

# SANDSPUR

# Fall/Winter 2020



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## editor's note.

As 2020 came to a close, it left a memorable impact on us all. The world has shifted and adapted on so many levels. The first word that comes to my mind to describe this year is "resilient." The resiliency of The Junior League of Tampa (JLT), its leadership, and its members are intertwined throughout the edition.

Like so many things in 2020, *The Sandspur* looked a little different this year. There are two printed double editions instead of our usual four.

The Fall/Winter 2020 edition is packed full of incredible content. Our main feature focuses on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I). These articles come together to show what JLT does best by training and informing members to become lifetime community advocates.

Read about the virtual shift of the 2020 Holiday Gift Market on page 16. This adjustment is impressive considering so many unknowns and a tight turnaround time to pull everything together. Many of the articles focus on members overcoming challenges. *Same Storm, Different Boats* highlights the resiliency of our members on page 26. Get the chance to meet our Executive Board and Management Council on a more personal level with stories about their experiences within the League and what the League means to them on page 35.

I would like to say a special THANK YOU to the 2020-2021 *The Sandspur* Editorial Staff. Although we have not been able to come together to meet in person this year, everyone stepped up to make this edition happen.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara Larsen".

Sara Larsen  
Editor, 2020-2021

## GET IN TOUCH

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# Meet the SANDSPUR EDITORIAL STAFF

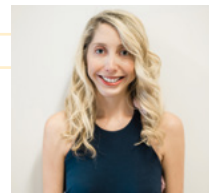


**Sara Larsen, *Editor***

Sara joined the Junior League of Seattle in 2015. She transferred to the Junior League of Austin then the Junior League of Tampa. She currently lives in Tampa Heights and has an adorable mini goldendoodle named Lincoln.

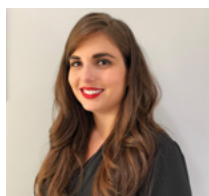
**Lauren Sanchez, *Assistant Editor***

Lauren is an active JLT member who enjoys volunteering in her spare time as a Big Sister from Big Sister program, Heart Gallery of Tampa, Children's Home Society Board, & as a Seminole Representative for their Boosters Program. Some of her favorite hobbies are reading, the beach, and, this fall, you can find her watching FSU & the Packers play football this season.



**Lauren Pulido, *League Resource Liaison***

Ren is a third-year Active and works as an attorney for an insurance defense firm. She is the league resource liaison for *The Sandspur* this year. She holds a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in business law from Boston University and earned her Juris Doctor from Stetson University College of Law. Ren enjoys volunteering, traveling, photography, time with her family and friends, and is frequently seen around town with her dachshund Stella.



**Katelyn Giglio, *Advertising Coordinator***

I joined the Junior League to connect to my community, uncover ways to be of service and contribute to a better world. Through the years, I've been fortunate to meet a like-minded, passionate and diverse group of women collectively motivated to positively impact the lives of others. I love the energy, endless opportunities and friendships I've made along the way!



**Lauren Guerrero, *Contributing Writer***

This organization is bursting with women who are out to empower each other, community members, as well as those we serve. There is nothing more inspiring than being around strong, beautiful, talented, like-minded women who get excited to get out there and serve others. It takes courage to be a servant and like each and every woman in Junior League, we use our courage to propel our initiatives forward. We build each other up and lead successful teams when we step outside of our comfort zone.



**Cameron McNabb, *Contributing Writer***

Cameron is a third-generation JLT member and works as an Associate Professor of English at Southeastern University. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling and being outdoors, and she looks forward to her daughter one day carrying on the legacy of service in the League.



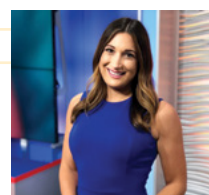
**Lauren Schwab, *Contributing Writer***

After moving back to the Clearwater area after college, I originally joined the Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin as a way to meet and connect with new people in the area who value volunteering in the community. A few years ago I moved to Tampa to pursue my nurse practitioner degree at USF and decided to transfer into The Junior League of Tampa. As a result, I have met some of the most incredible women, made amazing friends, and have had the ability to learn about and volunteer for various organizations in our community.



**Lila Gross, *Copy Editor***

Lila is a third-year active member of JLT. Lila is the feature reporter at WFLA News Channel 8 for four years and her live daily segment, "Living Local with Lila", highlights the best spots in town while telling meaningful stories. Lila is passionate about giving back to the Tampa Bay community and has served as the Autism Speaks emcee for three years. When she's not out on the town for work, you can find Lila cooking in the kitchen or playing with her mini Aussie puppy, Piper.



**Amanda Partilla, *Features Editor***

Amanda Partilla joined The Junior League of Tampa in 2019 and is a third generation Tampa girl; earning her degree in Psychology and PMP® certification at University of South Florida. She's a wife, mother of three, and Marketing VP at JP Morgan Chase. Amanda spends her free time volunteering at Quantum Leap Farm, visiting Disney and trying out new recipes in the kitchen.







## 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.

*As denoted on JLT website.*

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**Chelsie La Nore**, Bookkeeper



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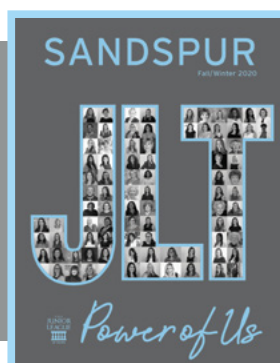


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## ON THE COVER

The faces of JLT including provisional, active, and sustainer members.



*The Sandspur Magazine*  
Designed by: Sensory 5



# Letters to the League

"Thank you for your generous support on behalf of the Junior League of Tampa/MILO at Tampa Family Health Centers' three "Back to School" events. With your support, TFHC was able to provide valuable educational and wellness resources to a total of 150 children throughout Hillsborough County. Together, we are more than healthcare!"

— Darcy

"In these very difficult times, the grant from the Junior League of Tampa is a true blessing. These funds will help us roll-out a new technology platform of 65 Chrome Books and Google Chrome Management Software for our 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their teachers."



"Your kindness provides hope to the at-risk boys and girls living on our therapeutic residential campus and also makes a positive impact in the lives of over 13,000 local families the benefit from the community programs we offer each year."



"Thank you for making a difference in the lives of students and teachers in Hillsborough County! Your generous donation of school supplies will help the most vulnerable students in our community have the tools they need for academic success. Thank you for making such a huge impact for kids here in Hillsborough County! "



"Thanks to your support, HCC is able to help provide our students with the funds necessary to attain the education needed to become active, contributing members of our community's workforce. Your investment does make a significant difference in the lives of our students."



"Your commitment to our community is incredible! Thank you for supporting foster children through Raising Hope. We are honored to serve alongside you!"

— Keely Romi Eckerd



## president's note.

If any of us were asked in 2015 where we would be in five years, I doubt we would have predicted a global pandemic; one that would change the lives of everyone we know and love. We were planning trips, continuing education, setting professional goals, building families, and working to support our community.

2020 certainly surprised us and by now, we have all been impacted by this virus. Despite the challenges we are facing every day, this is also a time that is bringing out the best in many people—from healthcare staff and first responders on the front-lines, to essential workers providing food, products and services, and volunteers helping address critical needs in our community. We have seen incredible strength and innovation that comes from people uniting.

Today, I am more honored than ever to be a member of an organization that has responded to change and is delivering inspiration and innovative programming for our community, members and beyond. We are only halfway through our League year but the extraordinary impact The Junior League of Tampa can have is already clear to me.

That impact is driven by our collective strength, “The Power of Us”. The power of our members coming together to support one another, the power to maintain the health of our organization, and the power to transform and make projects, programs and events impactful for our community. I believe in our shared might and capacity to transform lives. And at a time when our society is more fragmented than ever, and so much seems unknown, I believe in “The Power of Us” to bring people together to change our community and the world.

