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THE DISTANCE WE'LL GO

MARGARET CASHILL

What does “potential” mean to you?

I've been reflecting on the term and how it relates to the members of The Junior League of Tampa. It's part of the League's mission statement, “developing the potential of women.” It's also the theme of the fall issue.

Some of the stories I find most inspiring describe how people overcame obstacles to achieve their goals, whether they aspired to become a better person or to improve the world around them. I think many people who join JLT are of a mindset to do both. Fortunately for us, the League offers abundant opportunities to develop our potential.

As a result of our League experiences, we have exposure to community issues. We hone our skills. We gain confidence. We enjoy friendships and shared experiences. We have endless opportunities to give back. The members of JLT, through their involvement in the organization, set and achieve goals.

For examples, look no further than the pages within. You will read about committee leaders trying out new ideas. You will hear from a President who believes in the League's ability to develop future success. You will get to know a President-Elect who followed a path of new opportunities across the country. You will meet the Provisional class preparing to carry on the tradition into the future.

JLT provides us with opportunities for voluntarism, leadership development and friendship, and supports us as we strive to reach our potential. It also opens our eyes to new possibilities, both for ourselves and for the community we serve. We at *The Sandspur* look forward to sharing those stories.

On a final note, I would like to say farewell to my *Sandspur* Co-editor Chrissy Doligalski, who has relocated to North Carolina. Thank you Chrissy for your leadership and guidance over the last year. We will miss you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret". The script is elegant and cursive.

Margaret Cashill
Editor

THE SANDSPUR

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MEET THE SANDSPUR'S EDITORIAL STAFF



MARGARET CASHILL, *Editor*

An Active member of JLT since 2011, Margaret works in marketing communications. She lives in South Tampa with her husband and two daughters. In her free time, Margaret enjoys reading, listening to audiobooks and working out.



CHRISSY DOLIGALSKI, *Editor*

Chrissy is a fourth-year Active and past *Sandspur* Editor. Originally from North Carolina, Chrissy enjoys spending time with her husband Mike and son Will. They recently relocated from Tampa to their home state.



KENDRA MCCAN, *Assistant Editor*

Kendra has been an Active member of JLT since 2015 and previously served as a contributing writer for *The Sandspur*. She has worked as a civil litigation attorney in Tampa since 2013 and lives with her fiancé Chance. She enjoys running, attending concerts and spending time with her family.



NANCY "JOANIE" OBEN, *Features Editor*

Joanie is a first-year Active. She is a yearbook and newspaper adviser at a South Tampa high school. In her free time, she volunteers as an international officer for her sorority, Alpha Delta Pi, and loves watching Miami Hurricanes football. Go 'Canes!



SUZY MESMER, *Copy Editor*

Suzy is a first-year Active who works in PR and marketing. A two-time graduate of the University of Nebraska's journalism school, she spent most of her career in sports and news broadcasting. She and her husband Aaron are the proud parents of their baby boy Jackson.



MARISSA HYMAN, *Photographer*

An Active member of JLT since 2011, Marissa is a wedding and portrait photographer and mother of two. She and her husband are both South Tampa natives and enjoy raising their girls among their grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins, all nearby, and enjoy toting them on far-flung travels around the world.



NICHOLE VILD, *Photographer*

Nichole has been a member of JLT since 2013. She was with the Emerald Coast and Northern Virginia chapters before transferring to Tampa in 2015. She is a U.S. Army logistics officer. Her spare time is spent traveling, running and chasing her nieces and nephews around with a camera.



LAURYN CRAPARO, *Advertising Coordinator*

A second-year Active, Lauryn works as an events and communications coordinator for a national law firm. She enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter as well as cheering on the Florida Gators.

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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Potential is Endless



KATIE CAPPY

For many, the start of a new year rings on January 1. People look to the year ahead with renewed hope for seizing opportunities and setting a new course.

For me, fall has always been the start of the new year. As a child, fall greets you with back-to-school supplies, friends missed, challenges ahead. Depending on where you live, the seasons may begin to change and there is a crispness in the air. School is back in session, and our lives regain their routine and consistency. I have been able to parlay this feeling of newness first as an educator, and now as a parent.

To me, the arrival of fall represents the start of the new year and a time to celebrate and anticipate all the potential that exists.

Potential is defined as having or showing the capacity to become or develop into something in the future. Each year, the 1,900 volunteers who comprise The Junior League of Tampa reflect on what can be in the year ahead.

As an organization, JLT is fortunate to experience the chance for reflection and renewal each year. We spend each summer onboarding our newest leadership team, welcoming our newest members and preparing for a year of community impact and member development. There is no better way to sum up this time of year than endless potential.

This issue will introduce you to our 2017-2018 leadership team, our newest Provisional class, an innovative new approach to a longstanding project, and a collaboration that formed from our 90th Anniversary Legacy Projects.

With each example, you will see that the year ahead is full of endless potential. I speak on behalf of all of our members when I tell you how excited we are to open a new year!

Warmly,

Katie

Katie Cappy
President, 2017-2018



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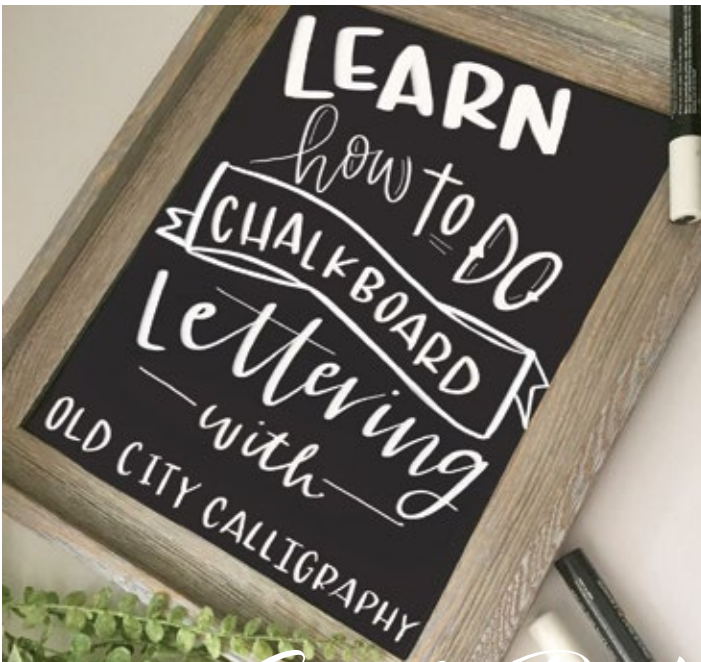
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Past Young Entrepreneurship Program (YEP) winner Janeé Scarle, owner and designer of Old City Calligraphy, plans a chalkboard workshop just in time for the holidays.

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We hope we will see you there!

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gscfla.org

July 5, 2017

Junior League of Tampa, Inc.
87 Columbia Drive
Tampa, FL 33606

Dear Junior League of Tampa,

On behalf of the nearly 20,000 girls we serve, thank you for the \$1,000 Done in a Day grant to support our annual STEM event, STEMopalooza. We truly appreciate the Junior League volunteers who facilitated activity stations as Girl Scouts explored the world of STEM. Hundreds of STEM loving girls and their families joined us for a celebration of the Maker Movement at this year's STEMopalooza! They got to take on challenges, collaborate and innovate with others, test their skills, and enhance their imagination through the joy of creation and learning.

Thank you again for your continued support of our mission!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Wilson
Stephanie Wilson
Chief Development Officer

Thank you for supporting our girls.



Academy Prep Center of Tampa

June 20, 2017

The Junior League of Tampa, Inc.
Lindsay Dorrance
Enabling Fund Chair
87 Columbia Drive
Tampa, FL 33606

Dear Lindsay,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the faculty, and the students of Academy Prep Center of Tampa, we want to express our deep appreciation and gratitude of the Junior League of Tampa Enabling Grant supporting our Graduate Support Services Program.

The support and influence you offer allows us to provide a better education and future to some of the most deserving young students in Tampa.

Please retain the attached receipt for your records. Again, we truly appreciate your support and thoughtfulness. Thank you for your contribution.

Sincerely,

Maggie J. McClelland
Maggie J. McClelland
Director of Development

Lindsay - The enabling fund was a key piece of funding support for our 8th graders this year. Because of the funding allowing us to give our students the best of the best, our graduation rate is outstanding and high schools are full! Thank you!

Academy Prep Foundation, Inc. provided no goods or services in return for this contribution. 100% of your contribution was received by Academy Prep Foundation, Inc.

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Feeding Tampa Bay
1407 E. Columbus Dr.
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Dear Ms. Rodgers and Caring Friends,

Thank you for your donation of \$5,654 to Feeding Tampa Bay. Your contribution allows us to provide 1,130 backpacks to our hungry neighbors in the Tampa Bay area as we move into summer. Summer means different things to different people. For some it means vacation, for some it means longer days and outdoor barbecues, and for some it means higher energy bills and less food.

As you know, summers in Tampa Bay can be brutal with temperatures reaching the high 90s. While some welcome the heat, others - like our older Americans - struggle to venture out in these high temperatures. The Florida heat can keep our seniors indoors, making it more difficult for them to travel far to gather food. Most of the seniors we serve live alone and do not have family members living close by to rely on for basic necessities. In Tampa Bay, 76% of senior households are food insecure.

