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diversity

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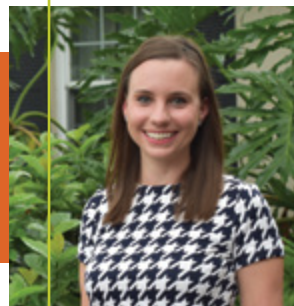
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Improvement Through Diversity



At first glance, the word “diversity” often elicits familiar and somewhat simple concepts of social interaction and progress. While these are certainly a part of any discussion surrounding diversity, there are many more nuanced and varying considerations that impact a person or organization striving for growth and improvement.

As an organizational aspiration, the notion of diversity transcends more traditional concepts of skin color or investment portfolios. For The Junior League of Tampa, concepts of diversity, equity and inclusion are critical in strengthening community impact and advancing long-term goals. In order to effect these goals, the League is committed to facilitating and ensuring diversity not only of its Membership, but also in its community projects and the populations it serves.

As you will read throughout this issue, JLT continues to expand and improve its service to the community through exciting new partnerships which can provide greater resources and better access to communities in need. Through these efforts, the League is also able to offer its members a wider range of opportunities and avenues for service in ways that speak to each member's unique skill sets and aspirations. The ideal result is an organization which embraces and utilizes its diverse membership to serve more communities in more ways.

In any context, diversity can provide a more comprehensive understanding of our circumstances and surroundings. As demonstrated by the stories shared in this issue, the League's commitment to understanding the unique and varying interests, abilities and priorities of its members allows for continuing growth and improvement in our service and impact throughout the diverse communities in the Tampa Bay region and beyond.

A stylized, handwritten signature of Kendra Lyman in black ink.

Kendra Lyman
Editor

THE SANDSPUR

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MEET THE SANDSPUR'S EDITORIAL STAFF



KENDRA LYMAN, *Editor*

Kendra has been an Active member of JLT since 2015 and previously served as a contributing writer and as Assistant Editor for *The Sandspur*. She works as a construction law attorney and has lived in Tampa since 2013. In her free time, Kendra enjoys running, attending concerts with her husband Chance, and spending time with friends and family.



LAUREN VAGNONI, *Assistant Editor*

Lauren is a first-year Active member of JLT. By day, she works as an attorney for a property insurance company. She holds an undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Florida and a Juris Doctor degree from Florida State University College of Law. In her free time, she enjoys volunteering within the Tampa Bay community, spending time with friends and family and watching Gator football. Lauren also loves planning socials and events as she serves as this year's League Resource Liaison for *The Sandspur* Committee.



ELIZABETH WEIBLEY, *Features Editor*

Elizabeth first joined JLT in 2017, and this is her first year as an Active member. By day she is a Financial Aid Administrator at the University of South Florida, and by night she is a Disney-obsessed, dog-cuddling bookworm.



KATE DOUGLASS, *Copy Editor*

Kate is a first-year Active member who, outside of the League, works in stewardship & fundraising communications. She studied nonprofit management at FSU before working at a museum in NYC. Now living in South Tampa, Kate enjoys horseback riding, yoga, traveling and spending time with family.



CARRIE MINERVA, *Photographer*

Carrie has been an Active member of JLT since 2016 and previously served two years as an Active member of the Junior League of Fort Lauderdale. She is a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner for the Veterans Health Administration. She is a woman of faith who enjoys photography, fitness, and conjuring up creative meals in the kitchen. Carrie and her husband live in South Tampa and recently welcomed their first child, Amelia!



NICHOLE VILD, *Photographer*

Nichole has been a Junior League member since 2013 and belonged to the Emerald Coast and Northern Virginia chapters before transferring to Tampa in 2015. Nichole is a logistics planner for the U.S. Army and enjoys travel and photography in her spare time.



SAMANTHA LITRICO, *Advertising Coordinator*

Samantha is a first-year Active member of JLT as Advertising Coordinator for *The Sandspur*. She graduated from St. Leo University with a degree in psychology and marketing, and she currently works as a training and development manager. Samantha is passionate about public speaking, writing and volunteering. She loves being a part of the League and the many opportunities it provides to serve in the community.

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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Diversity is the source of our strength.



The definition of diversity is simply 'being composed of differing elements.' When I think of our membership and the changes in Tampa Bay, the word 'diverse' perfectly encompasses both the complexity and opportunity for The Junior League of Tampa volunteers. Over the next three years, we will be deliberate in our actions under the lens of diversity, equity and inclusion. Nothing that we do will change who we are, passionate and dynamic women leaders. What it will do is ensure that we continue our legacy of leadership and that we have a heightened awareness of our ever-changing community and membership needs.

Framing our membership programs and community projects under the umbrella of diversity has allowed us to create flyers in both English and Spanish to promote the Family Food Fest event, improved accessibility at headquarters, and expanded our General Membership Meetings across Hillsborough and Pasco Counties. We will also be gathering information on membership retention to ensure that all members, regardless of status or location, are benefiting from being a part of The Junior League of Tampa.

Our Leadership Council recently hosted Suzanne McCormick, President and Chief Executive Officer of the United Way of the Suncoast, who shared that 39% of families in Hillsborough County and 46% of families in Pasco County struggle to pay for basic needs such as housing, child care, food, transportation, health care and technology. Projects like our Diaper Bank and Little Lending Libraries are providing access to resources that would be unavailable anywhere else. These are just two examples of JLT meeting the diverse community we live in.

Like the definition of diversity, The Junior League of Tampa is composed of differing elements. It is what makes us great. It is what has allowed us to thrive, remain relevant and make an impact over the course of our 93 years and counting.

Yours in Service,

Isabel Dewey
President, 2018-2019

LETTERS TO THE LEAGUE



October 8, 2018

The Junior League of Tampa
87 Columbia Drive
Tampa, FL 33602

Dear Junior League of Tampa:

Thank you for inviting me to speak at last week's membership meeting. I really appreciate the opportunity to discuss the work we have been doing at the State Attorney's Office. My top priority is the safety of our community—for my family, for your families, and for everyone in Hillsborough. That is why we are working so hard—and smart—to improve our local criminal justice system.

I am especially thankful for the tremendous work the Junior League does in our community. From donating food for families in need, distributing books to promote literacy, providing backpacks for neglected and abused children, raising awareness of human trafficking, and many other initiatives, the Junior League positively impacts Hillsborough County in so many ways, all of which benefits community safety.

The State Attorney's Office recognizes the Junior League's commitment to bettering the lives of children and families, and we are proud to call you our partner. We look forward to working together to make a difference.

Thank you again for the opportunity to address your members. I hope that we can do it again in the future. Please do not hesitate to contact our office should you have any questions about our criminal justice system.

Sincerely,

Andrew H. Warren
Andrew H. Warren
STATE ATTORNEY

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Dear Sarah,
Thank you, and the Junior League, for providing toothbrushes for our Dental Haven. It is shocking, but many of the kids we teach do not have their own toothbrushes. Often they share with other family members. The kids are very excited to receive toothbrushes of their own! Many thanks! Sending love & hugs!