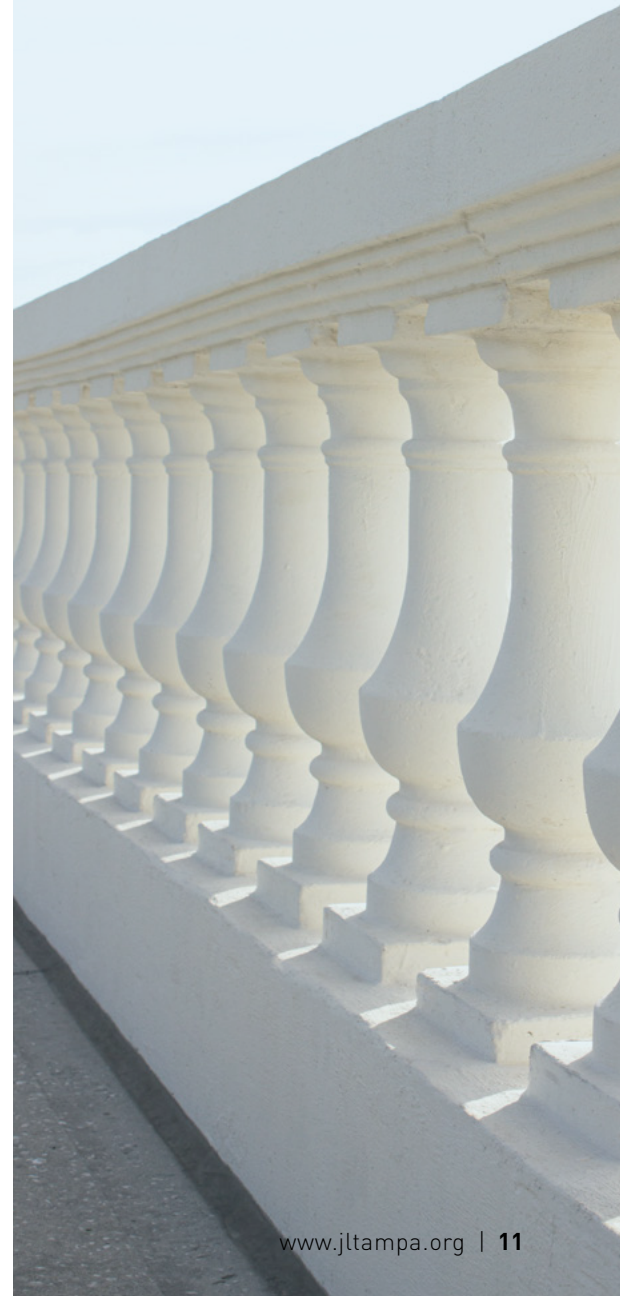
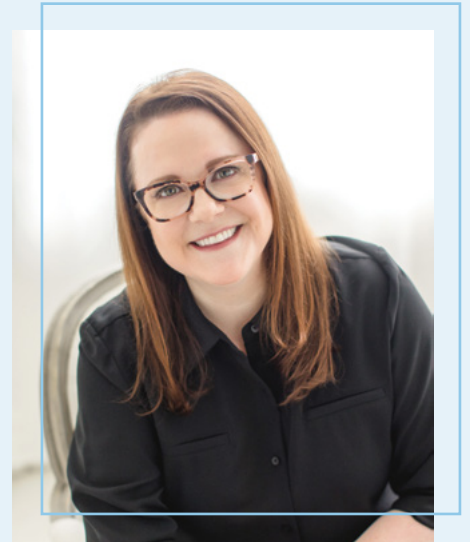
This expanded issue of *The Sandspur* highlights some of the amazing efforts of our members, donors, and partners to adapt to current challenges and position our community for success. These endeavors inspire me and make me hopeful and grateful for what is to come. Already, I can see the meaningful difference that our teams are making, and we will continue to challenge ourselves to drives towards our mission and vision and create the future we want to see.

That future will come from “The Power of Us” and what we do together. Thank you all for your dedication and for giving your time, talents and treasures selflessly. I will be side by side with you every step of the way with the utmost respect and appreciation.

With sincere gratitude,



Meghan McGuire  
President 2020-2021







**Louisa Van Eepoel,**  
*Sustainer President*

**Beth Schatzberg,**  
*Sustainer President-Elect*

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**Ginny Charest,**  
*Sustainer Treasurer & Communications Liaison*

*"We need to remember  
across generations that  
there is as much to learn  
as there is to teach."*

*- Gloria Steinam*

## sustainer president's note.

This quotation resonates as we reflect on the influence of our JL Tampa Sustainers! Our group of outstanding women currently includes several generations with approximately 1000 members, which is more than half of our overall JL Tampa population. We have a legacy of inspiring our internal and external communities for decades due to our consistent commitment to serve others as volunteers in various capacities including leadership. Furthermore, the current JL Tampa initiative of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion ensures that we will continue to evolve, expand and sustain the dynamic of our entire membership as we embrace our current and future community projects.

This quotation also brings to mind the joy and gratitude many of us have experienced over the years, embracing multi-generational relationships within families as well as with friendships, organizations and professional affiliations. The knowledge and wisdom gained and the support and generosity of others has been invaluable. Indeed, our lives and the lives of others have been enriched on many levels and in countless ways. So, we are excited and all in to support the JL Tampa theme this year.....POWER OF US! The nature of this is immense and the impact can be exponential! It encourages us to give back to others on a grander scale!

Our Sustainer Board and Active Committee have expanded this year to accommodate a schedule of events that enables Sustainers to be informed of current initiatives and opportunities our Actives have advanced. This encourages closer collaboration and participation with our active partners. Of course, the fun and fellowship events will continue! As you have already experienced, we have had to curtail some and reimagine others to accommodate connecting via Zoom. Although we are thrilled that our virtual platforms have allowed us to connect, we are currently looking forward to seeing you in person 2021! Thank you for your patience!

With respect and gratitude,

*Louisa Van Eepoel*

Louisa Van Eepoel



# Welcome

## NEW SUSTAINERS & TRANSFERS

The Junior League of Tampa welcomes and thanks our new Sustainer members for their continued dedication. JLT welcomes our transfer Sustainer member and we look forward to your future contributions to the League.

**Deborah Brooks** - *Abilene, TX*

**Jennifer "Jen" McDonald**

**Heather Brown** - *Washington DC*

**Jessica Natali**

**Alicia Fariello**

**Melissa Knight Nodhturft**

**Laura Fender**

**Diania Pimenta**

**Nicole Garcia**

**Brooks Reilly**

**Elisha Hersem**

**Olivia Ruiz-Carus**

**Karen Hussey**

**Kate Samy**

**Marissa Hyman**

**Laura Shaw**

**Jasmine King**

**Julie Sugar**

**Teneille Kuznicki**

**Heather Tank**

**Kim Lamis**

**Megan Tetro**

**Angela Lemont/Bresnahan**

**Dawn Tiffin**

**Ashley Looney**

**Amanda Valenti**

**Karyn Maguregui**

**Heather Walsh**

**Lillian Martin**

**Sarah Walters**

**Karla Mastracchio**

**Jennifer Watkins**

**Esther Mathew**

**Emily Williams**

**Amanda May**





# Same Storm, Different Boats

by CAMERON HUNT MCNABB

During this time of pandemic, there's the cliché that "we're all in the same boat," but I heard someone say that a better metaphor is that we are all in the same storm, but we all have different boats. Some of us have been met with hardship and undesired changes in career and finances. Some have found unexpected joy

and peace during times of social distancing and working from home. Some may have found both! Months into the pandemic we took a look at what boats our members are in and how they are being resilient during this era of pandemic.

Allie Torrence, who has served in the League for nine years, was put on bedrest at St. Joe's in February, when barely anyone had heard of COVID-19. She remembers the hospital bustling with visitors, and thankfully she was able to have friends and family visit throughout her bedrest. Her daughter was born at 31 weeks, on March 1st, and she would spend one month in the NICU. That short time held radical changes within the hospital.

During her daughter's first week, each NICU patient was allowed three visitors, including a parent, so family and friends could visit and offer support. During the second week, only two parents were allowed in the room, and by the third week, only one parent was allowed and no one could change

visitors. That meant Allie's husband could no longer visit his daughter for the remainder of her stay. She remembers that staff members started wearing masks around this time as well. During her daughter's last week in the NICU, the protocol changed once again: the one allowed support person would have to stay at the hospital with their child and if they left would not be able to return. If the support person did not stay, all communication with babies in the NICU would be through an iPad, and any breastmilk would have to be dropped off at the front door. Allie remembers feeling for other mothers who may have had children at home too. "This is my only child but it was more difficult for those with other children to make a decision on what to do."

Fortunately, Allie's daughter was discharged the evening before the new rule took place and they were both able to go home. "It was like an eerie ghost town leaving the hospital that day," she recalls. But she also remembers the NICU nurses who helped her with postpartum support when much of it was only offered virtually or not at all. "They were rock stars, and I am so grateful for them." She is also grateful that she and her husband will be working from home for the rest of the year, so she will have more time with her daughter.