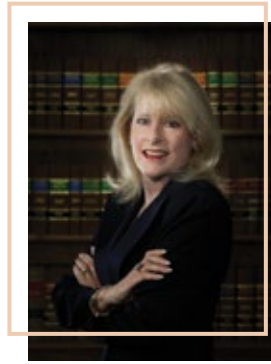
While the seniors we serve may find summer challenging due to heat, the children we serve find summer challenging because the meals they normally have are absent. Of the 250,000 food insecure children in our area, 94% receive free or reduced school lunches. These children rely on the breakfast and lunch they receive at school each week. When the school year ends, so does their consistent food supply.

Because of your support, we can help those who face difficulties this summer. By providing backpacks, we provide health and nutrition. We provide a solution. Thank you for helping us create a stronger, healthier community.

Thomas Mantz
Thomas Mantz
Executive Director

Because no one should go hungry.
4702 Transport Drive, Suite 100
Tampa, FL 33606

THE MAGIC OF NETWORKING



2017-2018

SUSTAINER OFFICERS & CHAIRS

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BETH SCHATZBERG: Sustainer Chair

ANDREA WEBB: Sustainer Chair

BETSY CHAMBERS

With the ebb and flow of our economy, many nonprofits are at risk. The trend surfacing in these struggling organizations is the creation of an evolving category of membership known as Sustainers. So ladies, we are trendy... cutting edge.

Deeply rooted in the success of The Junior League of Tampa is the role of Sustainers. We are its backbone, its heart, its soul. Our Actives make it thrive with their energy, passion and purpose. Together we are a reckoning force. On a mission to maximize our potential, we need each other.

The value of being a Sustainer is priceless. The rewards are monumental. These statements come from my heart. As a little girl, my mother, Betty Wood, instilled in me a sense of pride for the League. She emphasized how important being a good member was to the organization. I must give to receive. Through the years I began to see the League as my mother does. This spring my bold statements regarding the worth of the League and being a Sustainer were truly validated.

On April 19, 2017, I was looking forward to attending the Sustainer Spring Luncheon. The event was special to me for several reasons. I would be attending with my mother, it was her birthday, and with the turning over of the gavel, I would be the Sustainer President. I was so excited about sharing this new role with my mom. But, that's not what happened.

That morning, my husband called my mother to wish her a happy birthday. Since he is a medical doctor, she shared with him that on the previous evening she had chest pains. Soon thereafter, I was charging over to my mother's home to take

her to the emergency room, despite her resistance. She certainly did not want to spend her birthday in the ER. After all, she had the luncheon to attend and dinner at Bern's planned for the evening. As expected, Betty was dressed to the nines from head to toe with just the right jewelry to match her outfit. Yep, that's my mom!

In the ER, she was true to form, flirting with all the cute doctors. I tried to convince myself that her bubbly personality that morning meant she was physically fine. I was wrong. My mom had had a heart attack. Over the next 48 hours, she was transported to Tampa General Hospital, taken into the operating room for a heart catheterization, had two stents placed in her arteries and was back at home. I am overjoyed to say that on my mom's birthday, they gave her life. This happened so quickly as a result of the magic of networking. I was immediately on the phone with very amazing Sustainers of the League. They made it happen. That's priceless.

Betty and I look forward to seeing you this year at the many League events. I encourage you to spend time with my mom. She will make you laugh, smile and love being a Sustainer.

Sincerely,

Betsy Chambers

Betsy Chambers

BUSY YEAR AWAITS THE SUSTAINERS

by KENDRA MCCAN

The Junior League of Tampa is excited for another great year of collaboration with our growing membership of Sustainers who continue to contribute to the League and carry on invaluable friendships.

OCTOBER 17

Fall Bridge Event

OCTOBER 24

Lunch Bunch

NOVEMBER 10

Fall HGM Luncheon

DECEMBER 6

Fall Cocktail Party

For more information on upcoming Sustainer events, please contact Sustainer President Betsy Chambers at schambe2@tampabay.rr.com.

Kendra has been an Active member of JLT since 2015 and previously served as a contributing writer for *The Sandspur*. She has worked as a civil litigation attorney in Tampa since 2013 and lives with her fiancé Chance. She enjoys running, attending concerts and spending time with her family.

KENDRA MCCAN



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JLT's Newest Committee: *Volunteers at Large*

by KENDRA MCCAN

As The Junior League of Tampa continues its efforts to maximize community impact and realize its full service potential, this year's Executive Board is excited to introduce the League's newest committee: Volunteers at Large.

The Volunteers at Large Committee "will be going out into the community to promote JLT and advocate for our core issues alongside other like-minded community partners," Committee Chair Jenny Schroeder explained.

Specifically, this committee will work closely with other nonprofit organizations in the area to provide volunteers and other support for events and projects in line with JLT's mission and core issues focus.

For its inaugural year, the committee intends to collaborate on five to 10 major community partnership events through the spring.

Internally, the Volunteers at Large Committee will also provide volunteers and support to various JLT community outreach projects such as Food for Kids, Love Bundles and Family Literacy. Additionally, through events such as this fall's Community Partnership Lunch (a coordinated effort with the JLT Public Relations and Marketing Committee), the Volunteers at Large Committee seeks to facilitate and encourage large-scale community collaboration between individuals and organizations with similar service and impact goals.

The concept behind the Community Partnership Lunch is to bring together members of the community (including those who already partner with JLT) to highlight and discuss JLT's community outreach projects, legislative priorities and successes from the past year's legislative session.

Through its collaborative efforts, the Volunteers at Large Committee aims to strengthen and facilitate community impact with both internal and external contributions to various service projects and organizations in the area.



KENDRA MCCAN

Kendra has been an Active member of JLT since 2015 and previously served as a contributing writer for *The Sandspur*. She has worked as a civil litigation attorney in Tampa since 2013 and lives with her fiancé Chance. She enjoys running, attending concerts and spending time with her family.



2017-2018

Meet the members of the 2017-2018 Executive Board. They come from the local area, across the country and abroad. They are united in their dedication to The Junior League of Tampa and their belief in its potential to change lives for the better.



Executive Board

by ALEX PALERMO

KATIE CAPPY

The daughter of a Navy pilot, Katie Cappy has lived all over the United States. When she moved to Tampa, she had no idea it would be the place she would call her permanent home. Then Katie met her husband Ryan, who was born and raised in Tampa, and she has been here ever since. The Cappys have two children.

Katie joined the League in 2003. On the subject of what the League means to her, she said, "I have always enjoyed the ability of the League to meet women where they are in life. Both personally and professionally, my life has changed drastically since 2003, and there has always been a League placement perfect for my ability to engage. I have also learned that this is truly an organization where the more you give of your time and talent, the more you receive in impact, awareness and development of yourself and the community which we all call home."

This year as President, Katie is honored to represent the League in the community. She looks forward to expanding community outreach to ensure the League is positioned to help break the cycle of poverty for disadvantaged children and families.

When asked who has influenced her life, Katie credited her parents for always encouraging her to pursue her dream. She also explained that at this point in her life, she is inspired and motivated to show her children that learning is a lifelong journey, and that there is tremendous value in finding one's passion and following it.

In preparation for her role as President, Katie acknowledges her family, friends and the women of the League. "In this role, it truly takes a village and I am tremendously grateful for the support," she said.

Katie recently presented the membership of the League her favorite quote, which comes from an unknown source. It was, "Purpose is the reason you journey. Passion is the fire that lights your way."

With regards to the quote, Katie said, "I don't think truer words could be spoken about the League and its members. All have a passion or purpose when they seek out membership, and it is amazing to watch those passions and purposes grow, evolve and strengthen through the work we have the opportunity to do within the community."

PHOTOGRAPHER: Brittany Elise Photography, www.brittanyelise.com



ISABEL DEWEY

Born in Spain to Cuban parents, Isabel Dewey grew up in Satellite Beach. She is an industry learning and knowledge leader with IBM. Isabel has been married to John for 16 years, and the couple has three sons, Evan (12), Daniel (10) and Gabriel (7).

Isabel joined The Junior League of Las Vegas in 2001. Speaking to her goals as President-Elect this coming year, she said, "I would like to focus on membership initiatives that will continue to drive and grow member participation at all levels. Additionally, I want to ensure that all of our members feel comfortable on Digital Cheetah and can easily engage with their committees and membership at large."

When asked when she feels most connected to the League, Isabel said, "When I see women that I work with feeling empowered. It is immensely gratifying and I'm thankful for the opportunity to work with so many phenomenal women."

The most influential people in Isabel's life are her parents, who fled Cuba without speaking English and completely started over with their seven children. "Whenever I feel like something is a bit overwhelming, reminding myself of their ability to be successful in overwhelming circumstances definitely puts things in perspective," Isabel said.



JENNY SPENCER

Originally from Massena, N.Y., Jenny Spencer moved to Indiana when she was 16. She played softball at Indiana University, and after graduating, came to the Tampa area for physical therapy clinicals and settled here. Having grown up where it snows most of the year, Jenny knew she wanted to be a part of a vibrant and active area. She met her husband Peter sailing at Davis Island Yacht Club, their home away from home. The couple has a daughter, Ava (7), and a son, Evan (5).

Jenny is a Realtor with Palermo Real Estate Professionals and director of medical services for Innovative Medical Services. In both roles, she is able to help fulfill her love of helping others.

