murphy! She is so kind and so gracious. She has no ego and is wicked smart. She is a good friend but gives you straight talk. I respect her.

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**KM:** What skills do you think JLT women need to develop to be successful in politics?

**RD:** Risk taking. We need to break out of our comfort zone more.

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**KM:** Many women in the League are millennials. How is engagement different for them than it is for Gen X-ers and Boomers?

**RD:** Millennials have access to more information than any other generation—they process information differently as a result. We need to understand what they can do vs. focus on how they do it. They do things differently. It’s not bad... it’s just... different.
We can take control of our health. And we can empower each other to act.

Take time out to talk with your doctor about your breast health, and become familiar with your body. Pledge to take your health into your hands.

*Take the Pledge: ItsInOurHands.org*
Nine decades have passed since April 2, 1926, when 22 inspiring and forward-thinking women joined together to address issues facing families in the Tampa community.

From their effort came the Junior Service League, later renamed The Junior League of Tampa. Today the League focuses on improving child welfare and education throughout Tampa.

The 90th Anniversary Project is made up of nine done-in-a-day legacy projects that emphasize an issue area or highlight a community partner from each of the League’s nine decades.

The League’s 90th anniversary kicked off with the Emerald Anniversary Gala, co-chaired by Sarah Walters and Erin Annis, at the Tampa Museum of Art in April. A highlight of the evening occurred when the League surprised Mary Lee Farrior with the 2016 Sustainer of the Year Award in recognition of her 50 years of League support as well her founding of the child advocacy center Mary Lee’s House.

The Anniversary Gala has come and gone, but the celebration continues. As the League enters its 90th year, its members plan service work to honor the central aspects of its mission: promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through effective action of trained volunteers.
Glazer Children’s Museum was founded as The Children’s Museum of Tampa in a small storefront at the old Floriland Mall in 1986. With help from the City of Tampa, the Museum moved to a location next to Lowry Park in 1989. It remained at the site, known as “Safety Village,” for more than a decade.

In the 1990s, the League partnered with the Museum, investing $250,000 towards an expansion and refurbishment plan. The following decade, the city issued the Museum a land lease for a site in downtown Tampa, where the Museum—by then renamed Glazer Children’s Museum—broke ground in March 2009.

To commemorate their shared focus of providing access to the arts and education to children in the Tampa community, the League and the Museum partnered with the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County to hold an event entitled Pinwheels for Prevention. At the April 5th partnership event, which kicked off National Child Abuse Prevention Month, volunteers helped children decorate pinwheels for a Pinwheel Garden.

The pinwheels—considered a national symbol for child abuse prevention—were also displayed outside the League’s headquarters this spring.

Lauren Bentz

Lauren is a fourth year Active with The Junior League of Tampa. She received her bachelor’s and master’s degree from the University of Tampa and currently teaches at St. John’s Episcopal Day School. In her free time she loves reading and running.
Did you know that in 1926 the League set up a circulating library? It was fitting that in its 90th year, the League began a project called Mobile Interactive Literacy Opportunities, or “MILO,” with the goal of meeting children where they are in the community and putting a book in their hands.

Launched in partnership with the Hillsborough County Public Library, WEDU PBS and the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County, MILO is an interactive learning opportunity inside a colorful bus.

MILO provides children in underserved communities with books to help them build home libraries. It also helps them access library cards and educational computer programs such as MyON (a free online database of more than 4,000 digital books).

The League launched MILO at the Third Annual Sulphur Spring’s Family Food Fest on May 7, 2016.

The Family Food Fest aims to prevent the “summer slide” into poor nutrition and lack of reading that may occur when children are out of school. The event encourages healthy lifestyles and literacy-based activities with games, active food demonstrations, a mobile pantry, and fun for the whole family.

The effort continues...

Throughout the 2016-2017 year, the 90th Anniversary Project Committee will continue with six additional projects ranging from child abuse prevention, health and injury prevention, and a tribute to military veterans.
For five years beginning in 2004, JLT partnered with Academy Prep Center of Tampa, a private, coeducational middle school for students who qualify for need-based scholarships.

Over the course of the project, the League developed a curriculum to teach sixth graders social etiquette including thank-you note writing, proper attire for various occasions and dining etiquette.