Holley Rosser, who served in the Washington D.C. and Philadelphia Leagues before coming to Tampa, has been on active duty for US Special Operations Command during the entire pandemic, so her work on the critical mission of supporting military





members overseas had to continue unabated. However, while she has been physically present at work every day—except for the two weeks she had COVID-19 herself—she noted that Command has operated with about 75% of personnel working from their homes. She remarked that kind of remote work “is something the Department of Defense has never seen before and didn’t know was possible!” She has found that projects are harder to accomplish sometimes with that set up and admits that there’s more stress involved. But she’s also been grateful for more time with her boyfriend: “We got creative with things to do for fun and it’s been great. We didn’t feel like we were missing out on so much like others because of the quality time we had together.”



Other League members have had to pivot their small businesses these last few months, but they are finding resiliency and a sense of purpose in rising to meet the challenges. Shirin Rustomji is a family and marital law attorney as well as a wife and mother to a nine- and seven-year-old. As part of her practice, she also serves as a Guardian ad Litem for children.



When the pandemic hit, all trials and hearings, as well as her own office work, went virtual on Zoom, which means a significant shift in how everything works. The lack of face-to-face contact, Shirin said, has been the hardest thing she’s faced in her career. Through all of these adjustments, though, she’s found that “the experiences in life are what matter and that we are resilient.”

Nancy Warner’s and Alexa Hernandez’s businesses faced difficulties, too, but both have found unexpected joy in those challenges. Nancy was on the verge of selling her small business in Vermont when the pandemic hit and everything changed. Trade shows and orders were cancelled and the business became unsustainable. Instead of selling, she had to close up. But that decision opened the door for her to move back home to Tampa with her children, who, she said, have gone from “little snow bunnies to beach bums.” Alexa is an accountant and the pandemic has made working from home while covering childcare a bit of juggle. But she and her husband are finding joy in homeschooling their kindergartener daughter and caring for their two-year-old son as they spend more and more of their time at home now.

We do not know what 2021 will hold, but these glimpses into our members’ lives can remind us of the myriad ways we are making our way through this stormy season together!



# HGM Goes *Virtual*



by LAUREN SANCHEZ



**WWW.HOLIDAYGIFTMARKET.ORG**

**@TheJLTHGM @holidaygiftmarket #JLTAMPAHGM**

When you think of shopping for the holiday season, you probably hear cheerful music playing in the background as you excitedly pick out gifts for your loved ones. The Junior League of Tampa's (JLT) Holiday Gift Market (HGM) went into its 17<sup>th</sup> year in 2020 and has become a tradition for shoppers to kick off the season with holiday cheer. While this year's shopping looked a little different, the HGM Committee made this year's market accessible and safe for everyone to still enjoy from their own homes.

The decision to host this year's event virtually was not an easy one for HGM co-chairs Laura

Walsh and Hayley Reteneller. Discussing the change from an in-person event to all online was a challenge, to say the least, which then included discussing options with other gift market chairs at larger leagues. As time passed, a twenty-page document was developed outlining multiple options for the Market including all precautions that needed to be considered to host a safe event. As each week went by, more Junior League Markets and events were going virtual. The co-chairs were keeping an eye on Tampa's guidelines and other local non-profit events. The co-chairs knew time was ticking. The final decision-making factor was the cancellation of Comic-Con in June. JLT's tough decision soon followed in early July when the Chairs and the Treasurer met and presented the multiple options to the Executive board. As a non-profit organization, Walsh says "we have a social responsibility for our community and we had to step up for the safety and interest of others."





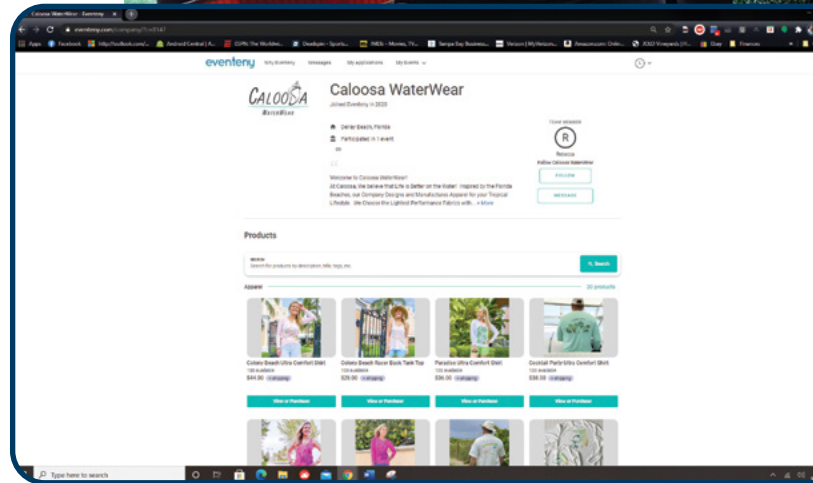
The last thing we want is someone coming to our event and getting sick.” Many merchants and volunteers were not comfortable in attending HGM given the current circumstances.

Wanting to keep spirits bright, Walsh & Reteneller had no intention of cancelling a staple in the Tampa area. Holiday Gift Market roots run quite deep in Tampa Bay. In 1931, it started as a Salvage Shop which helped employ many women in our community. This evolved into a Thrift Store that was previously located off of Franklin Street in downtown Tampa. As years passed, Trinkets and Treasures Thrift Sale was created and was in business for over four amazing decades. In 2004, Trinkets & Treasures was then turned into what is known today as Holiday Gift Market.

As the market evolved throughout the years, it was time for another iteration during these times. The framework was challenging to build but being able to participate in it was easy! You were able to sit in the comfort of your own home (likely, your couch if we are being honest) sipping a warm holiday latte, in comfortable loungewear while shopping for a cause with the click of a button. The HGM virtual shopping experience was available November 14<sup>th</sup> – December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The first early access week was available to ticket holders only and more shoppers attended virtually this year than ever before. Over 33,000 visitors!.

Every dollar earned from a ticket and a portion of all sales will go directly back into community projects and programs funded by JLT. With COVID-19, the needs in all communities, ours included, have increased. Many JLT projects have seen increasing requests. These include JLT programs like Food 4 Kids, Love Bundles, the Diaper Bank, and Alliance for Period Supplies. Thanks to all of our shoppers and ticket holders. The more you shopped, the more JLT can support those in our community with critical needs.

This year your HGM shopping experience was unique. From the comfort and safety of your own home, you were able to revisit your favorite vendors as many times as you wanted over the course of the month long shopping event. This experience showcased unique gifts alongside special shopping experiences and promos from merchants. There were mystery boxes and baskets to pick and choose from as well as extraordinary virtual event experiences such as Zoom with Santa and Corks for a Cause. These events were featured on the new HGM event site alongside an online shopping guide available to all shoppers, which included information about the 120 virtual merchants. The guide incorporated encouraging messages from







supporters and informational articles about favorite HGM items that helped to make you feel as close to the original event as possible!

It is not only League projects that receive support from HGM, The Junior League of Tampa also supports female entrepreneurs through a grant offered through JLT's Young Entrepreneurship Program (YEP). To apply, eligible women must be between the ages of 21 to 40, own a majority of their business, sell a product that is a unique addition to HGM, and not be a member of JLT. Throughout the years, YEP plays a crucial role for young women who are well deserving of recognition of their handwork and dedication. Launched in 2014, this program aims to grow leadership through the recognition of the potential found in young female business owners. The winner also receives a \$3,000 grant, full page advertisement in a magazine, a spot in our online marketplace and business mentoring. A few names of past winners you may recognize are Old City Calligraphy, Base Culture, and Pawz Publishing.

It is no secret that small businesses were hit especially hard by this pandemic, including our

incredibly loyal vendors. Many of the merchants who participate in HGM do not have a brick and mortar storefront and rely on markets for a majority of their income. Although HGM may have look a tad different this year, 2020 HGM was still impactful to those businesses by helping them to promote their businesses online to a larger audience. Many businesses who would regularly travel from out of state for HGM saved the extra expenses of travel, staff, and a U-Haul for merchandise. Considering the major losses small businesses have experienced in 2020, these savings are truly immeasurable. To accommodate the changes in the 2020 HGM, JLT assisted the merchants in setting up their online store with items, offered a lower joining fee, and did their best to make everyone feel at home.

We are proud to say that JLT members and supporters showed their appreciation for the community's small businesses this year by increasing their shopping online. This support helped to keep shoppers safe during a global health crisis, kept merchant's costs down, and donated 12% to JLT's community projects. It was truly a win-win-win... or a quadruple-win if you consider shopping on your couch a win (I'm betting that's a yes)!