As Community Director, Jenny's goals include working with community leaders to address the needs of the community, working with the Strategic Planning Committee, continuing to educate the community about JLT and its projects and working in collaboration with League leadership to be sure it is the best representative it can be in the community. Jenny said she feels most connected to JLT when she watches friends and peers she has mentored become leaders.

ALEX PALERMO

Originally from Niceville, Florida, Alex is an attorney at Burr & Forman, LLP practicing business litigation, employment law and insurance defense. She and husband Anthony have a daughter named Rory. In her free time, Alex loves spending time with them as well as boating, running, working out, reading and binge watching episodes of *Friends*.



CAROLINE VOSTREJS

Caroline Vostrejs was born in Stuttgart, Germany, and moved to the United States when she was five years old. She was raised in Ocala and attended the University of Florida. Caroline is director of business development for The Beck Group in Tampa.

This is the first year on the Executive Board for Caroline, this year's Finance Director. She joined the League in 2007. One of her most memorable placements was serving as HGM Co-chair in 2012. "I learned a great deal that year about myself, the League and about running a large-scale event. It was so much work, but so very rewarding," she said. "The best part was working with the HGM team and then sharing our success together. Each placement I've had thus far has taught me something new or introduced me to a new person. That's my favorite part about the League."

Caroline is married to Ryan, and they have two dogs, Goose and Hawk. Caroline is the oldest of three. Her sister, Andrea, is also a JLT Active member, and her mother Diane is a Sustainer. Caroline credits her mother for teaching her the importance of giving back. She said of the League, "It is rare to find a place where it's safe to make mistakes; JLT affords us this opportunity."



PHOTO BY: Abbey Saxton Photography



TAYLOR JONES

A fourth-generation Tampa resident, Taylor Jones has deep roots in the community. Her entire family lives in Tampa, and she loves that her children will grow up surrounded by relatives. She and her husband Wesley have a daughter Blakely (2.5) and another daughter due in October.

Taylor, this year's Membership Director, joined the League in 2009. She has enjoyed learning from past placements and credits her past Membership and Community Project placements as the foundation of her League career. These placements taught her how JLT affects the community and members. Taylor recounted, "I have been able to take away such memorable experiences volunteering and also engaging with members that have helped me to become the leader I am today."

When asked who influences her, Taylor cited the many women she has met throughout her time in the League. "I have been fortunate to have gained mentors who have helped guide me and push me to my fullest potential. I am always learning from those around me and feel leadership is all about learning." Her favorite quote: "The most powerful leadership tool you have is your own personal example."



GINNY GARCIA

A native of Orlando, Ginny Garcia is a proud graduate of the University of Florida. Her mother and grandmother were both members of the The Junior League of Greater Orlando. Ginny is a registered client service associate and practice manager for a team of Ameriprise financial advisors. She is married to Mike and she has two stepchildren, Drew (9) and Gabby (7).

This year's Leadership Director, Ginny joined the League in 2007. Through her many placements, she has had the opportunity to learn a great deal about JLT—from membership to community and most recently, finance. She has participated in conversations and planning around the League's new governance structure, and most recently on the expanded role of Nominating. When describing her time on the Nominating Committee, Ginny said, "It was inspiring to hear from the talented women in our organization. It also helped me gain a new perspective on effective leadership for JLT."

Ginny credits her husband for supporting her and the mission of JLT. She said, "I love that I've been able to share my passion volunteering with my family. Drew packed backpacks with the Love Bundles Committee last year and is ready to do more."

KATE CALDARELLI

Kate Caldarelli's family came from Boston originally, and she lived in eight different states growing up. She met her husband Brian at work in Atlanta when they were both employed in finance. The couple moved to London for four years before making Tampa home. They have two sons, William (5) and Joey (3). The family recently settled on Davis Islands and love living in Tampa.

Kate joined The Junior League of London in 2010 and transferred to Tampa in 2012. She has enjoyed all her roles in the League, but her favorite has been Strategic Planning Director. She loved it so much that she has continued in the same role for a second year.

"You really get an understanding of all the time, effort and dedication the entire League gives to our community," Kate said. "In this role, I was able to move our strategic plan forward and help teams develop processes that will help sustain and grow the League going forward. That's exciting to see."

This year marks the last year of the League's current strategic plan. Under Kate's leadership, the Strategic Planning Committee will develop the priorities and objectives for the next three to four years.



LESLIE HODZ

Originally from Atlanta, Leslie Hodz attended high school in Palm Harbor and college at the University of Florida. She is married to Adam and the couple has two children, Payton (3) and Blake (1), as well as an English Bulldog named Walker.

Leslie joined JLT to fulfill her lifelong love of volunteering. Her most memorable placement to date was Fundraising Chair, which prepared her for her role as Fund Development Manager. This year, she is Secretary.

"You get out of JLT what you put in," she said. "I feel most connected when I'm working with a smaller group to accomplish a goal or put on an event, like working with our Dragon Boat event team this past year on our inaugural event."

Although many members of the group did not know one another when they began, they spent countless hours working hard and learning along the way. The event was a major success that raised money to support the League's mission, created awareness for the League and, according to Leslie, built strong, meaningful relationships. That's what JLT means to her: impacting the community and our own lives at the same time.

Leslie's favorite quote comes from the comedian Steve Martin: "Be so good they can't ignore you."



GWYNNE YOUNG

Gwynne Young was born in Durham, N.C. Her family moved to Tampa in 1955 for her father's residency at Tampa General Hospital. Tampa has been home ever since. Gwynne joined the League in 1976 and served as President from 1985 to 1986. She served on the AJLI Area Council from 1986 to 1987, and she also served on the AJLI Board from 1987 to 1989. Gwynne's first placement was the Child Abuse Task Force that created the Child Abuse Council, which went on to become Champions for Children. Being a part of that group during its formative years was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for her.

In her position as Sustainer at Large, Gwynne sees an opportunity to be involved in the League and provide support, guidance and advice to the Executive Board. Gwynne said she feels most connected to JLT when she has the opportunity to attend and participate in events like The Luminaries and see the good work the League continues to do.

"The Junior League gave me the opportunity to be involved in a wide variety of community service and to create lifelong friendships," she said. "That is what it means to me: opportunity, involvement, friendship."





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2017-2018

by ALEX PALERMO

Management Council

Members of the Management Council share creativity, passion and a proven dedication to The Junior League of Tampa. Each member, in describing her vision for the year ahead, revealed her belief in the potential of her role and of JLT. The Management Council, now in its third year, oversees management and operations and handles day-to-day decisions of the League.

ANDREA SAHAWNEH

Originally from Budapest, Hungary, Andrea Sahawneh has lived in the United States since graduate school. Andrea joined the League in 2013. She has cherished her time working with the PR and Marketing Committee and credits the experience for much of her institutional knowledge of the League. She also spent several years with Communications, which helped her gain an in-depth understanding of the League's mission, operations and each of its projects. As Advocacy Manager, Andrea looks forward to becoming more involved in raising awareness of JLT issue areas as well as influencing policy makers and the community to take action. She explained, "The Junior League of Tampa alone has tremendous power in building understanding and support of our causes in the community and I'm excited to participate in the collaborative work and impact of all Florida Leagues in changing attitudes, policies and practices." Andrea and her husband Ala have two daughters, Claudia (10) and Sophie (6).



PHOTO BY: vdArtphoto



FIONA-LEE GERRARD

Fiona-Lee Gerrard was born in Washington, D.C., and moved to Florida in high school. She attended Baylor University in Texas, has lived in Tampa since 2003 and joined JLT in 2013. Her most memorable placement was her experience as a Provisional Mentor. "I had an amazing Provisional year and I loved being able to share my experience with the incoming members," she said. "I hope to continue sharing all that I have learned in my placements with other League members." As this year's Community Education Manager, she plans to add new projects that will impact and serve more people in the community. Constantly inspired by the amazing women in JLT, she credits League members for empowering her to be a better leader. Fiona-Lee has two adorable "fur sisters" and hopes to one day get married and start a family.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Brittany Elise Photography, www.brittanyelise.com

LINDSAY DORRANCE

A Tampa resident since 2004, Lindsay Dorrance is from Jacksonville, Ill. She joined the League in 2009. This year, as Community Child Welfare Manager, she intends to engage members and help everyone understand why the League does what it does. Although she originally joined JLT to meet people and learn about the community, Lindsay said the League has given her more than she could have imagined. "Some of the trainings that I have attended are experiences that I never could have had in the 'real' world. I have been given a place to try new things while being in a safe place to fail. Even more than that, I have made lifelong friends and we will always share this common bond." When asked who has influenced her life, Lindsay answered her husband Sam. "He is the first person I go to for any kind of advice and he supports me any way he can," she said. This support includes helping Lindsay set up for countless events and General Membership Meetings when she was Arrangements Chair. The couple has two children, Sloane (5) and Owen (3).