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DE&I IN THE LEAGUE

EXPLORING JLT'S EFFORTS AND GOALS FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

by KENDRA LYMAN



MEGHAN MCGUIRE

JLT's Goals

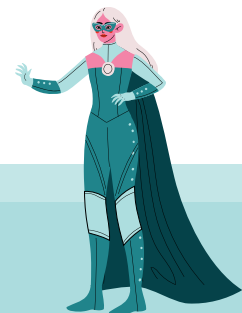
The League's primary goal is to develop its comprehensive focus on DE&I. As explained by JLT's incoming 2019-2020 President-Elect, Meghan McGuire, "the vision of the goal is that by June 2021, JLT will have developed and honed a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion to create an environment where all feel welcome and where all want to partner with the League, so that the organization can actively recruit and engage a membership that reflects the rich diversity of the Tampa Bay community." JLT leadership plans to accomplish this through various objectives, including

the utilization of diversity mechanisms to research the needs of JLT Membership and the communities and populations it serves, as well as education and training for members and JLT leaders. By 2021, the League will build a DE&I plan with a dedicated task-force focused on sustainability, operations, membership and community topics, with ongoing evaluation methods in place. As McGuire notes, ultimately, the League will have thoroughly researched, identified, and established "the conditions for inclusive environments that welcome diverse individuals, organizations and communities who value and align with our Mission."

History of DE&I Efforts

In early 2018, JLT adopted a commitment statement to make DE&I an organization-wide priority. According to McGuire, who has served as the League's 2018-2019 Strategic Planning Director, "the work doesn't end there." From that commitment, the League assigned several members to begin researching and forming annual plans to develop the League's long-term DE&I strategic plan. After developing these initial plans, JLT leaders shared the overall initiative with Membership, emphasizing that the purpose is "to help realize and embrace change so we can better serve The Junior League of Tampa and our community."

With calls for feedback, questions and ideas, JLT presented members with opportunities to participate in DE&I efforts in order to ensure that the initiative





is as comprehensive, effective and authentic as possible. JLT leadership is grateful for the valuable participation and honesty so many members have provided along this journey.

With access to resources and guidance from the League, committee chairs and others in JLT leadership roles have been tasked with incorporating DE&I considerations into their action plans and committee management duties. The League has also updated its financial guidelines to recognize the importance of equal opportunities for all vendors through the procurement processes and to solidify its commitment to diversity and nondiscrimination in its business operations and interactions.

Cultural Competency Guidelines

An exciting standout in the League's recent DE&I developments for the 2018-2019 League year, JLT's new Cultural Competency Guidelines offer important, tangible information for all members. Inspired by a similar and comprehensive document utilized by the Junior League of Houston, members of JLT's Executive Board and Management Council tirelessly researched and compiled pertinent information to guide the development of JLT's own Guidelines. According to McGuire, JLT's Cultural Competency Guidelines are intended to be "the foundation for any member to develop and improve her ability to interact effectively with people of diverse population groups and different cultural backgrounds." With additional education and trainings to come, the League hopes these Guidelines will equip members with the tools

needed to address our community's most pressing needs, while also instilling confidence to eliminate barriers (whether real or perceived) that may adversely impact the ability of all members to carry out the League's Mission.

The Future of DE&I in the League

Moving forward in its efforts, JLT has created a new DE&I Committee, with its Co-Chairs directed to continue building and effecting the League's DE&I plan. JLT will also survey its Membership in order to expand focus beyond simple demographics and identify ways to better promote a more inclusive climate—such as professional development resources, leadership programs, and policies and programs to facilitate equity and inclusion throughout the organization. The League is also utilizing guidance and input from members of its Community Advisory Board, as well best practices from The Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) and input from both local and national diversity councils.

In order to best serve local communities and develop the potential of its members, JLT recognizes that it must be proactive in facilitating and embracing the diversity that makes everyone better. With a solid and comprehensive plan in place, The Junior League of Tampa is committed to prioritizing and improving DE&I as a critical component of continued growth.



KENDRA LYMAN

Kendra has been an Active member of JLT since 2015 and previously served as a contributing writer and as Assistant Editor for *The Sandspur*. She works as a construction law attorney and has lived in Tampa since 2013. In her free time, Kendra enjoys running, attending concerts with her husband Chance, and spending time with friends and family.



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LITTLE LENDING LIBRARIES EXPAND CHILDREN'S LITERACY EFFORTS

by MAREN NADER

As part of its commitment to children's literacy, The Junior League of Tampa is excited to announce its new Little Lending Libraries initiative. Through ongoing efforts to promote and facilitate literacy throughout the Tampa Bay area, JLT and its Children's Literacy Project Committee have taken note of certain communities with unique issues and needs relating to children's literacy and access to books. The League's Little Lending Libraries opened in March and are located at or near various schools and community centers—particularly in areas where students and families are not in close proximity to public libraries.

The Little Lending Libraries allow children to borrow books for extended periods of time (similar to borrowing from a public library) and encourage children to read at their own pace and explore topics of interest as they develop their literacy skills. Several participating schools already have dedicated reading programs in place to encourage children's literacy and interest in reading, and the Little Lending Libraries will provide an additional avenue for those students to better utilize and stay engaged with their schools' reading programs.

Currently, JLT has opened its Little Lending Libraries at five sites, including one at the Brandon Recreation Center, one at the Mango Recreation Center, and three at the Children's Board family resource centers in Brandon, North Tampa and Ruskin. Going forward, the League and its Children's Literacy Project hope to add more Little Lending Libraries throughout the community as additional needs are identified and resources allocated.



MAREN NADER

Maren works in PR and marketing in the healthcare space. She obtained a degree in Creative Writing from Eckerd College, which is what brought her down to sunny Florida from her home state of Michigan. In her spare time, Maren enjoys exercising, traveling and spending time with her fiancé, friends and family.



diversifying

JLT'S COMMUNITY OUTREACH

by STEPHANIE HAAS

As *The Sandspur* showcases The Junior League of Tampa's efforts in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, it is important to also highlight how the League is working to diversify its community programs, allowing us a greater impact in the Tampa Bay community. Through diversity in scope, population, partnership and geography, JLT is addressing issues in a rapidly growing community with changing needs.



DIVERSITY OF SCOPE

Spotlight: Food4Kids

Food4Kids' 28 committee members work to bridge the meal gap for children on meal assistance programs in Hillsborough County. On the weekends, many children receiving free or reduced lunch at schools do not know where their next meal will come from. Food4Kids works with Feeding Tampa Bay to bridge the hunger gap by providing a monthly packing and weekly food distribution to six sites in Hillsborough County, reaching over 300 families each week. Food4Kids recently added RCMA Wimauma Leadership Academy as a weekly distribution location, serving a primarily Spanish-speaking migrant community.

Spotlight: Ready to Achieve

With the goal of giving children soon aging out of the foster care system the tools needed for successful independent living, Ready to Achieve's 16 committee members conduct workshops focused on independent living on the first Saturday of every month at the Lake Magdalene Group Home.

Serving youth ranging from 14 to 19 years of age, Ready to Achieve's workshop sessions range from financial literacy and budget creation to personality tests, resume building and interview preparation. A sponsorship with TD Bank has also allowed financial experts from TD Bank to volunteer their time to guide workshops focused on building strong financial foundations. To better serve the population, Ready to Achieve moved locations this past year from The Junior League of Tampa Headquarters to the Lake Magdalene Group Home and has opened up the program to include youth from both Lake Magdalene Group Home and Eckerd Connects.

Nine Number of workshops
Ready to Achieve gives each year

STEPHANIE HAAS

Stephanie Haas is JLT's Communications Manager. She lives in New Tampa with her husband, John, and her two very stubborn french bulldogs, Wrigley and Mattingly. An avid music and sport fan, if you can't find her at headquarters, you can find her cheering on the Gators and Bucs, or at a concert somewhere in the world.