## Junior League of Tampa's Holiday Gift Market 2021

SAVE THE DATE:

**NOVEMBER 11-14, 2021**

See [www.holidaygiftmarket.org](http://www.holidaygiftmarket.org)  
for more information.





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**2020 YEP RECIPIENT**  
**SUSTAINABLE MARKET PLACE**  
**WWW.SUSTAINABLEMARKETPLACE.ORG**

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Holiday Gift Market is pleased to announce the Young Entrepreneurship winner of 2020 is The Sustainable Market Place (SMP) owned by sisters, Marisol and Claudia Arias. SMP is an organization that is comprised of empathetic and visionary individuals who embrace hard work. Collaborating with cooperatives, regional artists, and other organizations, SMP provides marketing support and product development that best align with customers' preferences. They also offer an opportunity to take home part of Artisan's culture, symbolized in the products they sell.

**“ OUR COMPANY PROMOTES AND SELLS ECO-FRIENDLY PURSES, JEWELRY, CLOTHING AND HOMEWARES HANDMADE BY ARTISANS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.**

— MARISOL ARIAS, CO-OWNER



THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TAMPA

**YOUNG  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
PROGRAM**







# Like a Kid at Christmas

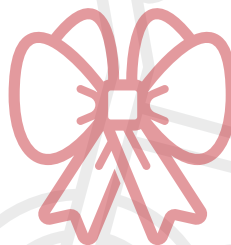
By Elyce Turba, MSN, RN, OCN

"Oh, COVID is just like having the cold or flu." As a cancer nurse, I was analyzing all the COVID-19 data and keeping to my normal schedule. I attended my last twice weekly spin class in March 2020, right before the facility closed. I recognized COVID was spreading and it was unlike anything I have ever seen. Months of speed walking was not matching the intensity of my previous spin workouts. Not only was my physical health affected, but my mental health was also suffering, and I need to be sharp and emotionally balanced to lead a team of leukemia clinical research coordinators. I hoped that I could be back at the gym in six months, so did it make sense to purchase expensive equipment, but wasn't my mental health worth it?

In 2009, I attended my first Holiday Gift Market. It reminded me of an event I attended when I first joined the Junior League of Cincinnati. I shopped at the JLT Holiday Gift Market annually since then. I wondered this year, "Would these resourceful women continue this year's tradition in a pandemic?" You bet! I opened the email and read about the creation of a virtual event and bought two early bird tickets. I saw the Peloton raffle and the temptation was too great! I bought five raffle tickets for \$100 to support the event. My duties at Moffitt kept me busy and I did not look at the Market website again. At the end of November, I was sitting at my desk listening to a voicemail from an unfamiliar number telling me I won. I screeched so loud that the staff thought I had found out my

next grandchild would be a boy. "No. Something better - I won a Peloton!" The room broke out in laughter and applause. They knew how desperate I was to resume workouts.

It is strange how life moves full circle. I left Cincinnati for the position at Moffitt but also to become anonymous again in the volunteer community. After being President of the Junior League of Cincinnati and founding two nonprofits, the break and anonymity was welcome. I recently transferred my Sustainer membership from JLC to JLT but without the opportunity to support with my time. This Peloton was a message that I received loud and clear; Tampa will remain my home and it is time to repay this gift with my service. The Junior League experience has given me more than I can ever recount. You have my number!





# 120

Specialty  
Merchants



MORE THAN  
**33,000**  
Online Shoppers

# 135+

Virtual Event Attendees

# OVER \$134,000

Raised for JLT's  
community projects  
& programs

# 4071

Merchant  
Infomercial Views

# Virtual

## HOLIDAY GIFT MARKET 2020



THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TAMPA  
**HOLIDAY Gift MARKET**

PRESENTED BY  
**Publix.**



# 260+

Volunteers







# DE&I Comprehensive Plan

## WHAT IT MEANS TO THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TAMPA?

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) are more than just buzzwords to us; DE&I guides everything we do.

**Diversity is...**the quality of being different or unique at the individual or group level

**Equity is...**the pledge of fair treatment, opportunity and advancement while striving to identify and eliminate barriers

**Inclusion is...**the act of bringing together and harnessing differences in a way that is beneficial

## THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TAMPA'S DIVERSITY STATEMENT & PLAN

In 1926, The Junior League of Tampa was founded to serve an under-represented population and make a difference in the community through a collective action. Today, we continue to champion diversity, equity and inclusion as we strive to fulfill our mission and live our values.

The Junior League of Tampa embraces a variety of perspectives, backgrounds and beliefs through the diverse voices of our membership and those which reflect the diversity of the children, families and communities we serve. This fuels our innovation and affects community improvement through voluntarism.

The Junior League of Tampa creates inclusive environments leveraging unique contributions of diverse individuals and organizations through education and training programs so that we can effectively inform and create opportunities that better assist our members and our community.

Diversity, equity and inclusion are at the core of everything we do at The Junior League of Tampa.

## THE 4 PILLARS

1 SUSTAINABILITY & LEADING

2 OPERATIONAL

3 MEMBERSHIP

4 SOCIAL JUSTICE & COMMUNITY



# Meet the DE&I Committee

by LAUREN GUERRERO & AMANDA PARTILLA

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion are more than just buzzwords to The Junior League of Tampa. JLT believes in the power of these words and uses them to guide much of the work done both inside and outside of the League.

Although the League is currently seeing many new DE&I initiatives, this work has been ongoing for some time now. In more recent years, current President, Meghan McGuire, and JLT Active Member Emily David picked up the baton researching and structuring how JLT should further incorporate diversity, equity and inclusion efforts into the League. In 2019, Ashleigh King joined Emily David taking on the challenge of co-chairing the newly created Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, and in the summer of 2020, Emily David rotated off as Co-Chair and Beverly Foster joined for the two-year staggered placement serving 2020-2022.

In addition to the two Co-Chairs, this year the committee has grown, adding seven committee members. Through the League's Mission and the JLT's Diversity Statement & Plan, this nine-person committee works hard to help start, support and facilitate DE&I work and conversations in the focus areas of Membership, Community, Fund Development, Finance, and Advocacy.

As with most of The Junior League of Tampa, the DE&I Committee has had to adapt to the challenges of Covid-19. The committee handled this by going virtual with trainings and other sessions. Given the sensitive topics DE&I discuss, in-person forums provide the optimal opportunity for open discussion to help promote interactions and raw communication with a one-team mentality. However, the committee has learned to leverage the new virtual forums to their advantage by providing an inclusive platform for confidential questions, encouraging members to truly engage and ask difficult questions through the chat function where they may be more comfortable participating than in person.

Another inclusive effort in 2020 is the addition of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Resource Page. Members can visit the resource page on Digital Cheetah that is complete with DE&I-centered book and movie titles, podcasts, and trainings. This rotating library is an endless resource for members to reference on their own terms.

Diversity, equity and inclusion conversations and implementations are not just the work of the DE&I Committee; it applies to everyone in the League from the Executive Board to the incoming provisional members. There are many ways diversity, equity and inclusion can be embedded and implemented in the League and everyone has the opportunity to contribute.

With the expansion of the committee this year and their commitment to the efforts, the League's gains are exponentially greater than any challenges posed. This group is here to help and do the research to guide the League.

Meet the members of the 2020-2021 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee. We asked each of member to explain what Diversity, Equity & Inclusion means to them.





# What does **Diversity, Equity** and **Inclusion** mean to me?



*Beverly Ann Foster*

**COLLABORATIVE & ACCEPTANCE**

To me, collaborative acceptance is the idea of coming together with individuality; then learning, growing and building on that through a celebration of accepting all as they are and what they offer to our world.



*Ashleigh King*

**ALLY & DIALOGUE**

To me, diversity is anything that makes individuals unique and different, and those differences coexisting. Inclusion happens when unique individuals feel accepted, respected and valued in a welcoming environment. Most importantly, equity allows for access, opportunity, and eliminating barriers.



*Amy Youssef*

**COMPASSION & TRANSFORMATION**

Prioritizing equity and inclusion of diversity should be part of our compassion for one another has human beings. We are all people created equally, regardless of our differences, and we often forget that. Continuing to keep this at the forefront of our awareness and actions will ultimately lead to transformation of our behaviors and the behaviors of others for the better.