COURTNEY BILYEU

Courtney Bilyeu was born into a Navy family in Monterey, Calif. She attended high school at Copenhagen International School in Denmark, received a bachelor's in mass communications from James Madison University and is an alumna of Alpha Sigma Tau sorority. She and her husband Allan, a retired Special Forces Lieutenant Colonel, have called Tampa home since 2012. Courtney joined the League in 2013. Her goal as Communications Manager is to inform and promote JLT, its brand, membership, mission and products. She aims to develop new ideas and inventive ways to promote JLT to gain both attention and an understanding of what the organization does. Courtney feels most connected to JLT at General Membership Meetings. "I still get excited walking through the front door and seeing so many friendly faces and the excitement on our Provisional members' faces," she said. "I've spent the majority of my life moving quite a bit and JLT has provided my first feeling of truly belonging to a community. JLT means the world to me!"

Originally from Niceville, Florida, Alex is an attorney at Burr & Forman, LLP practicing business litigation, employment law and insurance defense. She and husband Anthony have a daughter named Rory. In her free time, Alex loves spending time with them as well as boating, running, working out, reading and binge watching episodes of *Friends*.

ALEX PALERMO



ASHLEY WATTERS

Ashley Watters joined the League in 2012 when she moved to Tampa for work without knowing a single person in town. Originally from Tennessee, Ashley said Tampa has become her home because of the friends she has made. It is also where she met her husband Jack. The couple was married last fall and have one "fur baby" named Floppy. Ashley has spent the majority of her League career in Membership and Community placements. Her favorite placement was serving as the Provisional Education Chair last year. She loved educating new members about the League and meeting so many incredible women. Looking forward to the coming year and her role as Fund Development Manager, Ashley said, "I am extremely excited to be on the fund development side of the League and tie everything we do back to how our mission is funded. The League is definitely pushing me outside of my comfort zone with this role, but I know the skillsets that I gain this year will be so valuable to my future in the League and also in my career."



MEGHAN MCQUIRE

Born in London, Meghan McGuire moved seven times before graduating high school in Marietta, Ga. A proud Florida State University graduate, Meghan loves to travel and study history, including family ancestries for her family and friends. Since she joined the League in 2009, Meghan has experienced a variety of placements, including some she never would have selected. JLT leaders saw in her something even she did not see in herself, and they nudged her to try them. Those opportunities led Meghan to where she is today. At the top of her to-do list as Membership Manager is to focus on member satisfaction. She wants members to feel engaged, empowered and an important part of the organization. When asked what JLT means to her, Meghan said, "It means change. Change in me as a person, change in our community, change in how we work together and it has certainly changed my life for the better."

BETHANY ZELLER

Bethany Zeller hails from the Midwest, home of the "red hot" Cardinals. She moved around for work, living in both Seattle and the San Francisco area. This is her second time living in Tampa and, she said, hopefully her last, as she loves calling it home. Bethany joined the League in 2012. Her most memorable placement was serving as the Abolish Assistant Chair. Serving in that capacity was an eye-opening experience that helped her better understand the issue of human trafficking in the Tampa area. This year, as Operations Manager, she looks forward to encouraging members to use the new website and making necessary improvements to headquarters as the League determines a long-term plan for the facility. "I'm also excited to shake things up a bit with increasing the 'fun factor' of our General Membership Meetings," she said. Bethany loves to quote Maya Angelou, who said, "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."





SHANNON TOMPKINS

Originally from Houston, Shannon Tompkins was raised in Brandon. She joined JLT in 2009, and her first active placement was Provisional Mentor. Shannon, who is this year's Treasurer, said her passion is helping and guiding others. "I have loved serving on Management Council to see the inner workings of the League, but I also love working with other committees," she said. "I can't wait to see what Holiday Gift Market does this year. I am also excited to work with the Marketplace team!" Shannon thanked her husband Ray for his endless support of her and her involvement in JLT. She also joked that it doesn't hurt that he is an accountant willing to answer all her finance questions. The couple married in February 2015 and welcomed their first child, James, in January 2017. "JLT is a group of volunteers that doesn't necessarily have the time, but they have the passion and heart to serve others and leave the community better than when they found it," she said.

KITTY FORENZA

A native of the Clearwater/Safety Harbor area, Kitty Forenza attended the University of Florida and joined JLT in 2012. Kitty, who works in health care consulting, said philanthropy and service are her life's greatest work. As Assistant Treasurer, she plans to work with the Chairs of Gasparilla and Luminaries to continue to improve the events while looking for new ways to highlight the League's mission, values and goals to the Tampa community. When asked who has influenced her life, Kitty said, "My parents are the epitome of selfless humans and have taught me the importance of giving without expectations. They raised me to speak up during times of inequality and strife, and to value times of growth—all of which make us more well-rounded, worldly and more prepared for what lies ahead." She and her husband Mat live in Channelside with their geriatric and lovable bulldog Harley. Kitty's favorite quote, from Mahatma Gandhi, ties perfectly with her passion for service: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."



LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 2017-2018

PHOTOGRAPHER: Rick Maupin Photography

Arrangements:
Brandy Waltzer



Community Action:
Kenisha Ray



Dragon Boat Event:
Megan Tetro



Family Literacy Night:
Katie Selman



Fundraising – Corporate:
Brittany Stahl



Girl Power!:
Julia Martinez



Holiday Gift Market:
Carlee Cone Bowdoin



Impact Newsletter:
Cathy Kamm



Kids Connect:
Allison Smedley



By-Laws/Parliamentarian:
Marie Hebbler



Children's Literacy Project:
Heather Walsh



Dragon Boat Event:
Tina Patel



Endowment:
Allison Torrence



Fundraising – Annual Campaign:
Dossie Marrone-Ward



Gasparilla Invasion:
Rachel Jackson



Headquarters:
Jenny Augustyniak



Human Trafficking Awareness:
Elizabeth Dunsmoor



Community Advisory Board:
Chloe Cullinan



Enabling Fund:
Lauren Gstalder



Food 4 Kids:
Melissa Knight Nodhturft



Fundraising Evaluation:
Becky Ho



Grants:
Dulcinea Kimrey



Holiday Gift Market:
Shelby Tuttle



JLT Marketplace-Cookbooks:
Lauren Sanchez



JLT Marketplace-Merchandise:
Megan Rindone



**Kids in the Kitchen
Provisional Project:
Kathryn Crowe**



**Legal:
Amber McDonnell**



**Love Bundles:
Nicki Mohr Hall**



**Luminaries:
Sarah Martisek**



**Luminaries:
Jessica Stravino**



**Meeting Manager:
Stephanie Haas**



**Placement:
Jennifer Dutkowsky**



**Placement Mentor:
Avery Colman**



**Project Development
and Evaluation:
Kendra Velilla**



**Provisional Education:
Laurel Moynihan**



**Public Affairs:
Lindsey Parks**



**Public Relations
and Marketing:
Maggie McClelland**



**Ready to Achieve:
Kara Rapozo**



***The Sandspur:*
Margaret Cashill**



***The Sandspur:*
Christina Doligalski**



**Social:
Kara Bernstein**



***Spur of the Moment:*
Meg Bock**



**Strategic
Planning:
Caroline Foss**



**Sustainer:
Andrea Webb**



**Sustainer:
Virginia Doherty**



**Sustainer: Beth
Schatzberg**



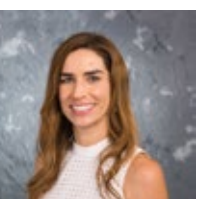
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Betsy Chambers**



**Technology:
Carmelita Hui**



**Toastmasters:
Sarah Walters**



**Training:
Erin Cassidy**



**Transfers:
Rebecca Towner**



**Volunteer
At-Large:
Jenny Schroeder**



Isabel Dewey:

RELEASING THE POTENTIAL WITHIN

by LYNDSEY SIARA



“FEW ORGANIZATIONS RIVAL THE JUNIOR LEAGUE WHEN IT COMES TO HARNESSING AND DEVELOPING THE POTENTIAL OF WOMEN TO MAKE POWERFUL POSITIVE CHANGE IN OUR COMMUNITIES.”
- ISABEL DEWEY

A person's potential is like a “huge ocean unsailed,” motivational speaker Brian Tracy once said. “A new continent unexplored, a world of possibilities waiting to be released and channeled toward some great good.”

This quote is fitting for Isabel Dewey, The Junior League of Tampa's 2017-2018 President-Elect, who looks forward to channeling not only her own potential, but the collective potential of the more than 1,900 women she soon will lead.

Look out, Tampa!

A native Floridian, Dewey joined The Junior League of Las Vegas in 2001, and later joined The Junior League of the Emerald Coast in Destin, Florida. When her husband John completed his military service in 2007, the couple relocated to Tampa and Isabel joined JLT soon after.

Moving to Tampa was an easy choice, she said. Having jobs and family in the area made the arrangement even sweeter.

After spending her early childhood in Spain, Dewey knew only the English words for “hi” and “cookie” when her family moved to the United States. They

settled in Satellite Beach, on the east coast of Florida, where she repeated kindergarten so she could improve her English. Dewey later graduated from Florida State University. She and John are high school sweethearts and married shortly after she finished graduate school at the University of Chicago.

Today, the Deweys live in South Tampa and have three sons, Evan (12), Daniel (10), and Gabriel (7).

Dewey traveled the path to President-Elect with conscientious contemplation and the occasional unexpected turn. She was planning to become a Sustainer when several friends asked whether she had considered the role of President.

“People saw in me potential that I had not identified within myself,” Dewey said.

This sparked a meticulous evaluation of herself and the role. *Do I have the skills, time, personal qualities, and drive to take on this role?* she asked herself. To inform her decision, she sought feedback from past Presidents and Executive Board members.