Through the hard work and dedication of League volunteers and Academy Prep Center staff, the social skills course was deemed self-sustainable and handed off to Academy Prep in 2009.

On June 28th, the 90th Anniversary Project Committee reestablished the connection with Academy Prep when JLT hosted more than 80 eighth graders for a three-hour event as part of Leadership Institute Week (LIW).

During LIW, students have the opportunity to visit local corporations and nonprofits to get exposure to possible career paths. They also learn about the importance of service, leadership and philanthropy.

Three Sustaining members and two Active members participated in a moderated panel discussion of mentorship, which highlighted the importance of following one’s interests and passions into adulthood while supporting the next generation of leaders. The middle schoolers were also taught about the importance of having a personal mission statement to guide their decisions in life, and were able to write their own before the event’s conclusion.

Voluntarism is a cornerstone of The Junior League of Tampa. To honor its 90th year, the League encourages every member to donate 90 volunteer hours, and our 90th Anniversary Project is a wonderful opportunity to obtain that goal. Each of the legacy projects serve to honor the League’s past—the thousands of volunteer hours donated and the impact on the community, as well as the women leaders who have emerged as a result.
In the late 1970s, members of The Junior League of Tampa recognized the prevalence and devastating effects of child abuse within the Tampa community and took action to address the problem.

The League’s efforts at that time led to the formation of the Community Council on Child Abuse and Neglect Inc., today known as Champions for Children. Now approaching its fortieth year, the nonprofit provides research-based education and prevention services to children and families throughout Hillsborough County.

“Our mission is fundamentally the elimination of child abuse and neglect—that hasn’t changed,” said Brian McEwen, executive director. “We build stronger families in order to keep children safe, and we do that through a broad range of services.”

With the recent award of a five-year, $7 million federal grant, Champions for Children is gearing up to offer services to children of a wider range of ages and across a wider geographic region.

As it expands its scope, Champions for Children provides a reminder of the League’s power to effect meaningful change in the community.
“How do we begin to address this?”

Although there was some general awareness of child abuse in the 1970s, the League recognized that the problem needed more exposure.

Some services were available, but people were still learning about the issue, said Champions for Children Director of Development Liz Kennedy, who has been involved with the organization in various capacities—volunteer, donor, staff member—since its inception.

*“The utilization of hotlines, publicity, the raising of awareness and the resources weren’t there,”* Mrs. Kennedy said.

Kennedy took part in a two-day child abuse seminar hosted by the League in November 1976, which attracted local and national experts.

*“They talked about what were at that time the best practices, and how they were addressing the issue in larger, major cities and hospitals,”* Kennedy said. *“They put out a call for various community people to come together.”*

The Junior League of Tampa began its Child Abuse Project, a community placement geared toward reducing the incidence of child abuse and neglect in conjunction with a community task force that had been formed to determine next steps following the seminar.

By the end of the decade, the Child Abuse Council had been established and an executive director, Paul D’Agostino, appointed.

At first, the organization operated from a trailer outside Tampa General Hospital. It received financial support from the League as well as use of its facilities for meetings.

*“I admired how The Junior League handled it,”* Kennedy said. *“They identified the problem, researched it and brought in potential solutions provided by experts. Then they brought the community together and said: ‘We’ve heard what we’ve heard. How do we begin to address this?’”*

A lasting relationship

Champions for Children grew in the subsequent decades. Although it continued to offer treatment services, its focus moved toward child abuse prevention and early intervention with programs becoming more numerous and its impact more widespread.

In the late 1990s, Champions for Children partnered with The Junior League of Tampa to launch Baby Bungalow, a center for classes, playgroups, support groups and other programs available to families regardless of income level or socioeconomic background.

Following an extensive renovation of a circa-1922 house on Azeele Street, Baby Bungalow opened its doors in March 2000. Today, Champions for Children’s administrative offices are located at the site.

Champions for Children reached a major milestone on Oct. 1, 2015, when the Office of Family Assistance, which operates within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, awarded the organization $7 million over five years.

The nonprofit will use the funding to introduce an evidence-based parent education program and set of services called the Positive Parenting Program, or “Triple P.”