*Dawn Short*

**OPPORTUNITY & PROGRESS**

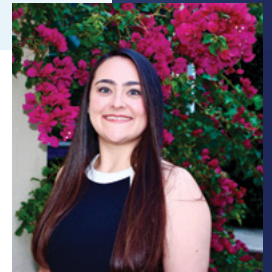
I feel incredibly grateful for the opportunities to learn, lead, and volunteer that The Junior League of Tampa has provided to me since I joined in 2012. I believe ANY woman with a heart for volunteering, and a passion for our community should have the same opportunities. By opening our doors and broadening our membership, we benefit from diverse talents, strengths, and life-experiences. We've come so far, and still have further to go, as we become a truly diverse, inclusive League; reflecting the vibrant community we serve. I am thrilled to be a small part of that next step forward.



## CONNECTION & INTERSECTION

*Juanita Buitrago*

Diversity and inclusion, for me, starts with asking thoughtful questions, practicing active listening, and engaging in meaningful dialogue. Our identities are layered and deeply complex. Each of us is made up of many core identities (race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, religion/spirituality, nationality, and socioeconomic status, to name the big eight). And so, creating a more equitable community starts with cultivating spaces where each person can express themselves in an authentic way, engage in dialogue with those who are different from them, and ultimately experience true belonging.



## COMMUNITY & COLLABORATION

*Kimberly James*

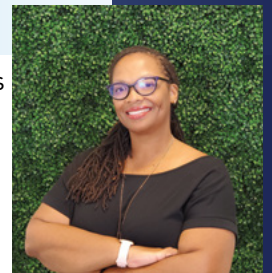
In order to make a substantial impact within our communities, we must be willing to gain insight, knowledge and understanding of people and their needs. I believe that ongoing conversations and collaboration are crucial when forming true relationships and working to strengthen the diverse populations within the Tampa Bay area. Community and collaboration mean acknowledging the voices of those we serve and being willing to listen, understand and empower them to their definitions of success.



## IMPACT & EMPATHY

*Vernicka Shaw*

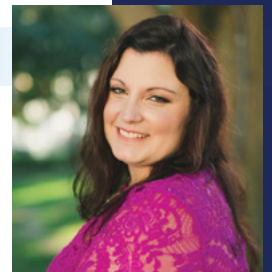
These words are the embodiment of progress and a representation of our mission as members of the Junior League - particularly in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. As an organization charged with empowering women, the JLT must lead with empathy as we expand our sphere of influence. This is especially true when interacting with the underserved within our communities. Each time we touch another individual through our service is an opportunity to make an impact on ourselves and everyone around us. We have the ability to ensure that every impact is positive if we lead with empathy instead of sympathy.



## AWARENESS & ACCEPTANCE

*Whitney P. Gatz*

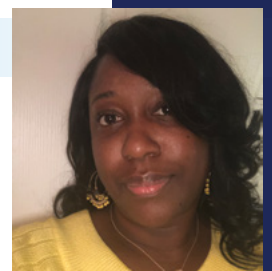
Diversity and Inclusion, for me, means awareness and acceptance. That you are aware of and embrace the variety of diverse aspects of humanity. Inclusion is accommodating differences and cultivating a mentality of change. We must be accepting of differences and build a strong relationship regardless.



## AWARENESS & BELONGING

*Michelle Graba*

Now, more than ever, we need to take it upon ourselves to be more aware of what is happening around us. When we do, we see that certain groups of people are treated differently than others, and possibly, change our thinking of what is or isn't fair. It is not enough to include people in a group, you must also give them a sense of belonging. You can't promote DE&I without it.





# RACISM, JUSTICE, AND DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION



## *a Conversation with* **Vicki Clark**

by LAUREN SCHWAB

This summer, The Junior League of Tampa had the opportunity to coordinate a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I) training presented by Vicki Clark for its members. Vicki Clark has devoted over 30 years of her life to educating and inspiring community leaders. As a noted speaker, facilitator, consultant, and trainer, she has an extensive background working with nonprofit organizations. She is frequently employed by the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) to provide these trainings to leagues around the world on a variety of topics, including, but not limited to,

leadership development, diversity and inclusion, equity, strategic planning, volunteer resource development, and effective communication.

During this DE&I training, Clark spoke at length about the complex and pressing issues facing our community today, including racism, diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. The language surrounding racism in our country has changed drastically in the past 3 months and it is an issue that we're having to address head-on. As women, we have the power to enact change in ourselves and our community. Clark stressed, "it is time to ask ourselves how we are going to use that power." Clark drove the point home by stating "as Junior League members, we are already civic



and community leaders and we have the power. If things are going to change in our community and our country, it is going to be women who will lead this change because we will not give up and we will stick with it." It is time that we become allies against racism, first working on ourselves, changing our own attitudes, behaviors, and values, then looking at the groups we belong to and assessing how we can enact change in our policies and our voices.

Clark made the important distinction between diversity and inclusion with the example that diversity is being invited to the party while inclusion is being asked to dance. It is important to understand that we need both! A diverse league is stronger, more relevant, more culturally competent and culturally fluent; coming together to make the league more open and accepting to new ideas. The Junior League of Tampa has contributed to a more diverse and inclusive league in a variety of ways including expanding the General Membership Meeting schedule to include nighttime meetings in order to accommodate women who work outside the home, and revising age and sponsorship requirements amongst other efforts. Social and cultural inclusion recognizes that everyone is unique and it's important as a league and as individuals in the community that we encourage, accept, respect, and embrace the differences of others around us. These differences can range from race/ethnicity, native origin, language, sex/gender, sexual identity, age, socioeconomic status, religious or political beliefs, or even physical or psychological abilities. This knowledge and understanding will allow us to have a greater impact in our community as league members.

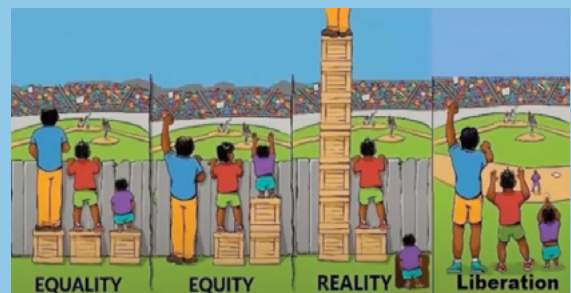
Clark also made an important distinction between equality and equity. Equality is typically defined as providing the same opportunities to everyone and giving everyone the same treatment or resources. Equity, on the other hand, is providing opportunities and access to resources based on the need of the individual in a way that allows everyone to reach their full potential. Vicki Clark provided an illustration by Angus Maguire for the Interaction Institute for Social Change, which demonstrates the difference between equality, equity, reality, and liberation.

As a league, when we look at our community impact, we need to shift our mindset from one grounded in "charity," to one grounded in "justice." The nonprofit sector was built on this charity framework of the "haves and the have-nots," in which those who "have" give to those who did not. Clark makes clear that this

**WE NEED TO REMEMBER THAT  
AS **WOMEN**, WE HAVE THE  
POWER TO **IGNITE CHANGE**.**

is not to say that charity is a bad thing, but that it ignores the past realities and the root causes of injustices. Shifting to a justice mindset will change the way we impact our community by breaking down the social injustices and promoting liberation that changes our attitudes, beliefs, policies, and society as a whole.

This is a journey, not a destination. Getting the conversation started is a huge step in the right direction for our league, for our community, and for our country. The Junior League supports women developing community and civic leadership through internal and external collaboration, inclusive communication, strategic thinking, operational expertise, social and cultural inclusion, volunteer development, and global and community awareness, action, and advocacy. We need to remember that as women, we have the power to ignite change.