After countless pro/con lists and discussions with friends and family, Dewey arrived at a resounding **YES!**

A self-described “unconventional” choice for the role—she has never served on the Executive Board, part of the traditional path to the presidency—Dewey sees her appointment as an opportunity to view JLT leadership roles from new perspectives.

“Someone's potential may be best met on a different path,” she said. “That is true with me.”

As she prepares for presidency, Dewey draws on lessons from her professional background, League experiences and other community work.

In her role as an industry learning and knowledge leader at IBM, she provides education and internal collaboration across the 12 industries IBM operates within. Her 22-person team primarily develops internal educational materials.

Within JLT, Dewey has served as Training Chair, Kids Connect Chair and Public Affairs Chair, as well

as a member of the Nominating Committee. These positions taught her about the various aspects of the League.

Dewey's service goes beyond JLT. She is also an appointed member of the Hillsborough County Children's Services Advisory Board, which advises on a variety of programs geared toward helping marginalized children in the community. The knowledge of Hillsborough County foster homes that Dewey gained will inform her work on numerous JLT projects.

Among Dewey's priorities are engaging Sustainers through mentoring opportunities, fostering diversity and, her main area of focus, enhancing the member experience. She believes that all members, regardless of life circumstances at a given time, should have the experience they want in JLT. Dewey hopes members can leverage the new points system to enhance their League experience, whether they have one hour a week or 20 to dedicate to JLT.

Katie Cappy, 2017-2018 President, said Dewey will bring a "focus on leadership and development" to the role that will provide "the opportunity for everyone to realize and encounter their potential."

Dewey plans to cultivate the potential for members, as others have done for her, and to channel that collective potential to improve the lives of children and families in the community.

"Few organizations rival The Junior League when it comes to harnessing and developing the potential of women to make powerful positive change in our communities," she said.

Congratulations, Isabel! Here's to an outstanding leader and a future full of promise.



LYNDSEY SIARA

Lyndsey has been an Active member of JLT since 2013. She is a judicial staff attorney and enjoys reading and yoga when she is not spending time with her husband Joe and daughter Sydney.



TALKING IS TEACHING:

JLT, Community Leaders Collaborate on Early Brain Development Initiative

by LYNDSEY SIARA

Talk. Read. Sing. This simple concept has the potential to change the trajectory of a child's life.

Significant adversity impairs a child's development in the critical first three years, according to the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. "The more adversity a child faces, the greater the odds of a developmental delay."

Understanding the value of research on early brain development, The Junior League of Tampa, in collaboration with community organizations and leaders, has begun a grassroots effort that focuses on awareness.

On April 27, JLT co-hosted the Community Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect with

Champions for Children (CFC), an agency that provides research-based education and prevention services to children and families throughout Hillsborough County.

The event honored the history and connection between the organizations. It also revitalized the discussion about the "next steps" in the overlapping areas of focus.

Attendees ranged from concerned citizens to representatives from child- and family-focused community groups. The marquee topic was early brain development. Key players, including Mike Carroll, secretary of the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), discussed the best way to address this issue.



Following the conference, task forces formed to initiate “next step” conversations over the summer. From these efforts, the Talking is Teaching initiative came to be.

The still-percolating ideas include educational brochures in healthcare facilities, partnerships with diaper companies and media advertisements. Programs implemented in other states have provided a guiding light. What will come is a three- to five-year community plan to address early brain development as it relates to our community’s children.

“Intentional interactions” are the key to development, said JLT Community Director Jenny Spencer, who has been intimately involved in these efforts.

“The goal is to make parents and caregivers aware that they need to intentionally interact with their baby,” Spencer said. “Talk to them, tell them what you are doing, read to them, sing—because it plays a crucial role in brain development and social skills.”

Agreement among leaders

Early investment in linguistic development creates stronger attachment between parent and child, which in turn creates a thriving baby and strong family units.

Early brain development expert George Halvorson—the architect of the Talk. Read. Sing. Initiative—also believes that talking, reading and singing to infants and young children will encourage brain development. Conference attendees favored this simple approach. It costs nothing and it is easy to understand and implement in daily life.

The magnitude of early brain development is not lost on community leaders. A host of challenges, including kindergarten readiness, child abuse and neglect, teen pregnancy, incarceration and unemployment all connect with early brain development.

With the understanding that parents and caregivers are a child’s first teachers, community leaders agreed that the awareness effort must start in the third and “fourth” trimesters. With all this information on the table, the question became *What exactly do we do?*

With organizations like JLT and CFC, among others, working together with passion and purpose, the potential for positive change in our community has no limit.

Common goals, shared history

JLT laid the framework for these efforts more than 40 years ago when it hosted a two-day child abuse seminar in 1976.

From that meeting, the Child Abuse Council—known today as Champions for Children—was born. Through its child abuse prevention and family education programs, CFC works to build strong families in the Tampa area.

As its origins reveal, CFC’s goals and efforts relate closely to those of JLT.

The agency’s partnership with JLT is “vital,” according to Executive Director Brian McEwen.

“We are so enthusiastic about all the activity taking place between our two organizations and the opportunities to serve our shared community in meaningful ways,” he said.

*“The goal is to make parents
and caregivers aware
that they need to
intentionally
interact with
their baby.”
– Jenny Spencer,
JLT Community
Director*



LYNDSEY SIARA
Lyndsey has been an Active member of JLT since 2013. She is a judicial staff attorney and enjoys reading and yoga when she is not spending time with her husband Joe and daughter Sydney.



Ready to Achieve Prepares to Serve Hillsborough County Youth

by CHRISSY DOLIGALSKI

When a Community Project showed promise, The Junior League of Tampa identified the opportunity and ran with it. The result is the relaunch of Ready to Achieve in 2017 as the facilitator of Leadership Academy, a program that encourages successful independent living and improved high school graduation rates for young adults between the ages of 14 and 18 in the system of care, also known as the foster care system.

A popular placement among League members, Ready to Achieve traditionally has put on events for children in the system of care. When the League's Executive Board and Project Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC) conducted its scheduled review of the committee, it saw potential.

Over the past two years, The League revisited, revised and relaunched Ready to Achieve, and now, early results bode for a promising year ahead.

A population in need

Children and young adults within the system of care have always been an important population for the League. A major point of concern has been the transition out of foster care and into independent living.

Prior to 2014, young adults had to move out of the foster care system at age 18. In 2014, legislation passed that allowed those young people to remain with their foster families voluntarily up to age 21. The goal was to allow them to become more established, independent and successful adults.

"It's tough when you're getting too old," said Jennifer Del Valle, who served as 2015-2016 PDEC Assistant Chair. "These kids, at this age—there's so much potential to shape their future."



READY TO ACHIEVE – REVITALIZED

2015-2016: PDEC review year

2016-2017: Research year

FALL 2017: Ready to Achieve relaunch

Given the lack of clearly-defined project objectives, as well as the transition of system of care operations in Hillsborough County to Eckerd Community Alternatives in 2015, the timing was right to relaunch Ready to Achieve.

Understanding the problem

Once PDEC recommended continuing Ready to Achieve with significant changes, the need for further research became apparent, and a research year was slated for 2016-2017. Del Valle chaired Ready to Achieve during this League year.

She and a small group of women set out to explore the system of care in Hillsborough County and to create the framework for a revised vision of Ready to Achieve.

“We knew right away that what we needed was going to take time to develop,” Del Valle said.

“We needed to research curriculum. We needed to evaluate current and potential partners, we needed to see what was working well in other projects, and we needed an objective and measurable project outcome.”

The outcome arrived quickly. Early on, the group identified low high school graduation rates as a key problem within the population. The group also identified the need to serve a specific population with consistency. Previous Ready to Achieve events had been open to many children of various ages within the system of care. In addition, it was rare for a child to attend events consistently throughout the year. These factors limited the impact the League could have on a single child's life.

Taking a page from the Girl Power! project book, the Ready to Achieve Research Committee saw promise in targeting a group of young adults at a greater rate of consistency. (The Girl Power! project holds monthly events with the same group of 20 young women who reside at Joshua House.)

With a general framework and a desired outcome selected, the next step was curriculum research. Fortuitously, Andria Rogers, president of Train Up First, a social and emotional learning content company, had approached Katie Cappy, then League President-Elect, with a related idea. Rogers offered to donate copies of a training book she had developed that encompassed personal branding, positive attitudes, work ethic, values and self-control.

It was the right fit.

Ready to Achieve: 2017 and beyond

Kara Rapozo, the 2017-2018 Ready to Achieve Chair, leads a committee of four event coordinators and 12 general placement committee members. Already hard at work, the team has planned nine sessions, five curriculum meetings and four events. These include a holiday event that likely will be tied into another League project such as Love Bundles and a shopping event similar to “Shop & Show” (a career event with mock interviews), as well as a graduation and party to complete program completion.

TD Bank has provided a grant to fund Leadership Academy this year.

Leadership Academy has accepted, at most recent count, 15 young adults into the 2017-2018 program. The application process was designed to convey the idea that participation in Leadership Academy is a significant step for a young person to make and that the League is fully committed to participants' success.

Rapozo and her committee members look forward to combining consistency, relationship-building and meaningful work with the same small group of youth.