DIVERSITY IN POPULATION

Spotlight: Kids in the Kitchen

Kids in the Kitchen (KITK) is an Association of Junior Leagues International project that began in 2006 and officially became The Junior League of Tampa Provisional Project in 2012. Through the generous support of Tampa General Hospital, KITK serves youth of all ages and empowers children to make healthy lifestyle choices through interactive programs focused on nutrition and exercise. Led by the Committee's ten Active Members, 150 Provisional Members visit six locations in the Tampa Bay Area eight times per year. Although all of the six project sites are within a 15 minute drive of the League's Headquarters, the populations served vary in age from early elementary school students to teenagers soon aging out of the foster care system, and include children in after-school programs at elementary schools and community centers, and young children and mothers preparing for self-sufficiency after surviving domestic abuse situations. On average, KITK serves 25-30 children per visit, totaling nearly 350 children served each year.

Spotlight: Public Affairs Committee

The Public Affairs Committee informs and educates League Members about legislation affecting JLT issue areas. In the 2018-2019 League year, Public Affairs collaborated with community organizations in the Tampa area on the Activate813 initiative. This initiative allowed Public Affairs to expand their education efforts to the Hillsborough County population as a whole by focusing on voter education, registration, and engagement. The sixteen member committee hosted events open to the public, including a ballot referendum training, a meet and greet with Florida House and Senate Candidates, and a meet and greet with City of Tampa Candidates.

750 Number of KITK volunteer hours per year



THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TAMPA

has a history of **community collaboration**.

By bringing leaders across Hillsborough County together on **Activate813**, we carry on that tradition and are making a greater impact on a much wider audience.

-LINDSEY PARKS, *Advocacy Manager*



DIVERSITY IN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Spotlight: Community Action Committee

The Community Action Committee (CAC) assists nonprofits with "Done in a Day" short-term projects by providing both volunteers and up to \$1,225 in grant funds. This year CAC's 27 committee members partnered with ten nonprofits, all who applied through a rigorous application process, on single day volunteer projects including community beautification projects, organizing and distributing emergency packets, and providing volunteers at partner events. Because requests cannot be made by current project partners with a Memorandum of Agreement designating that the League is spending at least \$2,500 on a project, JLT is able to partner with a wider population of Hillsborough County nonprofits, including new partners Habitat for Humanity and Junior Achievement of Tampa Bay.



“THROUGH THE COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE, LEAGUE VOLUNTEERS

have the opportunity to partner with various community groups who provide support to the Tampa Bay Area in a variety of ways including providing uniforms to public school students in need, shelter for victims of human trafficking, learning opportunities for students on business skills, and much more. The diversity in the community partners we work with, the population we touch, and volunteer support we provide through this Committee is a testament to the League's efforts in this arena.

—LAKISHA KINSEY-SALLIS, *Community Action Coordinator*



Spotlight: Human Trafficking Awareness Committee

This year, The Junior League of Tampa's Human Trafficking Awareness Committee (HTA) focused efforts on supporting non-profit partner events. For the first time, the ten-member committee partnered with University of South Florida student organization Triumph Over Trafficking and Morsani College of Medicine on an event aimed at bringing more human trafficking awareness to college students. With almost 150 people in attendance, the audience

screened the documentary film "Stopping Traffic" and later participated in a discussion with the film director, Sidhayatan Tirith. HTA will also be partnering with the Boys and Girls Club on a class bringing more awareness to parents about the dangers of online predators and to gain support for more education in the schools about safety from online traffickers.

HTA partnered with the Junior League of Greater Orlando and the Junior League of Daytona Beach on the Coast to Coast Campaign to raise awareness of human trafficking along the I-4 corridor.



DIVERSITY OF GEOGRAPHY

Spotlight: MILO

The Mobile Interactive Literacy Opportunity (MILO) travels across Hillsborough County, offering literacy activities, meet and greets with PBS characters, and book giveaways. MILO also provides children the chance to access library cards and the MyON program, a free online database with over 4,000 digital books. In the 2018-2019 League year, MILO's nearly 40 committee members visited locations across Hillsborough County including, Odessa, Temple Terrace, Riverview, New Tampa, Plant City and Ruskin. Additionally, MILO participated in community-wide events such as the Gasparilla Children's Parade and Children's Day of Play in Al Lopez Park, allowing them to reach even more Hillsborough County families.

Spotlight: Family Food Fest

Family Food Fest is a one-day event through which The Junior League of Tampa partners with community organizations to serve the population close to the University Area Community Development Center (UACDC), with an emphasis on the redevelopment and sustainability of the at-risk areas surrounding the Tampa campus of the University of South Florida. In its second year at the UACDC, Family Food Fest serves a population with 58% of residents living below the 2015 federal poverty level and roughly 80-100% of K-12 students receiving free/reduced lunch. This year's Family Food Fest includes a mobile food pantry, health screenings, recreational events, and appearances from the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Lightning.

900 Number of books distributed to children at MILO events this year

447 Number of meals served at the 2018 Family Food Fest

Disrupting Poverty Through

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TAMPA

Diaper B A N K

by MAREN NADER

Diaper need is a widespread but often overlooked problem throughout the United States. One in three American families is in need of assistance with purchasing diapers. The average cost for diapers for one child is \$70 to \$80 per month. For parents of the 5.2 million children aged three and under living in poverty in the United States, this expense is often insurmountable. Recognizing a diaper need in local communities, The Junior League of Tampa created its Diaper Bank to assist families and raise awareness throughout the Tampa Bay region.

“It’s so much more than diapers. It’s the linchpin in the poverty cycle.”

– Caroline Foss, committee chair

Access to diapers is critical for babies and their families alike, and the issue of diaper need is more complex and significant than many might realize. For

example, daycare facilities typically require parents to provide around five diapers per day for each child. Many families are unable to purchase and provide the requisite diapers in order to secure daycare for their child, and a lack of childcare often inhibits a parent's ability to maintain sufficient employment. “It’s so much more than diapers. It’s the linchpin in the poverty cycle,” said Caroline Foss, Chair of JLT’s Diaper Bank Committee.

Through its Diaper Bank, JLT is working to bridge this gap for families in need by collecting donations of diapers and related products as well as monetary contributions. A donation of only \$1.00 can provide seven diapers, and any amount helps the League reach families in need of assistance. JLT’s Diaper Bank can also accept donations of opened packages



of unused diapers (which should be placed in a resealable “ziplock” bag to donate). Permanent collection bins are located at JLT Headquarters, Palma Ceia Storage, and Reruns 4 Little Ones, and JLT members who want to help are also encouraged to raise and collect their own donations and can even host their own “diaper drives.”

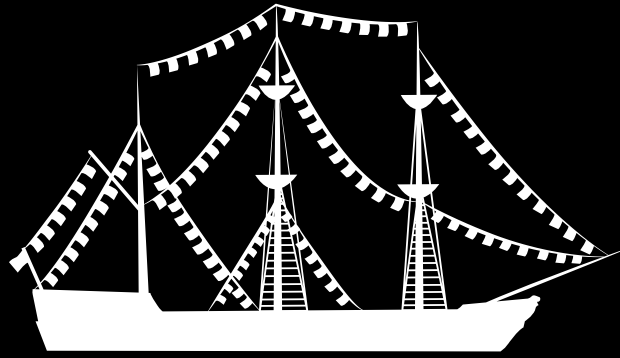
JLT has partnered with various community and non-profit organizations, and donations collected by the League are distributed to partners throughout Hillsborough County to then provide to families in need. As JLT does not directly donate to individuals or families, anyone in need of diaper assistance is encouraged to contact one of the League’s local community partners.