Credit: The Center for Story Based Strategy



# *an Interview with* **Rosemary Henderson**

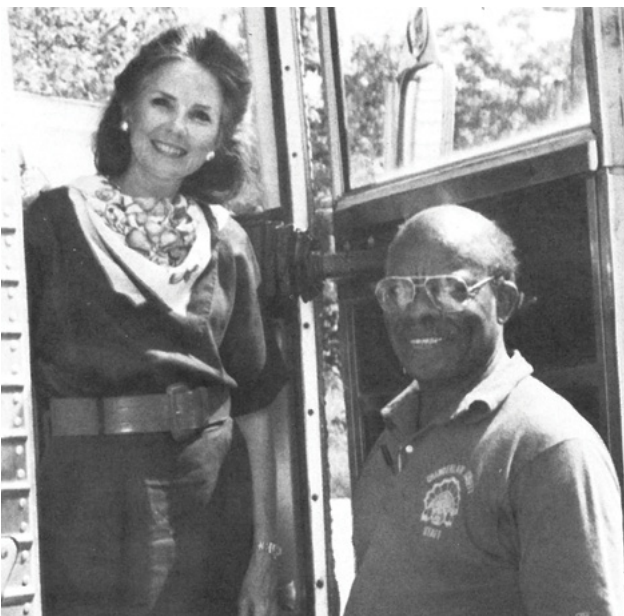
by LAUREN SANCHEZ

For Rosemary Henderson, Past President of The Junior League of Tampa, diversity, equity and inclusion has been a lifelong journey. Many members know Rosemary as a recent Luminaries honoree, what many members do not know of is Rosemary's service on the Tampa Bi-Racial Coalition. Raised in Mississippi during the Jim Crow era, Rosemary began the hard work on her racial justice blind spots in her early 30's, she recalls, "It was embarrassing, agonizing, and hard to think of things I've done or said in my past. It totally changed my outlook. I began looking at the opportunity to do better. That was my "AHA" moment".



Rosemary applied that self-awareness to her tenure on the Bi-Racial Coalition. Formed in 1985 by Mayor Sandra Freedman after three days of rioting in the City of Tampa, the coalition focused on six areas which included the police, housing, jobs, media, public schools in Hillsborough, and churches. an experience she is grateful for and one which changed her, "I've seen discrimination before but just to see firsthand, hear people's stories, what they went through, how hard they tried was eye opening along with what people's children went through, the insults, name calling, and the discrimination." Rosemary highlights the Coalition's research and study on the effects of local public education and policing on minorities. "I don't think a lot of attention in 1987 or enough attention being given to minority students who were not making passing grades, not doing as well as other students, sometimes it had to do with housing, not enough food to eat, particular schools that were attended, jobs and the level of income that people made to go along with the disparage and differences there".

On diversity, Rosemary says, "We are so blessed when we can be around people who are different than us, who are diverse, it is just a blessing to broaden our world, our neighborhood, our family". Asked about one of her favorite memories from her time on the Coalition, Rosemary mentioned her success of changing the name of the former Buffalo Avenue in Tampa to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, where she appealed passionately to both the Tampa City Council and Hillsborough County Commission to make the case for change.



ROSEMARY HENDERSON AND FELLOW BI-RACIAL COALITION MEMBER ABE BROWN.





*Come join us for lunch!*

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## Exceptional Professionals

is a group of Junior League women who gather monthly over lunch to share ideas and support one another as we navigate work, family, and life in general. This year we will meet via zoom until further notice, with a variety of topic discussions and speakers. Please join us.

Contact Krista Allred, 813-766-3313 and we will send you more details.

## THE 2020-2021 MEETING CALENDAR

**11:30 - 1:00**

- Aug 21, 2020
- Sept 18, 2020
- Oct 16, 2020
- Nov 20, 2020
- Jan 15, 2021
- Feb 19, 2021
- Mar 19, 2021
- Apr 16, 2021

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# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

by LAUREN SCHWAB

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Awareness is one of the most important tactics, both nationally and internationally, in identifying victims of human trafficking. The Junior League of Tampa and the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI) have taken on a pivotal role in the fight to end human trafficking. The Junior League of Tampa has been working collaboratively within Tampa Bay to raise awareness regarding human trafficking since the 2014 launch of the ABOLISH Movement; which went on to be launched nationally by AJLI in 2017.

## HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMISSION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The overarching goal of the Hillsborough County Commission on Human Trafficking is to increase public awareness of human trafficking, with a responsible attunement to social vulnerabilities that create the conditions for human trafficking, in order to make sure training for signs and methods to report are accurate.

Several events will coincide with Human Trafficking Awareness Month in January 2021 in Tampa Bay, the main one being Super Bowl LV. This has prompted the Hillsborough County Commission on Human Trafficking to introduce the following key initiatives.

- Distributing community-wide training via Hillsborough Heroes Against Human Trafficking Training, which is composed by the International Association of Human Trafficking Investigators. The Junior League of Tampa's Human Trafficking Awareness committee is helping with this effort by sharing information about these training opportunities with partners in the private, nonprofit, and public sectors.
- Launching the bifocal campaign, **"Don't Buy It Tampa Bay."** The regional component of this campaign will be launched leading up to the Super Bowl LV, is internally focused, and addresses our community members who live in the area year-round. The other is on a broader scale and is an externally focused component that will address visitors to the area and will send the message that we are a community already aware. This will be an ongoing campaign that will have a before, during, and after approach. The Junior League of Tampa plans to help drive awareness around messaging.

**ABOLISH**  
child sex slavery

What can I do?  
**REPORT. DONATE. ACT.**  
[www.AbolishMovement.com](http://www.AbolishMovement.com)





## TAMPA BAY HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

In January 2020, the St. Petersburg Police Department announced the award of a three-year \$741,556 grant by the Department of Justice to create a regional Tampa Bay Human Trafficking Task Force; which is a collaboration of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies along with organizations supporting victims of human trafficking. The St. Petersburg Police Department has selected Selah Freedom as the non-profit lead for coordinating victim assistance.

### Education

Providing education and training to law enforcement and the public to increase awareness

### Recovery

Coordinate with support programs and resources to help victims of human trafficking

### Enforcement

Implement technology that makes it easier to collect and share data across jurisdictions, as well as providing support for law enforcement and assisting with investigations and prosecutions.

## THE TAMPA BAY HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE WILL FOCUS ON THREE AREAS:

Numerous local, state, and federal law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies are collaborating as part of the Tampa Bay Human Trafficking Task Force including:

**Local:** Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, and Polk County Sheriff's Offices; Bradenton, Clearwater, Haines City, Palmetto, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, Tampa, Wauchula, and Zephyrhills Police.

**State:** Florida Office of the Attorney General, Office of Statewide Prosecution, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, State Attorneys' Offices (Florida Judicial Circuits 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>)

**Federal:** U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Homeland Security Investigations

## FROM PURPLE TO BLUE

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TAMPA, AND THE ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR LEAGUES INTERNATIONAL (AJLI), IS ADOPTING THE COLOR BLUE TO REPRESENT THE ABOLISH MOVEMENT, WHICH IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S BLUE CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING. [WWW.DHS.GOV/BLUE-CAMPAIGN](http://WWW.DHS.GOV/BLUE-CAMPAIGN).





**“Tampa as a community  
is coming together  
as a collective to  
fight exploitation in a  
collaborative effort.”  
—Meghan McGuire**

## **WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?**

According to the ABOLISH Movement’s website ([abolishmovement.org](http://abolishmovement.org)), the simplest explanation is that human trafficking is modern day slavery. The issue of human trafficking, however, is much more complex.

Florida law also defines human trafficking as a form of modern-day slavery. Victims of human trafficking are young children, teenagers, and adults. Thousands of victims are trafficked annually across international borders worldwide. Many of these victims are trafficked into this state. Victims of human trafficking also include citizens of the United States and those persons trafficked domestically within the borders of the United States. The Legislature finds that victims of human trafficking are subjected to force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor. See F.S. § 787.06 (2019).

Under the Trafficking Victim Protection Act of 2000, federal law, details the differences between sex trafficking and labor trafficking. a) Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act is under age 18; or b) The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. See 22 U.S.C. § 7102(9).

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# JLT League of Speakers

The Junior League of Tampa's Toastmaster Club, *JLT League of Speakers*, was chartered in 2015 and became a formal committee in 2017. Members of the committee includes both Active and Sustainers. Suzanne Bainbridge, a Sustainer and long-time member of the *JLT League of Speakers* recently completed a significant educational goal by receiving her "Competent Leader" designation this past June - a great accomplishment for both Suzanne and the *JLT League of Speakers*! Toastmasters International recently retired the Competent Leader Award and Suzanne will be moving forward with Toastmasters International's new educational program called "Pathways". A Pathway is a series of speeches that also include a mastery of leadership requirements. There are eleven paths that members can choose depending upon their individual goals. Suzanne's path, Innovative Planning, helps build both public speaking and leadership skills. The projects in the Innovative Planning path focus on developing a strong connection with an audience during presentations in addition to writing and delivery of speeches.