“I foresee this as the start of something really big,” Rapozo said. “This will hopefully be a legacy within The Junior League of Tampa. I imagine that years from now, Ready to Achieve will still be going and bigger than we could have imagined.”





Management Council Members Bring Back League-building Lessons from ODI in Pittsburgh

by SUZY MESMER

Five Junior League of Tampa Management Council members attended the Organizational Development Institute in Pittsburgh June 9-11. They brought back leadership lessons, insights from Leagues across the country and a renewed sense of mission, as well as a confidence-boosting pose (more on that later).

The Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) holds ODI each year. The conference focuses on leadership.

"Our product is trained women leaders," said Naomi Chavez Peters, ODI speaker. "We train our members to become leaders in our communities, either in nonprofit leadership or in using their leadership training in their for-profit work."

The event provides mission-based training in areas such as community impact, member development, fund development, marketing and communications, governance and internal operation. This year, the event also highlighted diversity and inclusion.

ODI's focus extends beyond individual learning to building the League's organizational capacity, said JuWon Choi, AJLI's Director of Learning. ODI delegates can apply the skills they learn at their Leagues back home.

"It's not unusual for us to see a delegate returning for another track as her role at the League changes," Choi said. "But for most of ODI delegates, it is their very first AJLI conference and their first opportunity

to feel first-hand the power of the Association and the Junior League movement on a large scale."

The Tampa delegates joined about 200 League members from across the country. Each took part in an intensive training track relevant to her position.

Ashley Watters, JLT's Fund Development Manager, attended the training track *Diversified Fund Development: From Fundraising to Comprehensive Funding*.

"Being new to the fund development side of the League, it was very eye-opening listening to other Leagues' fundraising tactics and strategically thinking about each of our fund development resources and events, and making sure we meet those objectives," Watters said.

Other Leagues have evaluated fundraisers in greater depth than JLT, Watters said. Understanding the importance of the practice, JLT created a Fundraising Evaluation Committee similar to the Program Development Education Committee (PDEC), which analyzes projects.

Another takeaway for Watters was the way larger Leagues use Digital Cheetah for fundraising. For example, The Junior League of Washington (D.C.) uses a "Submit a Lead" button on its member homepage to allow members to submit corporate fundraising leads. JLT has added the same to its homepage.

CONNECTION ACROSS LEAGUES

Members who attended ODI benefitted from collaboration with other Leagues and mentorship from AJLI leaders.

"I sat at the table with the largest Leagues that included Seattle, Jackson, Los Angeles and D.C.," said Ashley Watters, Fund Development Manager. "We discussed the fundraising strategies and events of each of our Leagues, but it didn't end there. We have stayed in contact and have been emailing weekly with each other to ask questions, obtain additional resources and find new ways of evaluating our fundraisers."



FRONTRUNNERS

Courtney Bilyeu, JLT's Communications Manager, attended *Marketing and Communications: Building Relationships, Engagement & Understanding*. As she learned about the challenges other Leagues face, she reflected upon JLT's strengths.

"We're one of the frontrunners," she said. "We're one of the largest Leagues and we seem to be doing everything AJLI wants us to be doing."

Bilyeu came away from the experience with a new goal: to create a one-minute promotional video for JLT.

Lindsay Dorrance, JLT's Community Child Welfare Manager, attended *Achieving Community Impact: Creating Lasting Changes for Healthier Communities*, and Bethany Zeller, JLT's Operations Manager, joined *Building Internal Capacity: Strengthening Your League's Operating Infrastructure*.

At the fifth track, Chavez Peters presented *Membership Development: Creating Tomorrow's*

Community Leaders. A leadership and organizational development consultant and Past President of The Junior League of Palo Alto-Mid Peninsula in California, Peters has led the membership track for ODI since 2010.

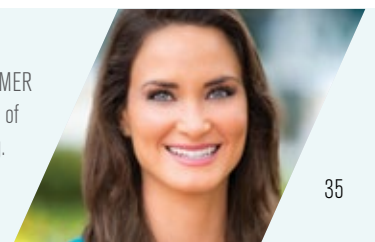
"Members want to be connected," Peters said. "Connected to the mission, connected to each other. It's up to the placed membership leaders to create the conditions for those connections to happen. You can create connections through storytelling."

ODI welcomed two keynote speakers on Saturday, June 10. Vicki Clark, an AJLI facilitator experienced in board development, strategic planning and volunteer resource development, presented *Taking Action: Moving Toward Diversity and Inclusion*.

Tacy Byham, Ph.D. led the second presentation, *Lead Like a Girl*. Byham, CEO of Development Dimensions International (DDI), showed the group how to do a "Power Pose" to boost confidence before a meeting or presentation (see pictures).

Don't be surprised if you see attendees striking their "Power Pose" at headquarters before a meeting!

SUZY MESMER
Suzy is a first-year Active who works in PR and marketing. A two-time graduate of the University of Nebraska's journalism school, she spent most of her career in sports and news broadcasting. She and her husband Aaron are the proud parents of their baby boy Jackson.





In the Spirit of Service, League Members, Associates Venture Overseas

by JOANIE OBEN



Understanding of the importance of giving back, members of The Junior League of Tampa volunteer locally to help children and families. For some members and associates, the call to help those in need takes them beyond the Tampa area and even outside the country.

One of those members is Active Katelyn Dervay. A pharmacist by profession, Dervay has traveled to Haiti with two different groups (Project Medishare and People for Haiti) on a total of eight trips, the most recent in March.

The 2010 Haiti earthquake inspired Dervay to volunteer in the Caribbean nation. She made her first trip with Project Medishare the following year. In Haiti, she collaborates with local medical professionals to help residents. She has worked in a hospital as well as in areas that lacked health care services.

"The mission trip came from wanting to give back using my abilities," she said.

Around the time she made her first trip to Haiti, Dervay began her Provisional year at JLT.

"I loved going to Haiti and giving to their communities," she said. "I also wanted to meet needs [in Tampa]. The League became an opportunity to give back here and help people who are local. It worked out well."

In the years since, Dervay has continued medical missions as well as her service in the League, most recently with Foods 4 Kids. She completed a trip with People for Haiti after learning about the organization from fellow League member Tammy Denbo, who sits on the board of directors.

Reflecting on her volunteer experiences abroad, Dervay noted the personal rewards they offer. "People think they're going to give a lot," she said. "The surprising thing I found, and that most people do, is how much you get out of it. You take away so much."

There is the need for a range of skills, Dervay said. Duties may include reading to children or helping out at schools, in addition to providing medical services. "There are so many groups out there that do so much for other countries, and they need all types of volunteers."

AJLI partnership enables volunteers service abroad

League members looking to volunteer overseas may find a fitting opportunity through the partnership between The Association of Junior Leagues International and Cross-Cultural Solutions (CCS), a New York City-headquartered nonprofit that specializes in "meaningful volunteer service" abroad.

CCS works with Leagues to customize volunteer missions trips for groups. The organization offers experiences that provide "cultural immersion" and the chance to work alongside community members. CCS also works with individuals interested in volunteering independently.

For additional information, please visit crossculturalsolutions.org/ajli.

Summer in East Asia

DID YOU KNOW?

The Junior League of Tampa's Madeline Morris travels to East Asia to volunteer every summer.

Morris has assisted at a school for children with special needs as well as a government orphanage. She travels with a team of teachers, physical therapists, occupational therapists and other volunteers.

"It reminds me people are people no matter where you go," said Morris, office assistant at JLT headquarters.

Morris has completed six trips through Global(x), the missions entity of North Point Ministries. Based in Alpharetta, Ga., North Point is the parent organization of six Atlanta-area churches, as well as a global network of partner churches.

To JLT members contemplating such a trip, Morris said, "Just go for it. Don't worry about being qualified. Just take the leap."

JOANIE OBEN

Joanie is a first-year Active. She is a yearbook and newspaper adviser at a South Tampa high school. In her free time, she volunteers as an international officer for her sorority, Alpha Delta Pi, and loves watching Miami Hurricanes football. Go 'Canes!



Provisional Class Infuses League With Energy, Talent

by LAUREN CROMER

To understand a League's potential, consider its newest members.

When it comes to attracting bright, promising Provisional members, The Junior League of Tampa is a success story among Leagues.

JLT welcomed 150 Provisional members at two orientation retreats in June.

The members of this year's Provisional class are community advocates ready to take charge and lead amazing projects, those involved in the retreat said.

Participants received an introduction that included an overview of the League's community impact, how it funds its mission and its Kids in the Kitchen (KITK) project, Provisional Education Chair Laurel Moynihan told *The Sandspur*.

They also heard what to expect during their Provisional year, Moynihan said.

With women ranging in age from 24-39, the well-rounded group is ready to bring its talents to the table. Leaders of 16 mentor groups held summer socials to encourage members and mentors to bond.

The first kickoff meeting, held Aug. 8, provided an in-depth overview of the Provisional project as well as information on Willingness to Lead (WTL) positions. General placement for the project followed the meeting. These ladies are ready to go!

"This year's project is fresh with new ideas and responsibilities to make KITK the best year yet," said Kathryn Crowe, KITK Chair. "Family Food Fest has been added back to the table and the ladies are thrilled to make this the pinnacle of the year serving our Community Partners."

The Family Food Fest (FFF) spring event will arrive on the heels of the Luminaries Award Luncheon and the hugely popular Dragon Boat Races.