For more information, please visit www.jltampa.org/diaperbank.

MAREN NADER

Maren works in PR and marketing in the healthcare space. She obtained a degree in Creative Writing from Eckerd College, which is what brought her down to sunny Florida from her home state of Michigan. In her spare time, Maren enjoys exercising, traveling and spending time with her fiancé, friends and family.





— THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TAMPA —
**GASPARILLA
INVASION PARTY**

This year's Gasparilla Invasion Party at The Junior League of Tampa Headquarters was one of the best yet! All net proceeds raised from ticket purchases support the League's community projects and programs. Thank you to all who attended in support of JLT, and a special thanks to our Commodore sponsor, Mann Orthodontics. Tickets for the League's 2020 Gasparilla Invasion Party will go on sale in December. For more information, please visit www.jltampa.org/gasparilla-invasion.

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KENDRA LYMAN

Kendra has been an Active member of JLT since 2015 and previously served as a contributing writer and as Assistant Editor for *The Sandspur*. She works as a construction law attorney and has lived in Tampa since 2013. In her free time, Kendra enjoys running, attending concerts with her husband Chance, and spending time with friends and family.





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THE SUSTAINER SPUR

THE SUSTAINER SPUR'S EDITORIAL STAFF:



Teneille Kuznicki, *The Sustainer Spur* Editor

An Active Member of JLT since 2011, Teneille works in Program Management. She was previously the Co-Chair of the Luminaries Committee, and also part of the Inaugural Committee. Teneille grew up in Trinidad and Tobago, just got married and enjoys travelling the world.

SUSTAINER EXECUTIVE BOARD 2018-2019:

Sustainer President: **Leslie Jennewein**

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Sustainer Legacy Tea



Leading the Charge for Change

The spring edition of *The Sandspur* examines the breadth of The Junior League of Tampa experience. When I look back at my driving motivation to become a JLT member, my genuine excitement was driven by joining an organization bringing together women with diverse perspectives, including ethnicity, race, geography, age, education, socioeconomics, and experience. Our membership brings a wealth of knowledge gained from our military, educational, financial, and technology backgrounds, to name just a few. Our members individually bring the diversity of our community with their perspectives and contributions that continue to shape our growth and sense of belonging to something greater than just ourselves.

With recent changes to JLT's Sustainer age guidelines, our Sustainer membership now celebrates four generations of members, from Traditionalist through Baby Boomers and Generation X to most recently, Millennials. JLT is working to ensure that all four generations have the best possible member experience. Understanding that members prefer to receive their JLT information in different ways has seen the Sustainer Only Facebook group being added as another means to keep in touch with our nearly 1,000 Sustaining members.

JLT recently celebrated our past Sustainer of the Year honorees, each bringing a diversity backgrounds, perspectives, and drives that continue to shape the rapidly changing landscape of how The Junior League of Tampa is represented in our community. We bring together unique voices, differing viewpoints, and experiences that I am excited to see shape not just decisions within our Active league members, but with the evolution of our Sustainer membership.



Teneille Kuznicki
The Sustainer Spur Editor



*Life is not easy for
any of us. But what of
that? We must have
perseverance and
above all confidence
in ourselves. We must
believe that we are
gifted for something
and that this thing
must be attained.*

— Marie Curie

SUPPORTING OUR MISSION THROUGH DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Tampa Bay Community is experiencing dramatic demographic changes.

To effectively respond to these changes, The Junior League of Tampa must embrace and foster an inclusion strategy that supports and reinforces our Mission and Vision. It is critical that we continue to be diligent in our efforts to increase the diversity of our membership to accurately reflect the demographics of our community.

In 1901, Mary Harriman, a New Yorker and social activism pioneer, founded the Junior League. She believed that we all bear the responsibility to learn about the world around us in order to be more effective in our desire to improve it.

It is crucial that we reach out to women who are an accurate reflection of our community and who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to volunteerism. Leaders who will help us strengthen current partnerships and create new strategic alliances with diverse organizations that support our Mission. Committed women who will help educate, inspire, empower and shape the future.

I believe that as a Sustainer, it is imperative that we promote the positive image of The Junior League of Tampa - as a place of diversity, equity and inclusion - where women become trained volunteers and experience rewarding opportunities to serve our community, as we have for nearly 100 years. We must embrace our role as longstanding leaders who not only remain committed to these ideals but also endorse the reality that they are contributing factors to our League's future viability and success.

"We are a stronger organization with a broader reach and impact when we embrace and celebrate the differences of our membership, the community and our partners."



Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leslie Jennewein'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Leslie Jennewein
Sustainer President

Save the Dates

THE LUMINARIES

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Past Sustainers of the Year Luncheon

by CAMERON HUNT MCNABB

On January 8, 2019, generations of The Junior League of Tampa legacies gathered at the Tampa Yacht Club to celebrate the first annual Past Sustainer of the Year Luncheon. The focal point of the luncheon was a celebration of the women who have been honored in years past as Sustainers of the Year. These women represent visionary giants of the League's history.

The Sustainer of the Year award was first given in 1970 to Sylvia Corral Vega, and it has been awarded every year since to those who "have made a lasting impact in Tampa Bay beyond their years of active service to the League" and who embody the League's mission: "promote voluntarism; develop the potential of women; and improve our communities through her effective action and leadership."

Before the luncheon, guests donned their name tags and mingled in the sunlit halls of the Yacht Club. Young members listened to stories of past Sustainers of the Year, each sharing in the heritage of JLT. These women represent the unity and community that JLT fosters. The League's diversity was also present as well, with many different backgrounds represented among both past Sustainers of the Year and the Active members present.

The luncheon was the idea of the 2018 Sustainer of the Year — Barbara Ryals. She noted that although each Sustainer of the Year was honored during the year she was awarded, there was no

ongoing opportunity to celebrate past awardees. Such a luncheon would not only continue to honor the Sustainers who embody the League's mission year after year but would also support the vibrant Sustainer community.

As President Isabel Dewey noted, The Junior League of Tampa is now one of the ten largest Leagues in the nation, and that is because of the "continuing work that (Sustainers) started" through "long-term membership." This luncheon, she said, "is a celebration of each of you!" Sustainer President Leslie Jennewein echoed this praise, "applaud[ing] your service in Tampa and impact nationally."

In so many ways, Sustainers are the backbone of the League and Sustainers of the Year are particularly noteworthy for their dedicated service to JLT and the community. Such visionaries certainly deserve continued recognition, year after year. As the League continues to move forward, and see further into the future of Tampa, it is only because we are standing on the shoulders of these visionary giants.

CAMERON HUNT MCNABB

Cameron Hunt McNabb has been a member of The Junior League of Tampa since 2016 and is part of the third generation in her family to serve in JLT. She works as an English professor and enjoys running and traveling in her spare time. Cameron looks forward to raising her daughter to serve in the League as well!



Historical Perspective

A History of The Junior League of Tampa's Thrift Store

by CAMERON HUNT MCNABB

Many members might not know this, but before there was a Holiday Gift Market (HGM), there was the Junior League Thrift Store. Like our current Holiday Gift Market, the Thrift Store was the primary fundraiser for the League. It was called the League's "best advertisement" and boasted "Step right up, folks. See for yourself real live Junior Leaguers at work!" And work they did. In 1950, its committee had 30 members--the largest by far, representing approximately one-third of League members at that time.