McEwen, who was appointed executive director in 2013 following D’Agostino’s retirement, expects to work with families in Manatee, Pasco, Polk and Pinellas counties, in addition to those already served in Hillsborough.

*“We have been trying to evolve our services so anyone is eligible for them,”* McEwen said. *“This is a strategic evolution.”*
Subsequent League initiatives have followed similar paths as the Child Abuse Project. A recent example is the League’s work to combat human trafficking.

Both the child abuse and human trafficking initiatives began with research to assess what was already being done. Both involved forums to discuss issues and needs, as well as to identify community partners.

The League sponsored a forum on human trafficking at Steson University College of Law in February 2013. The following year, the Abolish movement was initiated by The Junior League of Tampa in partnership with the Free Network and created by Ad 2 Tampa Bay as a unified public awareness campaign meant to bring an end to the child sex slavery epidemic in the Tampa Bay area through education, prevention, support services, and legislative advocacy.

“We partnered with the experts to get the word out,” said Lee Lowry, 2013-2014 JLT President, who also served on the board of directors of Champions from Children from January 2015 to June 2016.

“None of that would have happened without the League establishing it the way we did—talking through the issues.”
The Junior League of Tampa lives its mission through service and leadership in our community.

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In addition to serving the community as a successful attorney, Jenay Iurato is also a leader in The Junior League of Tampa where she has served on the Public Affairs committee, including as its Chair. Through her placements in JLT, Jenay has also become a local and national human trafficking activist. In 2014, she received the Luis "Tony" Cabassa Award from the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association for her advocacy and pro bono legal assistance to human trafficking survivors. Through this work, Jenay has become not only an expert in human trafficking, but also a mentor to a young woman, “Amy,” who is a human trafficking survivor. Jenay and Amy were gracious enough to provide some insight into their work as human trafficking activists and talk about their personal friendship and mentor/mentee relationship.

**KSM:** How did you become involved with human trafficking awareness and prevention? What role did JLT play?

**JENAY:** I first learned about human trafficking through my work as a member, then as Chair, of The Junior League of Tampa Public Affairs Committee - at the statewide meetings for The Junior Leagues of Florida State Public Affairs Committee (“SPAC”) and then as Chair for SPAC. SPAC is made up of representatives from the 25 Junior Leagues within the State of Florida and has been the advocacy arm of The Junior Leagues of Florida for nearly 40 years. Through my work in those capacities, I learned that the Tampa Bay area was a hotbed for human trafficking. If you can imagine, so little was known about human trafficking that many felt the issue was outside of the League’s issue areas. Over a period of time, I worked with JLT’s Public Affairs Committee/SPAC to bring representatives from the Department of Justice, FBI, and other organizations to help educate both JLT members as well as other Leagues and give examples of how human trafficking was literally in our backyards. In response, JLT did exactly what I anticipated: it developed ways to embrace, educate, and bring community awareness to the issue.

**KSM:** What do you feel is the biggest misconception about human trafficking?

**AMY:** The truth is, there are still so many misconceptions surrounding human trafficking and the victims of this complex crime that it is difficult to pick just one. Something I always make a point to emphasize when I am training others is: Freedom of movement does not always equal freedom of choice. This really gets to the manipulation and the coercion that is involved in human trafficking, as well as barriers that come along with that such as shame and/or fear on the part of victims. Other misconceptions include the lack of understanding involving drugs as coercion, and the lack of recognition of the connection of adult entertainment clubs to human trafficking resulting in fewer solutions and more exploitations.

**KSM:** Human trafficking is a very sensitive subject with many complexities. How did the League prepare you for engaging such a difficult topic?

**JENAY:** At the time I initially learned about human trafficking, it was an enormous topic with many misconceptions by our own members (including myself) AND many political, social, and difficult subtopics. But, when you have JLT leaders like Stephanie Wiendl who tackle such issues head on – how can you not gain the desire to engage in the challenge of a complex/difficult subject and do a good job? Stephanie deserves credit for my involvement in human trafficking as she had faith in me to take the lead in a newly created placement of Human Trafficking Advocacy Coordinator. Stephanie and her executive team empowered me to develop a collaboration with Stetson to help educate our community and elevate JLT advocacy to a different level. They also empowered me to reach out to judges, prosecutors, service providers, educators, and community leaders to develop a human trafficking program in the manner I envisioned. As a result of Stephanie’s incredible leadership style that empowered me and the skills I gained through JLT, I now more than ever think “big” and seek to empower others, while always searching for creative collaborations in everything that I do.
**KSM:** Jenay, who are your mentors?