#passionandpurpose



KITK is working hard on the kickoff events as well as on the WTL retreat for the Provisionals in leadership roles. This year's rollout includes an interactive, collaborative curriculum. Crowe's team will apply new tactics when assigning general placement roles at each site, being mindful of the overall Provisional experience. The members of KITK are committed not only to serving children in the community but also to serving Provisional members, helping them to discover their own passion and purpose. This is bound to be a year to remember for the 150 ladies recently welcomed into the family!

The overall theme for the upcoming year is #passionandpurpose. Moynihan and Crowe look forward to leading their teams to help new members find their passion and develop their purpose.

We can't wait to see what this year holds for the League!

"This year's project is fresh with new ideas and responsibilities to make KITK the best year yet." –Kathryn Crowe, KITK Chair



LAUREN CROMER

A Tampa native, Lauren Cromer is a licensed mental health counselor and marriage and family therapist currently employed by Metropolitan Ministries. Lauren lives in the Westchase area with her boyfriend Tirso and stepdaughter Ava. She has been an Active member of JLT for four years.





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WORKING FOR A PURPOSE: *JLT's Public Affairs Committee*

by BRANDY BAKER

The Junior League of Tampa's Public Affairs Committee is motivated for the year ahead.

Fresh from The Junior Leagues of Florida State Public Affairs Committee 2017 Summer Conference, the group has new ideas and a strengthened understanding of the potential of their committee.

Held in Melbourne in July, the Summer Conference featured a medley of speakers, presentations and workshops.

Committee members heard from leaders of the Brevard Economic Development Commission, Kennedy Space Center, Children's Hunger Project and various state and county officials, as well as JLT's own Amber Smith. Her presentation, *Advocacy 101*, outlined the legislative process.

The Public Affairs Committee is tasked with informing and educating League members and the public about local and state legislation that affects the League's issue areas. The committee also is part of the larger Junior Leagues of Florida State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC). This group has monitored legislation and advocated for issues of importance in communities for more than 40 years.

HOW CAN I BECOME INVOLVED?

One way to learn more about the Public Affairs Committee is to attend one of its events. The committee is working with Training to roll out several events over the course of the upcoming League year. Stay tuned!

All told, SPAC represents 25 Leagues and more than 11,000 women from across the state.

To give an idea of what this group accomplishes, the Florida law that requires safety seats in motor vehicles for children between the ages of 4 and 7 began as an idea proposed by SPAC. For 15 years, the group advocated and pushed for this issue to become a law, and it succeeded! Just this past year, SPAC supported the elimination of sales tax on diapers and feminine hygiene products (the so-called "Pink Tax") and it, too, passed!

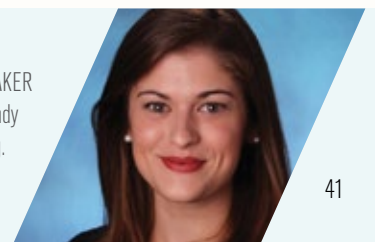
The summer conference that the committee attended is one of three annual SPAC conferences that occur throughout Florida. The Winter Conference, always held in Tallahassee, is highly anticipated. It "allows committee members to truly be involved in the legislative process and advocate for JLT's mission and our community," said JLT Public Affairs Committee Chair Lindsey Parks.

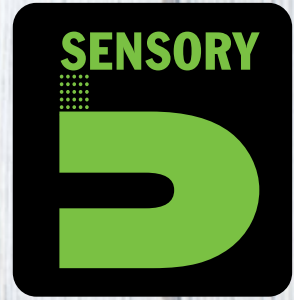
The event also gives committee members the opportunity to meet one on one with Tampa area and state representatives and senators.

As the Public Affairs Committee has grown over the last five years, it has enhanced JLT's relationships with officials throughout Tampa, Hillsborough County and at the state level. As committee members build relationships with elected officials, they advocate for legislation related to human trafficking, education, access to healthy food and other issues relevant to the League and the children and families it serves.

BRANDY BAKER

Contributing Writer Brandy is a first-year Active and Tampa native. Currently working in development at a local nonprofit, Brandy enjoys spending her free time at the beach, reading, thrifting and kayaking.





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THE LUMINARIES

Preserving the Past. Inspiring the Future.

by SARAH MARTISEK

Since 2015, The Junior League of Tampa has honored individuals for their contributions to the local community through The Luminaries, an annual awards program held in partnership with WEDU PBS.

With more than 90 years of history and the reach of 1,900 members, JLT is in a prime position to partner on a program that celebrates impactful and ongoing leadership, empowerment, advocacy and distinction.

A May 5 luncheon at the Hilton Downtown Tampa recognized the 2017 Luminaries: the Honorable Betty Castor, the Honorable Katherine Essrig and J. Thomas Touchton. A WEDU PBS special shared the honorees' inspiring stories and the Tampa Bay History

Center preserved them in a permanent collection of digital biographies.

Each year, the JLT invites members of the community to nominate individuals who have created a tangible, lasting impact.

The Luminaries accepted nominations for the 2018 program through Aug. 31, 2017.

For more information about the program, the nomination process and deadlines, please visit jltampa.org/luminaries or contact Sarah Martisek and Jessica Stravino at luminaries@jltampa.org.



What is a Luminary?

A person who inspires or influences others, and who is prominent in a particular sphere.

SARAH MARTISEK

A native of Chicago, Sarah Martisek works in marketing. She owns four dogs and loves to spend time outdoors. This is her fourth year in JLT.





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HOLIDAY *Gift* MARKET

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TIMES:

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(HGM Preview Party - ticket required)

Friday, Nov. 10, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 11, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 12, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

LOCATION:

Florida State Fairgrounds

4800 U.S. Highway 301 N., Tampa, FL 33610

SHOP FOR A PURPOSE AT HOLIDAY *Gift* MARKET

by BRANDY BAKER

From new activities to extra aisle room, HGM has it wrapped up

After a wildly successful 2016 Holiday Gift Market attracted more than 21,000 attendees and raised more than \$270,000, how does The Junior League of Tampa raise the bar for this year's event?

That's the question *The Sandspur* had in mind when we sat down with 2017 HGM Co-chairs Carlee Cone Bowdoin and Shelby Tuttle. We wanted to learn what's new, what's exciting and, most importantly, how will we continue to break ground?

First things first. The most significant change over last year, Tuttle said, will be the addition of square footage at the Florida State Fairgrounds. Last year, HGM occupied the 88,000-square-foot Expo Hall. This year, the event will occupy the 52,000-square-foot Entertainment Hall, in addition to the Expo Hall.

The expansion represents a return to HGM's roots. When HGM relocated to the Fairgrounds from Port of Tampa Cruise Terminal 3 in 2006, it started out in the

Entertainment Hall. In 2011, the event expanded into the Expo Hall.

"We quickly outgrew that space," Tuttle said. "But we've gone full circle and are ready to welcome the additional space with open arms."

The expanded square footage will allow HGM to offer an additional 45 booths. This will open up opportunities for new merchants. Exactly how many will depend on the size of the booths they occupy. Last year's event had 150 merchants.

The extra space will also allow for wider aisles, reducing congestion and easing the flow of traffic through the market.

Holiday Gift Market on Social Media

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheJLTHGM

Twitter: @JLTHGM

Instagram: @holidaygiftmarket

Web: www.jltampa.org/hgm

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM WINNER NAMED



Raised in Guatemala, Lisbeth Pacheco developed an appreciation for coffee at an early age. After a career in food science/research and development, she

wanted to make a “direct impact.” Coffee, she said, was the perfect choice.

Pacheco, founder of Ethos Coffee Roasters, has been named winner of the 2017 Holiday Gift Market Young Women's Entrepreneur Program.

Founded in 2016, Ethos represents “the culmination of a long-time dream to use my science and business training and experience to create a product, and a company, that does a lot of good—for our customers, our farmers, our planet and our community.”

As YEP winner, Pacheco will receive a premium booth and “spotlight” signage and a special mention in the HGM shopping guide, as well as media opportunities.

YEP is open to women 40 or younger at the time of application who are the majority owners of their business. Their products should offer a distinct and original contribution to the HGM selection.



2017 Holiday Gift Market Committee Chairs Shelby Tuttle and Carlee Cone Bowdoin



New events planned, favorites from last year returning

In recent years HGM has introduced live music, family-friendly gatherings and creative concierge service such as the “Man's Cave” and “Mother's Nook.” The innovation continues in 2017.

The committee has announced two new special events for the upcoming HGM. A craft beer tasting featuring beer paired with bites of food will be held Friday evening. In order to accommodate the event, HGM will extend its hours until 8 p.m. In previous years, the event concluded at 6 p.m. on Friday. On Sunday, it will wrap up at 3 p.m., two hours earlier than in previous years.

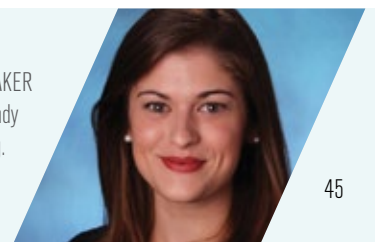
Another new event, “Santa's Workshop” will offer kids an opportunity to help Saint Nick's team finish crafts. Thanks to JLT's friends at Bricks 4 Kidz and Kraftologee, the workshop, scheduled Friday and Saturday, will be full of activities.