The Thrift Store began sometime in the 1930s, as a partnership with the Tampa Unemployment Council during the Great Depression. It provided employment opportunities to local women and sold donated "salvaged" clothing.

By 1950, the Thrift Store moved to Franklin Street, where, according to Sustainer Gerry Hunt, "there wasn't much except the store and the Goody Goody." But, as noted in the Fall 1950 issue of *The Sandspur*, the shop had ample "breathing room," along with new tile floors (after an unfortunate splinter incident in the previous location) and a fresh coat of aqua paint.

According to JLT records, members were expected to donate a monthly quota of men's and women's clothing, shoes and wares. Prices typically ranged from \$0.01 to \$10.00, but occasionally big ticket items came through, such as an antique bed advertised for \$35.00.

Gerry Hunt, a former Thrift Store Chair, recalls that members often generously brought in high-end clothing and household wares. This not only generated a lot of income for the store, but also provided those items to individuals who may not have otherwise been able to afford them. It seems that

members occasionally borrowed the high-end items, too, as *The Sandspur* reminded members that "we sell for cash and do not lend for charity." The few items that did not sell were given to a local "ragman," including items humorously described as "weird hats," "out-size evening gowns," and "countless too-short black dresses."

Hunt also remembers that the thrift store served "anyone who walked in." The downtown population was diverse in its makeup, so men and women, young and old, black and white, were all welcomed as patrons. *The Sandspur* also noted that members of the downtown artistic community were frequent shoppers, as they could purchase costumes and materials relatively cheaply.

By all accounts, the Thrift Store was a smashing success. Just after its first year, *The Sandspur* recorded, the Thrift Store held a massive sale, where "by the end of the first hour, the very window decorations had been sold." A police officer was even present to help handle the crowd! In that one sale, the store brought in over \$200.00 and apparently even sparked envy among nearby shop owners, some of whom reportedly purchased \$0.10 items from the sale and sold them at a markup in their own shops.

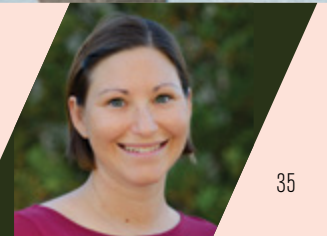
The Thrift Store remained a downtown Tampa and JLT staple for decades, until the needs of the community and the League itself began to change. Eventually, the Thrift Store closed, but the spirit behind it was not forgotten, morphing into the current Holiday Gift Market, which continues to bring high-quality items and a meaningful shopping experience to the Tampa Bay community. Who knows what the future of HGM will hold!





CAMERON HUNT MCNABB

Cameron Hunt McNabb has been a member of The Junior League of Tampa since 2016 and is part of the third generation in her family to serve in JLT. She works as an English professor and enjoys running and traveling in her spare time. Cameron looks forward to raising her daughter to serve in the League as well!



SUSTAINERS THROUGH THE DECADES

by LESLIE JENNEWAIN & MADELINE MORRIS

In celebration of The Junior League of Tampa's inspiring history, we are honored to introduce some of the League's earliest founding members and leaders, each of whom has helped guide the League through its many decades of service and growth.

1960s Members



LORA HULSE

Lora Hulse joined The Junior League of Tampa in 1966. A daughter of a League member, she remembers attending League meetings as a child. Her Provisional year brought lifelong friendships and fueled love for volunteering; her class met once a week during the yearlong Provisional course.

Lora started her League career with the Children's Theatre project. The committee would rehearse for months to prepare for their performances across Hillsborough County. Afterwards she remembers the children coming up to the League members asking for their autographs as if they were movie stars.

She went on to hold many leadership positions including chairing the Decorators' Showhouse and Cookbook committees, two of the League's signature fundraisers at the time. As Cookbook Chair she remembers filling her trunk with boxes of The Gasparilla Cookbook before heading off on vacation to North Carolina with her family. She would stop at locations across the Carolinas, explaining to business owners what Gasparilla was and why they should carry the book.

"The Decorators' Showhouse was a special thing," Lora says. She and her fellow League members rallied together to transform the historic Stovall House on Bayshore Boulevard. The two-year project required soliciting landscaping companies to donate their services, inviting leading area designers to transform the different rooms, and working with the newspaper to tell the story of the Stovall House.

Through all these roles Lora was being trained by the League. "I never thought of it as training," she says of her Active experience, "I just thought of it as being involved." She recalls how late in her League career, several speakers were invited to host seminars on leadership and grant writing for members. During her first grantsmanship seminar she remembered thinking to herself, "Oh I could never do that." But then at age 56 she jumped into the professional sector for the first time to work in fund development with the Girl Scouts. Her training in grant writing, fundraising, and leadership led her to an 11-year career with the organization.

Lora has many hopes for the League, such as seeing the adoption of projects to support the elderly and protect the environment. But her greatest hope is that the League will never lose the feeling of community and love of city. As a lifelong Tampa resident Lora, understands better than most how the city's rich history is intertwined with the League's history. Her commitment through the decades has helped build this legacy.

When reflecting on how the League has changed over the years, she points to the size and the expanded community impact. "I remember having to explain what the League was, but now everyone knows because of what we have done."

"I remember having to explain what the League was, but now everyone knows because of what we have done."

– Lora Hulse

1970s Members



JUNE ANNIS

When June Annis joined The Junior League of Tampa in 1975, the new member process used the proposer method; Active members proposed a Prospective member, often without the new member's knowledge. The process led to a feeling of pride in membership and a desire to not let your proposer down. June's Provisional year started with a "bang". "You were immediately thrust into Provisional groups to research various areas and began your volunteer life with the Junior League," June recalls. She quickly built lasting friendships with the other women in her class, all united by a collective love of serving their community.

June's Active years saw the revival of *the Follies* as a signature League fundraiser. The Follies, which first ran in 1936, brought the entire membership together to perform skits, songs, and dances to raise money for the League's community work. June points to the two Follies she participated in as some of her favorite League memories. "It was simply wholesome fun throughout and really unified the membership." During the 1980s the Follies adopted the name the Tampa Tempo. The events were both a success in raising money and generating community PR. Active League members were joined by their husbands, Sustainers, and non-league members to put on a one of a kind show. During June's presidential year in 1983-1984, the Follies generated over \$175,000 for the community.

The training aspect of the League also impacted June's time as an Active. "Exposure to our community and the vastness of the volunteer opportunities offered is one of the most important benefits of being a member of the Junior League," she says. She recognizes the training she received was much more than the scheduled seminars she attended. She learned from stopping to listen and learn from the other women she was working with. "I like to think of the League as a large stepping stone," she says. June has taken her experience and expertise gained in the League to support several community organizations, most notably serving on the board of the Tampa Bay History Center and Metropolitan Ministries.

When asked to reflect on how the League has changed since her Active years, June points to the complexity of modern life. "Our individual lives are more complicated now. We are exposed to so many more issues and perhaps have more areas of concern. The issues are deeper, making the problems more complicated and the solutions difficult." In some ways she sees these complexities placing unnecessary restrictions on the League's ability to do good for its members and the community. However, she still believes the League is effective in its pursuits, thanks to the thousands of hours the members devote to improve the Tampa community. She says strongly, "I will always keep the faith in this organization."

"Exposure to our community and the vastness of the volunteer opportunities offered is one of the most important benefits of being a member of the Junior League."

– June Annis

A special thank you to
LESLIE JENNEWEIN and MADELINE MORRIS
for their work researching JLT yearbooks and photos to
recognize the women who founded The Junior League of Tampa.