The first speech in each path is the "Ice Breaker" speech, which is a speech all about the speaker. Excerpt from Suzanne's Innovative Planning "Ice Breaker":

*"I had been a member of the Junior League since 1992 and had served on various committees, but never felt very comfortable speaking in front of a group of people. It was readily apparent when I co-chaired the Provisional committee with the Junior League of Milwaukee a number of years ago. I always wanted to hide behind my co-chair, Molly, and happily obliged to have her speak to the group. It wasn't until I arrived in Tampa and heard about a newly formed Toastmasters club with the Junior League. I jumped at the chance to learn what Toastmasters was all about. I have proudly earned my Competent Communicator designation in June, 2019 and the Competent Leader designation in June, 2020. Besides delivering speeches, I enjoy our Table Topics portion of our meeting where we answer a question in an impromptu manner in 1-2 minutes."*

# Toastmasters

## WHAT IS TOASTMASTERS?

Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. Learn more about Toastmasters at [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org).

To attend a meeting as a guest or to learn more about JLT League of Speakers, contact the Toastmaster Chair at [toastmasters@jlttampa.org](mailto:toastmasters@jlttampa.org)



# Innovation Spotlight

COVID-19 has brought plenty of challenges, but it has also brought immense opportunities for innovation. Here are a few JLT committees who are creating new solutions to serve our community.

## LOVE BUNDLES

The Love Bundles project is one of the League's most popular community projects, providing backpacks of essentials to children entering foster care. The committee, which is responsible for purchasing and packing the bundles, was forced to innovate as they started the 2020 year. Facing a decreased budget, limited volunteers and shipping delays, the first packing on the year was a 'doozy' in the words of Co-Chair Lizz Focazio. "Despite all the obstacles, our volunteers were able to successfully pack our bundles for the month! What normally takes three shifts and 75 volunteers was done in two shifts with about 14 women... proof that we really CAN do it all!"



## READY TO ACHIEVE

The Ready to Achieve project is all about helping teens and young adults in foster care gain the skills for an independent life. This year, participants are joining the Leadership Academy virtually but that has not stopped them from developing their potential. The project is underwritten by TD Bank with a specific focus on financial literacy, something that is more important than ever before as the economy adapts to the pandemic. Students are learning everything from banking and investing to what a credit score means. Going virtual has had benefits beyond health and safety. In the new Zoom format, the Ready to Achieve committee has seen a jump in participation.







## KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

Healthy living is more important than ever, and the Kids in the Kitchen committee is helping kids in our community develop skills to live a healthy life. When the committee realized in person lessons would not be an option they moved to a video based curriculum. Active leaders and the League's new Provisionals have been busy creating an original video library of lessons. From Tae Kwon Do activities to breaking down the differences between refined and whole grains, the video curriculum can now impact even more children.



## TRAINING

Training is an important piece of JLT's mission, but with limitations on gatherings, our model for in-person training events needed to be updated. Moving online, the Training committee has offered a series of Zoom based trainings and created a digital training library for members to access on demand. Understanding the "Zoom fatigue" many of us are experiencing, the committee has also focused on keeping presentations at an hour or less. Going digital has helped reach more members, resulting in a 200% jump in attendance.



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# Behind Every Great Woman is More Women

by CAMERON HUNT MCNABB



## WOMEN'S HISTORY

This past August marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, which declared that "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged . . . on account of sex."



Women of the Junior League, St. Louis were the first in the country to take up suffrage as a League issue. They advocated through letters, lectures, and meetings while also marching in local events and even in Washington D.C. In every election since 1984, women have voted at higher rates than men, and we continue their legacy

today as we approach this upcoming election; a historic one in which more women are running for U.S. Congress than ever before.

But even with these tremendous accomplishments, we should be mindful that women's right to vote has, and continues to be, an ongoing struggle. Unfortunately, the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment did not give every woman the right to vote.

- Asian American women were prevented from becoming naturalized citizens, and thus voting, until the Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed in 1943 and the Immigration and Nationality Act was passed in 1952.
- Many African American women were excluded from voting until the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- While the Snyder Act gave some Native American women the right to vote in 1924, they did not gain suffrage in all 50 states until 1962.

The history of women's suffrage involves many heroines hailing from diverse backgrounds, all advocating in their own ways for the same principle: women deserve to have their political

voices heard. Suffragettes like Adelina "Nina" Otero-Warren, who provided materials in Spanish for women in New Mexico, and Ida B. Wells, who supported African American women and refused to march in the segregated section of a 1913 demonstration in Washington D.C., worked hard against intense discrimination. Others like Mabel Ping-Hua Lee, a Chinese immigrant who, at just sixteen, rode at the forefront of a 1912 suffrage parade in New York, and Marie Louise Bottineau Baldwin, a lawyer who fought for Native Americans' voting rights, advocated for American women even when they themselves could not be citizens.

The Junior League of Tampa has inherited the fruits of their efforts and, as our League approaches its own centennial in 2026, we've continued exercising our rights through voter education and public advocacy. The JLT's Public Affairs committee serves on the frontlines of political education and action for women. It works tirelessly to inform and educate League Members about legislation that affects our issue areas on a local level, and engages with members of the Hillsborough County Legislative Delegation, the Hillsborough County Commission, the Tampa City Council, and the Hillsborough County School Board in support of the League's advocacy efforts. At the state level, the JLT participates in the State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC), a non-partisan education and advocacy organization representing 22 Junior Leagues and over 11,000 women statewide. Together, we have monitored legislation and advocated for issues of importance to our members for almost 40 years to help improve the lives of Florida women, children, and families. The Public Affairs committee's Activate813 initiative, which brought together numerous local public figures to support voter registration, education, and engagement, recently won the Association of Junior Leagues International Public Policy and Advocacy Award. You can read more about Activate813 and their accolades below!





## WHAT IS ACTIVATE813?



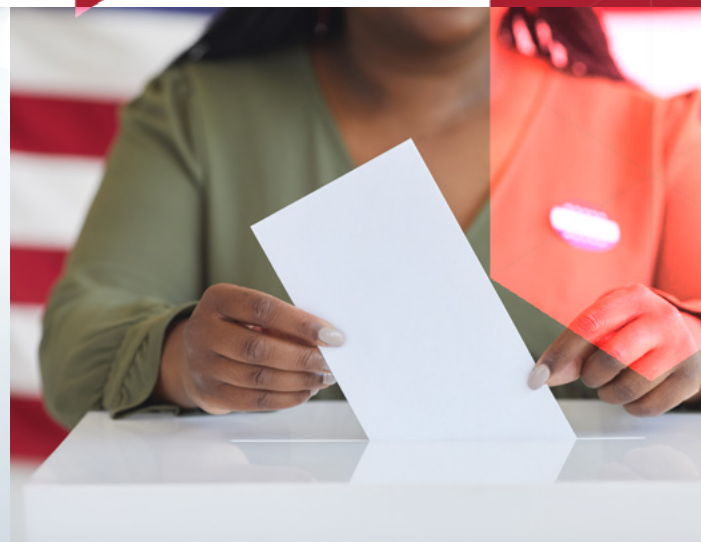
In 2018, after seeing a need in our community to come together in an increasingly fractured political climate, the JLT chose to create a non-partisan, collaborative voter engagement and educational movement called Activate813. The League serves as the lead organization and partners with the League of Women Voters, NAACP, Tampa Tiger Bay Club, USF WLP, Jack & Jill, The Links, Hillsborough Hispanic Bar Association, South Tampa Chamber of Commerce, Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, Ekhus, PTAs, and National Organization of Women as part of the initiative. While each community partner has a different specific focus, all are working toward building a stronger community and serving its needs.

As part of Activate813, JLT hosts meetings, community forums, and candidate meet and greets to serve our members as well as the broader community. As such, Activate813 centers on voter engagement with issues and candidates,

voter education, and voter registration. Some past events have included co-sponsoring panel discussions on #MeToo and the 2018 gubernatorial race, hosting meet-and-greets with FL state House and Senate candidates, and inviting guest speakers such as Craig Latimer (Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections), Andrew Warren (Hillsborough State Attorney), and Janet Cruz (FL State Senator). They've also actively engaged with social media in order to broaden their reach and raise awareness about crucial political issues.

The 2018-2019 Public Affairs committee, chaired by Maggie McClelland and Melanie Brown, won the JLT's Committee of the Year, and both continue at the helm for 2020-2021. As we engage with our current election year, Activate813 continues its dedication to political activism on behalf of women and the JLT's central advocacy issues.





## AJLI PUBLIC POLICY AND ADVOCACY AWARD

Not only was the Public Affairs Committee honored as the JLT's Committee of the Year for 2018-2019, but their Activate813 initiative was recently recognized internationally by the AJLI, garnering their 2020 Public Policy and Advocacy Award. The award is given to Leagues or League projects that demonstrate success in using public policy and advocacy as strategies in advancing their community work and causes. Activate813 was chosen from Leagues across the US, Canada, Mexico, and the UK for their success.