**JENAY:** Professor Luz Nagle and Brent Woody, Esq. Professor Nagle teaches at Stetson University College of Law and specializes in international law, international criminal law, and national security law. Prior to teaching, she confronted drug lords as a young judge in Colombia and survived three assassination attempts. She’s a renowned international leader in the fight against human trafficking and recently, she was part of a select group of experts invited by the United Nations Special Reapporteur on trafficking in persons, in Amman, Jordan. Her perseverance against human trafficking will always serve as an inspiration.

Brent Woody, Esq. is the founder of the West Florida Center for Trafficking Advocacy (WFCTA). WFCTA provides trauma-informed restorative pro bono legal services and advocacy for survivors of human trafficking; advocacy on trafficking-related legislation and policy matters; and training and awareness on trafficking issues to the public, academic, business, faith, and professional communities. I serve as co-counsel to WFCTA and Brent to help expunge these survivors’ criminal records. Without Brent as my mentor, I would not have the opportunity to make a direct impact in the lives of so many human trafficking survivors.

**KSM:** The Junior League of Tampa focuses on developing the potential of women. How has JLT empowered you to be an advocate and a mentor?

**JENAY:** Having been a member of JLT since 2004 and through my various placements – some of which were not my first choice – JLT provided fresh opportunities to improve my public speaking, leadership, organization, and mentorship skills. Every experience with JLT empowered me to improve these skills and has resulted in my being a better advocate and mentor. It’s my sincere passion to help others and learn from incredible people like “Amy” that shows through my work. If I can instill that passion in my children, young JLT members, and others, and improve the skills I’ve gained through JLT to enhance my reach to human trafficking survivors, I believe I’ll be closer to achieving a life of significance and fulfilling a purpose that is greater than me. But, none of this would be possible without JLT.

**KSM:** Amy, can you describe your relationship with Jenay and the mentoring experience the two of you have had?

**AMY:** Jenay has been a wonderful support to me for several years and so now I think we’re stuck with one another! She’s been a part of my healing process, and definitely my growth in educational and professional development. Aside from providing compassion and non-judgment in conversation and advice, she’s also been an example to me of a hard-working woman in the legal field. I continue to learn so much from her and she also truly has a heart to help others. In addition, she has always valued not only what I have overcome but also the lessons I have gained from those experiences and the expertise I have to offer.

**KSM:** Amy, what is your biggest accomplishment?

**AMY:** First and foremost, being a good mom to my children is my biggest accomplishment. Following that, I think the most obvious answer would be graduating law school. However, I truly believe more than that or perhaps in tandem with completing my degrees, is the fact that I made the commitment to “do the work” of trauma recovery and take back my own humanity and identity from the traffickers that exploited and victimized me. I was extremely lucky to eventually be connected to trauma-informed trained investigators who first truly helped me, along with my victim advocate and trauma counselors, as well as supportive educational institutions and faculty who recognized the additional stress and pressures I was under while trying to perform well academically.

**KSM:** Jenay, what is your mentorship style?

**JENAY:** While I don’t really see myself as a mentor, I try to think about how my actions in leadership roles impact others. I embrace authenticity, entrepreneurship, innovation, and try to create opportunities to help others learn that being involved in our community means so much more than any money that is earned in life. Having left a national law firm six years ago when my son was born and started my own law practice, I now realize that the success of my law practice, my involvement in various professional/community organizations, and how my children get involved in our community – those are all the true examples of my leadership style. They are clear examples of how I seek to grow and make my voice heard to be an inspiration to others.