Sustainer Spotlight:

SUSTAINER TRANSFERS

by LAUREN CROMER


Genet Stewart

Named after her grandmother, Genet Stewart was born and spent a portion of her life in Liberia as one of nine children. Her mother is Ethiopian and met Genet's father, who is from Panama City, while he was stationed in the army in Ethiopia, where they married and started a family. Her childhood experience of being evacuated from her home twice due to civil war conflict, as well as the regular conditions of life in a developing country, have given Genet a grateful perspective on the vast freedoms the United States can offer. Since moving to the U.S., she has made it her life's work to give back to others not born into or given access to the freedom and opportunities that many of us enjoy. After graduating from Florida State University, Genet returned to Liberia briefly to provide aid to soldiers until armed conflict broke out once again.

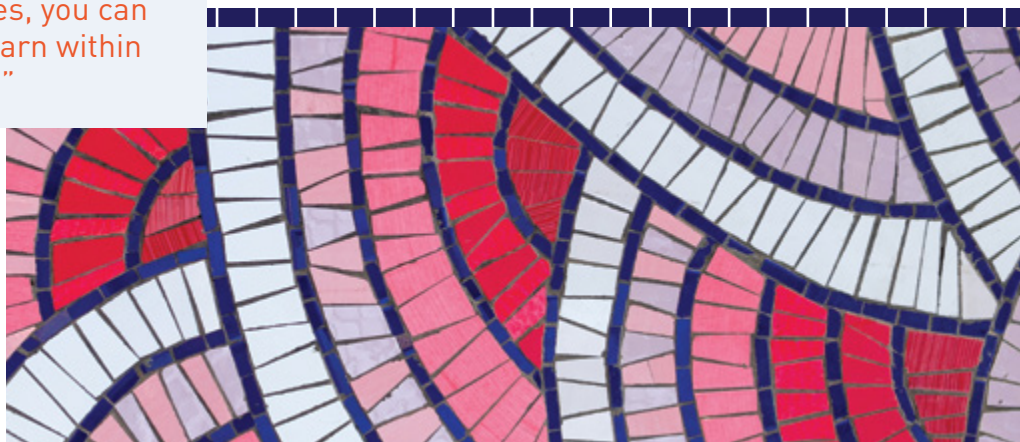
Genet joined the Junior League of Greater Lakeland, where she spent a year before transferring to The Junior League of Tampa, and she is incredibly impressed with many of JLT's initiatives in our city. Genet's great passion is helping others, and for the past 20 years she has been leaving her mark on the world by advocating for child welfare, which she considers her greatest accomplishment. As Executive Director of Eckerd Connects in Hillsborough County, Genet witnesses the difference JLT is making in children's lives--particularly with the League's adoption event this past October, during which six foster children were matched with their forever families in partnership with JLT's Kids Connect Committee!

Genet loves the League's focus on diversity and explains that it is amazing to see how we have evolved: "Women of all ages, backgrounds, and ethnicities coming together to make the League more inclusive." When she is not helping the youth of Hillsborough County, Genet loves spending time with her 13 nieces and nephews, enjoying the beach and theme parks, and spending time with friends and loved ones.

Genet offers this inspiring advice for new JLT members: "You are going to get out of it what you put into it. Step outside of your comfort zone and learn something you may never have tried in your usual day-to-day life. JLT is not a one size fits all and you can make it what you need it to be. With so many different opportunities, you can grow and learn within the League".

A portrait of Genet Stewart, a Black woman with short dark hair, smiling. She is wearing a pink collared shirt under a grey blazer and a pearl necklace. The background is a solid brown color.

"You are going to get out of it what you put into it. Step outside of your comfort zone and learn something you may never have tried in your usual day-to-day life. JLT is not a one size fits all and you can make it what you need it to be. With so many different opportunities, you can grow and learn within the League."



Deborah Papaeconomou

Deborah, or “Deb” as her friends call her, grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas. Upon graduating from the University of Arkansas, Deb moved to New York for a job and ended staying there for 29 years. After meeting her husband Lambros, they moved to Connecticut to start their family of four, including their 21-year-old daughter, Olga, and their 16-year-old son, Dimitris. Lambros grew up in Athens, Greece, and they have visited many times to spend time with his family and even maintain a resident apartment there.

Deb transferred to The Junior League of Tampa from New York Junior League (NYJL), where she served for over 24 years on various committees and initiatives, including one that is near and dear to her heart: The Playground Improvement Project. This project focuses on local school or park playgrounds that are in need of improvements or repairs. The committee revamps them, giving new life to playgrounds around the city. One of Deb’s fondest memories during her time in NYJL was visiting one of the Upper East Side playgrounds that the kids were surprised with and seeing their reaction to the brand-new murals, garden and jungle gym that the volunteers had prepared for them.

During her time in New York, Deb also served on the Advocates for Public Policy committee, which traveled to Albany, New York, each year to advocate for various issues regarding children and healthcare. One of the committee’s accomplishments includes a legislative bill to cap hot water temperature in order to prevent accidental scalding injuries in children.

In addition to her service to the Junior League, Deb has worked as a Director for Citigroup Bank in data management for finance and risk data for the last 18 years. Her job brought her from New York to Tampa in August of 2018. Her career has taken her all over the world to interact with diverse people and

“Always take advantage of training.”



places including London, Poland and Korea where she manages her teams and helps facilitate their work abroad.

An influential person from the NYJL is Diann Rhode who was Deb’s Provisional trainer and eventually went on to become President of NYJL. With most of the women in the League at that time being non-working women, Diann maintained a job and influenced others to continue working through their time in the ever-changing NYJL, which now has over 2500 members.

Deb has advice for new members and it is something she has instilled in her kids as well: “Always take advantage of training.” Deb loves that the Junior League trains volunteers on a plethora of subjects and encourages each member, new and old, to take advantage of training in any and all areas of interest. She loves knowing she is part of an organization bigger than herself and while she cannot belong to every committee, she belongs to this organization; she is essentially a part of it all!

LAUREN CROMER

Lauren is a fifth-year Active and Tampa native. She holds a psychology degree from the University of Florida and a master’s in Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling from the University of South Florida, and is dual licensed as a mental health counselor and a marriage and family therapist. Lauren enjoys spending time with her fiancée and step-daughter, going to concerts and trying new restaurants.



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• Caroline Vostrejs
• Ashley Watters
• Andrea Webb

Laura Everitt,
People on the Move, Tampa Bay Business Journal
• Courtney Bilyeu
• Isabel Dewey

• Elizabeth Dunsmoor
• Stephanie Haas
• Leslie Hodz
• Taylor Jones
• Meghan McGuire
• Laurel Moynihan
• Melissa Knight Nodhturft
• Lindsey Parks
• Jenny Schroeder
• Rebecca Towner
• Caroline Vostrejs
• Andrea Webb

Maja Lacevic Frye,
Outstanding Young Lawyer Award, Hillsborough County Bar Association
• Isabel Dewey
• Ashley Hayes
• Taylor Jones
• Kendra Lyman
• Meghan McGuire
• Melissa Knight Nodhturft

• Ashley Watters
Lila Gross,
on her job promotion
• Frankie Reitz

Miranda Henderson,
on her promotion at work
• Isabel Dewey
• Elizabeth Dunsmoor
• Stephanie Haas
• Cassidy Liebler
• Meghan McGuire
• Melissa Knight Nodhturft
• Dawn Short
• Caroline Vostrejs
• Andrea Webb

Alex Palermo,
on her promotion at work
• Isabel Dewey
• Autumn Etheredge

• Stephanie Haas
• Leslie Hodz
• Taylor Jones
• Kendra Lyman
• Marysue Mathews
• Meghan McGuire
• Melissa Knight Nodhturft
• Caroline Vostrejs

Megan Tetro,
on being selected for Florida Engineering Leadership Institute
• Isabel Dewey
• Leslie Hodz
• Meghan McGuire
• Melissa Knight Nodhturft
• Lindsey Parks
• Caroline Vostrejs

THINKING OF

Katie Peluso,
on Katie's Husband, Andy, Recovery from Collapsed Lung
• Courtney Bilyeu
• Kendra Lyman

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 provides the opportunity to pursue new opportunities or deal with unforeseen circumstances without creating an additional financial hardship for JLT or its members. Commemorative gifts support the Endowment Fund.