Breakfast with the Princesses will return this year, as will Cookies with the Clauses. Santa will offer special times for “Santa Snaps,” ensuring everyone the chance for a picture with him without having to wait in line.

It's nearly that time of year again, time for red and green everything, holiday music and merriment and of course for HGM. Let the countdown begin!

Contributing Writer Brandy is a first-year Active and Tampa native. Currently working in development at a local nonprofit, Brandy enjoys spending her free time at the beach, reading, thrifting and kayaking.

BRANDY BAKER



Donations to The Junior League of Tampa support our mission-driven programs and projects. Each year, our annual donors support special events and contribute as individuals, foundations and businesses in support of our mission.

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.

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A gift to the Commemorative Fund is a way to recognize a significant event in a JLT 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 funddevelopmentmanager@jltampa.org.



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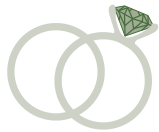
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The Junior League of Tampa Endowment Fund

Leaving a Legacy ... Sustaining Our Service

The Endowment Fund was established in 2006 in partnership with The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay. The Fund ensures fiscal stability for The Junior League of Tampa, allowing members to focus on the League's mission independent of the state of the economy or the size of membership. A strong endowment fund will ensure a revenue stream that will augment, but not replace, annual fundraising revenue generated through individuals, events, grants, corporate sponsorships and membership dues. This will give us the opportunity to pursue exciting, new opportunities or deal with unforeseen circumstances without creating an additional financial hardship for The Junior League of Tampa or our members. Commemorative gifts support the Endowment Fund.

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The program allows you to leave your legacy in our community by supporting the future of the League and its members.



Come join us for lunch!

Exceptional Professionals is a group of Junior League women who balance work, family, and volunteer goals with grace and a smile. We have been meeting monthly for 18 years to share ideas, stay connected, and build friendships. We recently added quarterly seminars to support all working women. Give us a call and we will send you a calendar for the upcoming seminars.

Contact Exceptional Professionals and join us for lunch! Call or text **Krista Allred** at **813-766-3313**.

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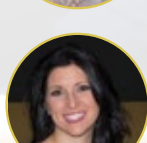
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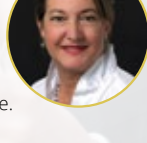
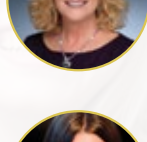
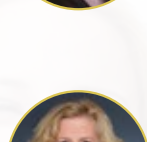
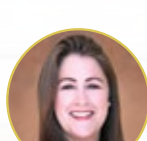
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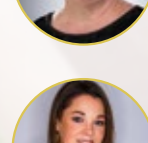
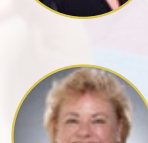
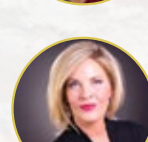
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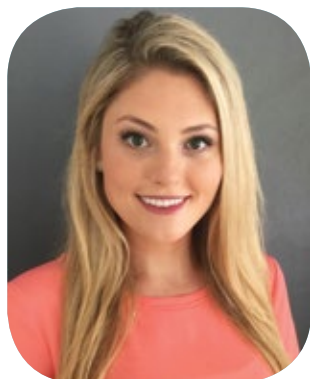
WHO'S WHO IN THE LEAGUE

by LAUREN CROMER



Avery Colman, PLACEMENT MENTOR CHAIR

A simple project can mean a great deal to a community in need. Avery Colman learned this lesson as Placement Mentor for Love Bundles, her first Willingness to Lead placement. This year as Placement Mentor Chair, she intends to encourage mentors to strive to make a difference—for individual committees as well as for members. Colman, a ninth-year Active, has held a variety of positions on numerous committees. She spent three years as an Arrangements Committee member (including a term as Chair), three years as a Placement Mentor (also including Chair) and has served on JLT Marketplace. A graduate of the University of Florida, Colman proudly supports Florida State University and the University of Tennessee. In 2014, she attended the BCS National Championship football game in Pasadena, Calif., where she cheered on the Seminoles as they won. In addition to watching football, she likes to read, paint and knit, especially baby blankets for friends who are expecting. Colman works as the office manager of a marine construction company. She and her husband own two dogs and two cats whose names all start with the letter “B.”



Amber Lewis, PROVISIONAL EDUCATION RECRUITMENT COORDINATOR, READY TO ACHIEVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Amber Lewis dived right into her Provisional year as a Project Coordinator for Kids in the Kitchen. As a first-year Active, she is Education Recruitment Coordinator for the Provisional Education Committee and a member of the Ready to Achieve Committee. Lewis is passionate about Ready to Achieve and the opportunities it will provide the children involved. A University of Tampa alumna, Lewis majored in advertising and public relations and minored in marketing and dance. While volunteering for UT, she lived with a family in Jamaica and helped build playgrounds at local schools and also taught children. She has danced for the UT dance team and cheered for the Tampa Bay Lightning and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. In March, Lewis plans to host a cheer clinic for young girls in the community. She and her husband Ethan have been married for three years.



Kenisha Ray, COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE CHAIR

A Tampa native born at Tampa General Hospital, Kenisha Ray is a fourth-year Active member of JLT. As Chair of the Community Action Committee, she looks forward to meeting new people and bringing new nonprofits into the fold. Her previous placements include Provisional Mentor, a double placement as Girl Power Event Coordinator and Holiday Gift Market Young Entrepreneurship Program Committee Member, as well as Family Literacy Night Chair. Ray has taught at the Amy Gail Buchman Preschool at Congregation Schaarai Zedek since 2001. When she's not teaching, she enjoys spending time with her 18-year-old daughter, a recent Plant High School graduate who is beginning college in Washington, D.C. Ray also enjoys history and politics. Last year, she helped her cousin campaign for state representative. “Politics has lit a fire under me,” Ray 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.



Kara Rapozo, READY TO ACHIEVE CHAIR

Kara Rapozo joined JLT in 2014 and currently chairs Ready to Achieve. She is excited about the #passionandpurpose theme and its possibilities for her committee. Rapozo became familiar with the League in 2012 when she attended a birthday party for a 16-year-old boy who had never had a birthday party. At the time, she was working for the Department of Children and Families (DCF), and she supported the event as a Tampa Bay Buccaneers cheerleader. Rapozo's mother was a professional baker who made birthday parties a big deal in her home, and the event struck a chord. After meeting Nicole Hubbard, 2016-2017 League President, Rapozo decided to join the League. Today, she is glad she did. She meets many women who inspire her and has many opportunities to give back to the community. Rapozo works as a national outreach representative in business development for Rogers Behavioral Health, a nonprofit behavioral health hospital. She is also a member of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce and the International Association for Eating Disorder Professionals.



Nealy Wheat, SUSTAINER

In the early phases of Nealy Wheat's career, she had three mentors who provided encouragement, advice and a listening ear. These days, Wheat, chief financial officer of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, gives back by providing guidance to fellow women. Since joining JLT in 2012, Wheat has served on the Technology, Holiday Gift Market and Love Bundles committees. She treasures her experience with Love Bundles, she said, and she particularly enjoyed bonding with members as they shopped for, packed and delivered items to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. Wheat and her husband Nathan live in South Tampa with two rescued "fur babies" named Buster and Belle. She enjoys cooking, reading, yoga and travelling. Wheat is also a cancer survivor who has been cancer-free for 10 years. Her advice to new Provisionals: "You will get back tenfold what you put into it. Be present and enjoy the year. It goes by way too fast!"

"You will get back tenfold what you put into it." - Nealy Wheat

A Tampa native, Lauren Cromer is a licensed mental health counselor and marriage and family therapist currently employed by Metropolitan Ministries. Lauren lives in the Westchase area with her boyfriend Tirso and stepdaughter Ava. She has been an Active member of JLT for four years.

LAUREN CROMER



OUT AND ABOUT





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

jltampa.org/sandspur

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

jltampa.org

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

jltampa.org/community

Enjoy some "face" time.

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Support our community projects

jltampa.org/support

Find cookbooks & other League merchandise

jltampa.org/jlt-culinary-collection-cookbooks

QUANTIFYING OUR IMPACT

The Junior League of Tampa is growing, thriving and making a difference. Members get a sense of this as they serve on committees, volunteer in the community and participate in General Membership Meetings. The impact also plays out in terms of numbers over the course of the year. These figures quantify, as of June 1, committee output, website reach and Provisional class size, and shed light on JLT's potential as it enters a new League year.

COMMITTEE: FOODS 4 KIDS

7,127 BAGS PACKED
(YEAR-TO-DATE AS OF JUNE)



COMMITTEE: LOVE BUNDLES

1,514 BACKPACKS DELIVERED
(YEAR-TO-DATE AS OF JUNE)



COMMITTEE: CHILDREN'S LITERACY - IN SCHOOL READING

279 CHILDREN SERVED
(YEAR-TO-DATE AS OF JUNE)



COMMITTEE: PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING

8,602 JLT WEBSITE HITS
(MAY, 2017)



COMMITTEE: PROVISIONAL EDUCATION

150 NEW MEMBERS
WELCOMED TO THE LEAGUE!



Congratulations to MaryJane Wermuth & Jordan Prosser!



Photo courtesy of Justin DeMutiis Photography

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EVENTS

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