Karla has been an Active member of JLT since 2011 and has served on the provisional education, cookbook, and training committees. She works at US Centcom as a media analyst and at University of Tampa as an English and journalism professor. She is married and has one fur kid – a rescue named Madison.
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To learn more about the Annual Campaign or to make a gift, visit http://www.jltampa.org/annual-campaign
For questions, contact fundraising@jltampa.org
A Commemorative Gift is a way to recognize a significant event in a Junior League member’s life — joining in their celebration or thinking of them in a time of sorrow.

Any occasion may be commemorated; below are a few ideas:

• Celebrate birthdays, engagements, marriages, anniversaries, births, new jobs or promotions
• Honor someone’s service to JLT
• Offer condolences to a member who has lost a loved one

To make a commemorative gift, simply fill out an envelope and place your donation inside (cash or check only) or scan the QR code to be taken directly to our online donation site (credit or debit card). All commemorative gifts support The Junior League of Tampa’s endowment.

To learn more or to make a gift, visit http://www.jltampa.org/commemorative-gifts
For questions, contact endowment@jltampa.org

Jessica Kendall Hornof,
on her promotion to Executive VP, Retail Banking, at First Citrus Bank
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  • Jenny Spencer
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  • Meghan McGuire
  • Melissa Knight Nodhturft

Stef McQueen,
on being named HDR’s employee of the month in August
  • Casey Carefoot
  • Laura Everitt

Amanda Seifert,
on her new job as Human Resources Generalist at PCL Construction
  • Melissa Knight Nodhturft

Cathy Kamm,
for being named as a 2015 Tampa Bay Business Journal Up & Comer
  • Caroline Vostrejs
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Hayley Reteneller,
on passing the Florida Building Construction Final Exam
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Jordan Donnelly,
on her promotion to Engagement Director at New York Life
  • Nicole Hubbard

Latoya Christopher,
on becoming a Certified Brain Injury Specialist
  • Ashley Tardiff

Lauren Reid,
on her new job at AgileThought
  • Caroline Vostrejs

Maggie McCleland,
for being selected as part of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce Leadership Tampa 2017
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Marie Hebbler,
for being selected as a Business Woman of the Year finalist in the Financial Services category by the Tampa Bay Business Journal
  • Chloe Cullinan
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on her Promotion to Project Manager II
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Nicole Gitney
on her new job promotion as Director of nursing informatics for BayCare Healthcare System
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Aleks Jagiella,
on the recent adoption of their two daughters
  • Jenny Spencer
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  • Nicole Hubbard

CONGRATULATIONS TO

This includes a cumulative listing of commemorative gifts received June 7, 2016 through September 13, 2016.
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Kara Keller, on her marriage to Asher Bernstein
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- Katie Cappy
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- Katie Cappy
- Katina Markowski
- Laura Everitt

Beverly Foster's Father
- Provisional Education Committee

Sustainer Denise Cassidy’s Father
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www.jltampa.org | 49
The Junior League of Tampa Endowment Fund
Leaving a Legacy...Sustaining Our Service

The Endowment Fund was established in 2006 in partnership with The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay. The Fund provides a legacy of permanent support for The Junior League of Tampa.

Members of the Endowment Committee oversee charitable and planned gifts to The Junior League of Tampa’s Endowment Fund. Each member of the Endowment Committee is appointed during the "Willingness to Lead" process and has a strong interest in ensuring that our League remains financially stable and viable in the future.

"For 90 years, The Junior League of Tampa has created a wonderful legacy of voluntarism, leadership and community service. It was a privilege to serve as the 2015-2016 Endowment Chair and be a part of a special endowment campaign in honor of our 90th anniversary. I couldn’t think of a better opportunity to give to our endowment fund and invest in the long-term success of The League. I’m proud to know that my gift will help sustain an organization that has empowered me - and so many other women. As the 2016-2017 Finance Director, my hope is that we continue to build on the success of the endowment campaign and reach our “hike to half a million” goal." — Ginny Daniel

The Junior League of Tampa considers it an honor to be designated as a beneficiary of an estate or foundation. We highly regard this type of planned giving and recognize donors through membership in The Junior League of Tampa 1926 Society.

The 1926 Society enables you to leave your legacy in our community by supporting the future of our League and its members.