90th Anniversary Endowment Donors

90TH LEGACY FOUNDER

Don and Campbell Burton
Betsy and Drew Graham

90TH SUSTAINING FOUNDER

Suzanne and Evan Brownstein
Stacy Carlson
Solon F. O'Neal, Jr., *in memory of Sherrill Bell O'Neal*

90TH FOUNDER

The Dutkowsky Charitable Foundation
Laura Everitt
Dr. Michael and Ginny Garcia
Mark and Suzy Mendelson

90TH SPONSOR

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Melissa and Phil Nodturtft
Dada Pittman
Jenny and Peter Spencer
2015-2016 Inaugural Management Council
2015-2016 Leadership Council, *in honor of Stacy Carlson*

90TH CONTRIBUTOR

Fran Dupuis
Tom and Andrea Layne
Marysue and Jim Mathews
Gianni O'Connor
Ginny Veit
Caroline Vostrejs

90TH SUPPORTER

Mildred Lewis, *in honor of Alden Lewis Sollner, Lisl Unterholzner, Gloria Johnston Sparkman, and Anne Wilson King*
Selena Ward
2015-2016 Endowment Committee

The Founder's Circle Endowment Donors

LEGACY FOUNDERS

The Junior League of Tampa
Campbell and Don Burton
The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay

SUSTAINING FOUNDERS

Betsy and Drew Graham
Drs. Lance and Georgia Kane, *in memory of Kenneth Charles Kane*

FOUNDERS

Heather and Bennett Barrow
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Burton Family Foundation
Laurie Ann Burton
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Helen Kerr
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Terri D. Parnell
Mary, David and Abigail Persky
Stephanie and Stephen Rumbley
Lavinia Witt Touchton, *in memory of Willie Carter Witt Blake*

Donor List as of December 10, 2018. Donations less than \$250 are recognized through the Commemorative Fund.

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

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

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



Endowment Fund

our resource for future growth

by EMILY JAMIESON

The Junior League of Tampa and its leaders are dedicated not only to the League's current service and presence in the community, but also to ensuring sustainable growth and future stability as well. As a critical part of these ongoing efforts, The Junior League of Tampa Endowment Fund serves as a long-term, limited-use fund comprised of contributions from members as well as non-member donors.

Initially established in 2006, the Fund is managed by the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay (CFTB) and has grown significantly in recent years as part of the League's efforts to secure this resource for future needs and endeavors. Two successful campaigns during JLT's 85th and 90th anniversary years helped the Fund reach the League's "hike to half-a-million" goal in 2018. The Fund is managed by CFTB as part of a high-performing investment pool, which is overseen by an investment committee of CFTB board members and other experienced and qualified community volunteers.

Ginny Garcia, the Enabling Fund Committee's League Resource Liaison, explains that JLT has implemented a formal distribution policy for the Endowment Fund, which limits the amount and purpose of distributions in order to protect the principal and ensure that the Fund can continue to grow. In addition to the cap on withdrawal and distribution amounts, the League also conducts an annual review of the Fund to evaluate its

performance and purposes. JLT leadership is also currently working with CFTB to develop thorough guidelines to assist League decision-makers when determining appropriate uses for Fund distributions.

As JLT continues to expand its efforts and presence throughout the Tampa Bay region, its Endowment Fund provides a reliable resource for future growth, as well as additional security for potential times of economic uncertainty. Through effective and deliberate management of the Fund, the League is better able to serve local communities and ensure that it will continue to do so for years to come.

The Junior League of Tampa sincerely thanks all who have contributed to the Endowment Fund in order to help secure the League's ability to serve our community. For more information on the Fund, including information on how to contribute, please visit www.jltampa.org/support/endorment.

EMILY JAMIESON

Emily originally transferred from the Sarasota Junior League, and this is her second active year in JLT. She graduated from Eckerd College with a B.A. in Humanities and currently works as an esthetician and nail technician in a high-end day spa.



WHO'S WHO IN THE LEAGUE

by ELIZABETH WEIBLEY

Get to know a few of our inspiring members who have shared with us their passion for JLT, as well as their exciting lives and accomplishments outside of the League!

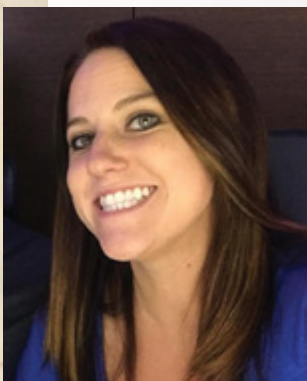


KYLIE GROSS, ACTIVE

Kylie joined The Junior League of Tampa in 2017 as a Provisional member and is now in her first year as an Active member. Kylie was initially drawn to the League because of its variety of philanthropic causes, as well as the ability to connect with others in the Tampa area.

As a Provisional member, Kylie volunteered with almost every committee in the League. She recommends this to all Provisionals and League members, and she believes it helped her build friendships and find her place during her first Active year. She considers her current position as a Girl Power Event Coordinator to be a dream placement for herself. Some of Kylie's favorite JLT events are the Dragon Boat races, Holiday Gift Market, training events (particular with "FBI Dave"), and of course, events with the girls mentored in through JLT's Girl Power Committee.

Outside of the League, Kylie works at the University of Tampa and serves at The Chapel as a teacher for the toddler Sunday class. Kylie loves public speaking, and she is passionate about raising awareness in particular for eating disorders and mental health issues. She enjoys speaking to others about the importance of living a balanced life and living authentically. In her free time, Kylie enjoys running, biking, beating her friends at board games and spoiling her nieces and nephews.



LAURA GROW, TRANSFER

Laura joined the Junior League of Manatee County in 2015 in order to make friends and get involved with service and volunteer opportunities in her community. In 2018, she moved to Tampa and transferred to The Junior League of Tampa. Laura is currently on the Transfer Committee and gaining valuable insight into how to make the most of her participation in JLT. She looks forward to continuing opportunities to make new friends and serve the community through the League.

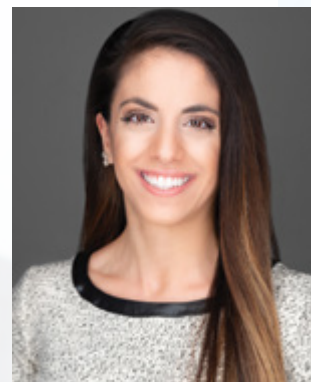
Laura currently works as an executive assistant for the COO and CFO of a commercial real estate investment company, where she has worked for the past 5 years. She loves going to the beach, biking around Tampa and spending time with her boyfriend, Chris, and her 14-year-old Yorkie, Lilly. Laura is excited to receive her first official placement and looks forward to getting more involved with JLT.

JUDE MASANNAT, PROVISIONAL

Born and raised in Jordan, Jude traveled and lived throughout the world before joining The Junior League of Tampa. She attended high school at United World Colleges-Atlantic College in Wales, UK, where she earned a college scholarship to the University of Florida. Jude completed both her undergraduate and graduate studies at UF and subsequently moved to Tampa with her boyfriend, Jamison Joyce. Jude is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Head and Neck-Endocrine Oncology Department at Moffitt Cancer Center.

Jude learned about JLT through Jamison's mother, Lilian Reyes-Joyce, who is a JLT Sustainer. Jude is currently completing her Provisional year, including her position as a Communications Liaison for the Kids in the Kitchen Committee. As a new member of JLT, she has enjoyed spending time among such inspirational women and making so many new friends! In addition to her placement as a Provisional member, Jude has had the opportunity to serve on a career panel for a Girl Power Committee event and as a volunteer for the Fall State Public Affairs Committee event.

Jude is inspired by the leaders and members of JLT and is proud to be part of an organization so committed to empowering Tampa's youth, women, and families. She also appreciates the League's commitment to its own members' development, and she looks forward to the future of her League career.



JULIANA CASTILLO, ACTIVE

Juliana began her League career in 2011 with the the Junior League of Atlanta (JLA) before transferring to The Junior League of Tampa in 2017. Juliana was first interested in joining the League as a result of all the positive things her friends in JLT had to say about the organization, and after attending a new member orientation with JLA, she was hooked. Now that she is back in her hometown of Tampa as a member of JLT, she is excited to give back, connect, grow and learn all over again. Through her service with the League, Juliana is particularly fond of the opportunities members have to give back to the community, as well as the continual inspiration from other League members.

Juliana currently serves as the Assistant Chair of JLT's Food 4 Kids Committee, working in particular to provide nutritious meals for children and families on weekends and other times outside of school. In her prior time with the Junior League in Atlanta, Juliana was co-chair of Estrellitas (a JLA committee that works with at-risk Hispanic female high school students) and also served on JLA's Impact & Measurements Committee and Diversity Taskforce.

Juliana's professional career is dedicated to community relations work, spanning various industries and sectors. She currently works in community engagement at Tampa General Hospital, with an emphasis on health education and awareness. Through her career experience and in addition to her service with the League, Juliana has enjoyed opportunities to engage with various community organizations such as The School Health Advisory Committee for Hillsborough County (SHAC), Westshore Alliance, Tampa Bay Bold Goal and University Area CDC.

A University of Central Florida alumna, Juliana is currently working to earn a Certificate in Corporate Citizenship Practice from Boston College. She and her husband of two and a half years, Bryan Castillo, are proud parents to their fur-baby, Muñeco, and are soon-to-be proud parents of a human baby in July of this year!



ELIZABETH WEIBLEY

Elizabeth first joined JLT in 2017, and this is her first year as an Active member. By day she is a Financial Aid Administrator at the University of South Florida, and by night she is a Disney-obsessed, dog-cuddling bookworm.



Family Food Fest



Incoming Management Council and Executive Board Retreat



On April 5th and 6th, the Incoming Management Council and Executive Board attend the 2019-20 Leadership Retreat. The Leadership Retreat focused on creating a high performing Executive Board and Management Council through team building exercises, understanding core responsibilities, and envisioning how strategy and operations can work together to lead The Junior League of Tampa far into the future.



100% Party





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**.

Come join us for lunch!

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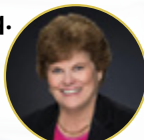
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THE LUMINARIES

Preserving the Past. Inspiring the Future.

Introducing The Luminaries 2019 Honorees

by MORGAN BLAKE

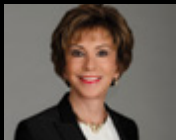
The Junior League of Tampa is proud to introduce the 2019 honorees for The Luminaries award program: *Rosemary Armstrong, Dr. Judy Genshaft and Joseph Capitano, Sr.*

In furtherance of JLT's commitment to leadership and service in the community, The Luminaries recognizes these individuals for their contributions to the Tampa Bay area, as well as their ongoing leadership, advocacy and distinction within their respective areas of service and expertise.



Rosemary Armstrong

Armstrong works as an attorney and has practiced law in Tampa since 1985. Throughout her career, she has provided pro bono legal services to women in need of assistance in matters such as domestic violence disputes, dissolutions of marriage, and child support and custody. She also helped create the Family Law Mentor Project to recruit pro bono attorneys and mentors. In 2012, Armstrong was appointed Vice Chair of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit's Pro Bono Committee, and she also founded and served as the Executive Director of Crossroads for Florida Kids, Inc.



Dr. Judy Genshaft

Genshaft has worked tirelessly to improve high school graduation rates and eliminate the achievement gap for underserved populations. In addition to her service as the sixth president of the University of South Florida, Genshaft also serves as chair of The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, the Tampa Bay Partnership and the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100.



Joseph Capitano, Sr.

A native Tampanian, Capitano founded Radiant Oil Company and previously served as the president of the Florida Petroleum Marketers Association (FPMA) in 1982. In recognition of his lobbying and other service to the industry, he was inducted to the FPMA Hall of Fame in 1995. Capitano also worked to bring Day Top Village, a drug rehabilitation center, to Florida, and he serves president of Central Park Village Youth Services, Inc. Capitano is also a long-time member of the board of trustees at Academy Prep Center of Tampa.

JLT invites all members of the community to join in honoring these individuals at the 2019 Luminaries luncheon, which will take place at 11 am on Friday, May 10, at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit jltampa.org/luminaries, or contact luminaries@jltampa.org.

MORGAN BLAKE

Morgan is a first-year Active member who, outside of the League, works on the Real Estate Asset Management team at Bloomin' Brands. She graduated from Florida State University and is so happy to have moved back to her sweet hometown of Tampa. Currently residing in Hyde Park, she loves spending time with her boyfriend Anthony and her family, trying new recipes and foraging for flowers around town.



CONNECT WITH US

This and every 2018-2019 League year edition of *The Sandspur* highlights The Junior League of Tampa's social media channels and web presence. We encourage members to join the conversation by linking up with us on social media. Share your favorite League pictures using the hashtag **#myJLTampa**. You can also access the latest *Sandspur* online. We look forward to connecting with you!



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

Keep your finger on the pulse of the League.
jltampa.org

Learn about our impact in the community.
jltampa.org/community

Enjoy some "face time."
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Support our community projects.
jltampa.org/support

Access cookbooks and other League merchandise.
jltampa.org/jlt-culinary-collection-cookbooks



QUANTIFYING OUR IMPACT

The Junior League of Tampa is committed to helping break the cycle of poverty for our most disadvantaged children and families. Our Community Projects in the areas of child welfare and education aim to directly impact, provide and build a better community for all.



750

volunteer hours for JLT's Kids in the Kitchen project last year



900

books distributed to children this year at JLT's MILO events



950

children served this year through JLT's Family Literacy Night



10,000

bags distributed by Food4Kids last year



30,000

diapers packed into kits by The Junior League of Tampa Diaper Bank in March for distribution to JLT's Diaper Bank partners throughout Hillsborough County

Congratulations to
MARY MAJEED & LUKE MATELAN



Photo courtesy of Hunter Ryan Photography

Tracie domino

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