90th Anniversary Endowment Donors

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Thank you to our inaugural member of the 1926 Society, Martha Sale Ferman

Donor List as of August 10, 2016. Donations less than $250 are recognized through the Commemorative Fund.
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Shopping for a cause has never been better, and the 13th Annual Holiday Gift Market is sure to please! Featuring more than 150 merchants, HGM is The Junior League of Tampa’s largest fundraising event. The League commits 100 percent of the net proceeds to fund its mission of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

We are proud to announce that Publix is, once again, Presenting Sponsor of HGM!

To view the schedule of events & purchase tickets visit:

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PREVIEW PARTY:  NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
November 10: 7PM–10PM

Shopping is our favorite kind of party! Don’t miss out on the HGM Preview Party, a JLT tradition that includes live entertainment, food samplings from local restaurants, a raffle, cash bar and an exclusive sneak peek at this year’s hottest new gift ideas! Scheduled Thursday, November 10 from 7 to 10 p.m., tickets are just $35 for general admission. VIP tickets are available for $65 and will include a VIP reception in the market beginning at 6:30 p.m., along with a VIP gift, three drink tickets and complimentary VIP parking.

VIP RECEPTION
SPONSORED BY THE HARD ROCK CAFE
5PM–7PM

Along with a VIP gift, three drink tickets, and complimentary shuttle from the Hard Rock Cafe to the fairgrounds as well as complimentary parking.
2016 FEATURES

CANDLE POURING PARTY WITH TIPSY CANDLE COMPANY
Join us Saturday, Nov. 12, for a fun afternoon learning the craftsmanship behind Tipsy Candles. Guests will select their choice of fragrance to take home that day. Tickets are $45.

CONCIERGE SERVICES

GIFT WRAP: For the first time ever, the League is happy to offer gift wrapping for your new purchases. For a nominal fee, you can leave the market ready for holiday season gift giving.

BAG CHECK: Don’t worry, we’ll free up your hands for more shopping. Warning: you might need a bigger car to get all those wonderful gifts home and under your tree.

MAN CAVE: Because HGM is a family affair, we’ve taken away all the excuses. Men can relax on oversized sofas and lounge chairs with giant flat screens and sports. Did we mention the Florida State Fairgrounds serves beer too?

MOTHER’S NOOK: The League understands the importance of a quiet and relaxing place to attend to baby’s needs and has created just that with the HGM Mother’s Nook.

HONORING THE TAMPA MILITARY COMMUNITY
Since the Friday of HGM falls on Veterans Day, we are offering veterans’ shopping hours and prizes on Friday afternoon with military ID.

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM
The League is proud to continue the Young Entrepreneurship Program in 2016. Supporting a young woman and her small business, this year’s winner is Janee Scarle. Janee owns Old City Calligraphy which specializes in hand lettered designs. Be sure to stop by Jenee’s booth at the Holiday Gift Market and check out her designs at www.oldcitycalligraphy.com

COOKIES WITH THE CLAUSES!
Having cookies with our favorite Christmas couple, the Clauses, has been so popular that this year that Mr. and Mrs. Claus are having cookies twice! Now there are two dates and times to ensure all the kids will be able to tell Santa their Christmas wishes over crafts and cookies. Kids can also get a printed photo with Santa without the hassle of the line at the mall. Presenting sponsor Publix will provide the cookies. Remember to purchase your Cookies with the Clauses tickets quickly as this event sold out last year! Tickets are $20 per child.

ONLINE TICKET SALES
This year it’s easier than ever to get your HGM tickets. You can now buy tickets for everything from admission to Cookies with the Clauses to the Preview Party online at www.jltampa.org/hgm.
WHO'S WHO IN THE LEAGUE

Sophie Steinberg
NEW ACTIVE

Sophie is one of the newest rock stars to join the Junior League of Tampa. She wanted to become part of the organization because she was looking to create lifelong friendships with like-minded women and to give back to the Tampa community. Community service has been a big part of her life since childhood, and is something she wants to instill in her two boys, Cole and Sawyer. For Sophie, the best way to do that is by allowing them to see their mom continually give time to community-based projects.

Since her graduation from Florida State University in 2006, Sophie has lived in New York City, Jerusalem and Nashville, Tenn. Knowing that Tampa would be her family’s long-term home pushed her to make the commitment to join the Junior League of Tampa. Sophie loves how easy it is to volunteer with the League. Her favorite volunteer opportunities have been adoption events such as the Kids Connect event and the Adoptive Family Reunion Picnic.

From being project coordinator for Kids in the Kitchen to Market Place Cookbook Coordinator in her first active year, Sophie has had the opportunity to strengthen her leadership skills in the League. Her experience has pushed her in a new direction professionally. She has decided to move from teaching Exceptional Student Education (ESE) with Hillsborough County to teaching first grade at St. John’s Episcopal Day School in Tampa. She has the League to thank for the push!

Miriam Noble
ACTIVE

Active with the League since 2014, Miriam and her husband followed their careers from Jacksonville to Tampa four years ago and settled in the South Tampa area. They love how close they are to so much that the Tampa area has to offer. Whether she’s hitting her early morning Pure Barre classes or taking their daughter Beatrice, who will be one this month, to Hyde Park Village, Miriam loves that everything is right within reach.

Originally from Ohio, Miriam is a diehard Ohio State Buckeyes fan. She attended The Ohio State University for her undergraduate degree and received her master’s in business administration from the University of North Florida.

After eight years with Cisco Systems, Miriam recently accepted an offer from Amazon Web Services (AWS) as the company’s first enterprise account manager in Florida. It is an exciting opportunity to help define the role AWS will play with one of the largest organizations in Florida.

Miriam has always been passionate about women’s equality in the workplace. She now mentors and supports the next generation of female talent within her organization.

Miriam joined the League to branch out and also to give back. A take-charge kind of person, she made a conscious decision to play a more supportive role in the League. She has enjoyed being part of newer committees such as The Luminaries and The Mobile Interactive Literacy Opportunity Bus. “It’s thrilling to play a role in creating a legacy for these programs,” she said.
Meet a few of our fabulous members who not only share their passion for volunteering their time and talent with the League, but also find time to have exciting family and professional lives and interesting life experiences.

**Joanne Sullivan**

**SUSTAINER**

Joanne is an extremely accomplished Sustainer who has been with the League for 35 years. She was invited to become a Provisional in 1981, after friends recognized her leadership capabilities and encouraged her to consider joining. She loves the community commitment and the chance to be involved in important projects within Tampa.

Over her years in the League, Joanne has had many favorite placements—the Nominating Committee (which she chaired), the Gala Committee of 1982, and her first placement, the Training Committee. She is still close with members of her provisional class, some of them friends from her alma mater Florida State University.

Joanne has many passions in life, among them children, advocacy for those who are disabled, and education. Currently she is director of community relations for the University of South Florida Health.

In addition to her involvement with the League, Joanne is a national board member of Easter Seals, as well as a volunteer for more than 35 years. She was also a Tampa Bay Business Journal 2012 BusinessWoman of the Year finalist and, in 2015, recipient of the Suncoast Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals’ J. Lloyd Horton Lifetime Achievement Award.

Joanne shared that the training the League offers has given her confidence and competence both in her personal and professional life.

**Brittney Ann Cardillo**

**TRANSFER**

Brittney Ann was born and raised in South Tampa and attended college in Virginia. She lived in Washington D.C. from 2008 to 2016, where she joined The Junior League of Washington (JLW). As an Active member of JLW, she served on the Recruitment Committee and on a committee that helped a local women's shelter prepare meals on Sunday evenings.

While in D.C., Brittney Ann worked in the U.S. Senate and then as an event director for a political party. She also runs Hosting & Toasting, a lifestyle, fashion and travel blog with a national following. A year ago, she left the political world to work in community relations and marketing for jewelry designer Kendra Scott in the D.C. market.

Brittney Ann recently relocated back to Tampa to be closer to her family and friends and to work on brand awareness and local partnerships, at which point she transferred her League membership to The Junior League of Tampa.

Outside of running her successful blog (also a full-time job), Brittney loves to work out, travel to new places, decorate her new condo, spend time with her family and yes, still follow the political world. Brittney Ann enjoys getting to know Tampa again after 11 years away and looks forward to becoming more involved in The Junior League of Tampa as a new transfer member.

Lauren is a fourth year Active with The Junior League of Tampa. She received her bachelors and master’s degree from the University of Tampa and currently teaches at St. John’s Episcopal Day School. In her free time she loves reading and running.
As part of its commitment to community involvement and leadership, The Junior League of Tampa honors outstanding individuals through an annual program called The Luminaries. By acknowledging these individuals’ leadership, empowerment, advocacy and distinction within various areas of service, the program reinforces the League’s commitment to the community. Established in 2015, The Luminaries aims to improve the community by preserving and inspiring a legacy of luminaries who are catalysts for lasting community impact.

The 2016 Luminaries—Celia Ferman, director of Ferman Motor Car Co. Inc.; Florida Sen. Arthenia Joyner (D-Tampa); and Lincoln Tamayo, head of school for Academy Prep Center of Tampa—were honored at the awards luncheon on Friday, May 6, 2016, at the Downtown Hilton.

The League, in partnership with WEDU PBS, shared the honorees’ inspiring stories via prime time broadcast. In addition, the Tampa Bay History Center has stored their digital biographies in a permanent collection.

The League invites all members of the community to nominate individuals who have created a tangible, lasting impact in Tampa Bay.

For more information about The Luminaries 2017 program, including the nomination process and upcoming deadlines, please visit www.jltampa.org/luminaries or contact Teneille Williams and Alexandra Palermo at luminaries@jltampa.org.

“Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing”
— Albert Schweitzer
Look at every issue this year of *The Sandspur* and see highlights from The Junior League of Tampa’s social media channels. Members are encouraged to be part of the conversation by using the hashtags given by our friends on the PR and Marketing Committee.

Read about our great community projects, interesting membership, fabulous donors, and issues affecting the Tampa Bay Community.

[jltampa.org/sandspur](http://jltampa.org/sandspur)

Keep a finger on the pulse of what’s going on in the League.

[jltampa.org](http://jltampa.org)

Find information highlighting the work we are doing with our community partners.

[jltampa.org/community](http://jltampa.org/community)

Enjoy some "Face" time.

facebook.com/TheJuniorLeagueofTampa

Follow us on Twitter

[@JLTampa](http://twitter.com/JLTampa)  
[@JLTpresident](http://twitter.com/JLTpresident)

Support our great community projects

[jltampa.org/support](http://jltampa.org/support)

Find Cookbooks & other League merchandise

[jltampa.org/jlt-culinary-collection-cookbooks](http://jltampa.org/jlt-culinary-collection-cookbooks)

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**The Junior League of Tampa**

Share a memorable experience with JLT where you felt you influenced the Tampa community.  

#jltampa #sandspur

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**Shannon Tompkins**  
Volunteering with the HEART committee for National Adoption Day. Seeing forever families created truly touched my heart... we were able to provide a fun atmosphere on this important day and provide their first family photos. HEART also played a role in providing some of these children with birthday parties so being able to watch them be adopted was an experience I will treasure forever!

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**Brandi Rice Maniscalo**  
Volunteering with the Ready to Achieve committee for the annual shopping event. Each JLT member was paired up with a teen in the foster system. We acted as personal stylists as they got to shop for interview-appropriate attire. I’ll never forget the appreciation showed to be by the young man with whom I was paired. He’d never owned a tie, let alone a suit - and the excitement on his face at simply picking out dress socks was absolutely priceless.

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**Sarah Craparo**  
I have so many, but if I had to narrow it down I would have to choose a special moment I had while volunteering at the gym opening for Metropolitan Ministries. I was the Project Coordinator for Kids in the Kitchen at that location, and found a true admiration for all the work they did. I could not wait to volunteer and learn more about their organization, but never guessed we would get so much positive feedback on the work we did through KITK at the same time. I recognized a good number of the children but had never met their parents. A mother of two adorable girls that came to our event every week spoke to me a bit about her situation. She said they were having an extremely hard time, and going through many changes, but she knew every Wednesday her girls would greet her with a smile after having time to play and just be kids. It’s not often what we do comes full circle, and we get feedback on how we directly effect the children we work with. Her appreciation for being able to brighten up her children’s days, and giving them something to look forward to really touched me.
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Loralee Koontz, PA-C { JLT Active }
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