The AJLI praised the program's attention to core League issues, such as human trafficking, criminal justice reform, and child welfare, as well as its engagement with both internal and external constituencies. They lauded how Activate813 "has made JLT more approachable and transparent in their community and has opened up opportunities to create new partnerships" and how these partnerships encourage women "to be thought leaders, educators and to create access to information for more citizens in their community."

***Congratulations to all involved!***





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## MEET THE 2020-2021 *Executive Board*

by CAMERON HUNT MCNABB

Taking a long term approach to League goals, the 10 members of the Executive Board each prioritize attention to different facets of the League's needs. While Management Council and Leadership Councils focus on the day-to-day operations, the Board is able to guide long term goals, including prudent use of assets, financial and brand capital, and strategic planning. Our Board also plays a significant role serving as ambassadors to the community, contributing to fundraising missions and advancing the goals of the League. On the next pages meet the members of our 2020-2021 Executive Board.

The Executive Board was asked to write about their inspiration as a member of The Junior League of Tampa (JLT), the one thing they are so happy they did as part of JLT, or the meaning of this year's theme of "the power of us" to them.





## Meghan McGuire

### PRESIDENT

As I reflect and think of what inspires me at JLT, I keep coming back to our members and their courage. Courage to speak up, think big, make changes, and put in the work to support our community and each other. Courage to continue on when it may seem impossible. Courage to work together, listen to others and lead with empathy. Since JLT's inception in 1926, courage and hard work built an organization of leaders who are advocates for causes and agents of change in our community. That can only happen when everyone comes together and harnesses their power for a greater cause. The power of our membership is inspiring and I'm so grateful for it. I'm grateful for those who had the forward thinking to start The Junior League of Tampa, for the members who continue to navigate and move our organization and community forward and grateful for the future members that will come through our doors and continue the legacy. For all those that put in the time and energy, it has truly changed the community around us and it has transformed the course of many lives. For that, I am grateful.

*Courage ~~AND~~  
Gratitude*



## Taylor Jones

### PRESIDENT-ELECT

Being a part of JLT has brought me a sense of community. Meeting, volunteering, and learning alongside such outstanding women has empowered me to do things I never thought I could do. I am constantly inspired and reminded what an honor it is to be a leader in our organization.

*Community ~~AND~~  
Empowerment*





## Caroline Vostrejs

### MANAGING DIRECTOR

Even after being in the League for 13 years, I am still awed by the power of our trained volunteers. It is magical to see how we stretch each dollar and how much work we can do as a group. I also love that if I need something, there is a JLT member who can help. Our members' willingness to assist with a request or an introduction makes 1,900 members feel like a small group of friends. JLT has given me the gift of friendships, mentors, training, patience and so much advice (and laughter) on becoming a mother.



*Dynamic AND  
Industrious*

## Maggie McClelland

### COMMUNITY DIRECTOR

My favorite thing about JLT is the chance to make an impact in our community. Through partnership, through education, through advocacy, through volunteerism. We are only effective because we come together and collaborate as a League of women who want to effect change. We collaborate with community partners who help us make a deeper impact in areas of community need. Through JLT, we have the chance to connect as a greater Tampa community, and as a group of women working hard together, we are collaborating to build a community of mutual empowerment, trust, and greater understanding - together. The Junior League of Tampa inspires me because it offers me the chance to connect with all of my Tampa community, which I love so much, and an amazing group of incredibly talented women, from whom I learn so much every year.



*Community AND  
Collaboration*

## Emily Read

### FINANCE DIRECTOR

I am so grateful to serve the community alongside such powerful women that are mission driven and future focused. I am consistently impressed at the professional and personal accomplishments and abilities of our members. I am encouraged by the projects and community partners we select and how these partnerships drive deep community impact and change. The future of the League and the Tampa community is so bright thanks to our 1,900 members who serve our community both inside and outside of the League walls.



*Wisdom AND  
Gratitude*





Inspiring  
AND Volunteers

## Brittany Stahl

### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

The members of The Junior League of Tampa inspire me. They have become some of my closest friends, mentors, role models, etc. These are women who are constantly working to better our organization, and in turn, our community. They dedicate countless hours of their busy lives serving others. They are smart, talented, thoughtful, selfless, resilient, dynamic women. I'm inspired in how they balance all the things life throws our way with their commitment to The Junior League of Tampa. Because of their generous hearts and passion for community, babies have diapers, children have food, kids in the foster care system have life skills training and the opportunity to meet their forever families, young girls have mentors and positive role models, human trafficking victims have advocates, and I could go on... These women dream big, and most importantly, put in the time and the work. Because of them, our community is a better place.



Transformative AND  
Empowerment

## Meg Severino

### LEADERSHIP DIRECTOR

This is truly a transformative year and I personally feel empowered with the way our members are adapting to 2020. The League is becoming agile in order to meet our community needs, We are seeking innovative ways to fundraise, and it is such an exciting time to be included in the movement. I'm honored to help move the needle forward with such great leaders!



Empowering AND  
Members

## Diana Hechavarria

### STRATEGIC PLANNING DIRECTOR

Often, in my day to day life, I find myself questioning my own capabilities. My own potential to accomplish my goals. The power of us captures the spirit of being able to connect with other members to be a force for change in our community. It reminds me to not question my own capabilities, and to be strong. It reminds me I am not alone. I have an army of strong like-minded women who support me. Women from various ethnic, social, and educational backgrounds who all care about our community, and each other.



## Elizabeth Dunsmoor

### SECRETARY

Helping lead the inaugural Dragon Boat Committee (2016-2017) afforded me the opportunity to combine two of my greatest passions: paddling and JLT. Working with groups I love to host a family-friendly, community-focused League event has been the highlight of my League career thus far. The event introduced membership to a sport few had heard of, and as a group we had the chance to collaborate and partner with new corporations, organizations and teams near and far. The Junior League of Tampa's mission & vision were highlighted in a novel way and I am honored and proud to have played a small part.



*Community <sup>AND</sup> Collaboration*

## Barbara Harvey Ryals

### SUSTAINER-AT-LARGE

As a 37-year member of The Junior League of Tampa, it's been one of my highest honors to serve as Sustainer-At-Large on the Executive Board. I have the opportunity to see the power of our remarkable Active membership. Just as it did four decades ago, the League continues to promote voluntarism and develop the confidence of women, by providing countless leadership opportunities at every level. As this new decade begins, JLT purposefully curates committees of women from a variety of backgrounds and life experiences to expand opportunities for collaboration. Today's Junior League recognizes the experiences obtained by members both inside and outside of the organization, as well as honors and appreciates the lifetime of volunteer experiences of Sustainers. Our Tampa Bay community is empowered by the effective action and leadership of our trained volunteers. There is no volunteer like one who has been trained by The Junior League of Tampa!



*Collaboration <sup>AND</sup> Empowerment*

HEADSHOTS BY BRITTANY ELISE ANDERSON PHOTOGRAPHY  
GROUP PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOE PHOTO





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The Junior League of Tampa denounces discrimination, racism, and intolerance in our community and in our League. As led by our Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee and Leadership, we are developing broad opportunities to listen, learn, and connect with our membership and our community and accelerating our efforts to take action against racial injustice in our community, and our League. When we do this—together—we realize our Centennial Vision of diverse women leaders as catalysts for lasting change.



THE  
JUNIOR  
LEAGUE  
OF TAMPA

If you would like to speak to the DE&I Committee or Leadership, please contact [feedback@jltampa.org](mailto:feedback@jltampa.org) to offer thoughts or express feelings.

**TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**





## MEET THE 2020-2021 *Management Council*

by CAMERON HUNT MCNABB

Management Council oversees the day-to-day operations of the League. Meeting monthly, the Council reviews everything from budget adjustments, to improved practices and new ideas. New ideas are thoroughly researched and vetted through the Management Council before being presented to the Executive Board for final approval. Managers work closely with their assigned committees and chairs to ensure projects and processes are running smoothly to best serve the community and our membership. Management Council grew by four positions for the 2020-2021 league year to ensure a more strategic focus on our projects by limiting the number of committees each manager oversees. The new positions include Managing Director-Elect, Community Assistance Manager, Intraleague Development Manager, and Training Manager. Meet our 2020-2021 Management Council on the next few pages.

Management Council was asked to write about their inspiration as a member of The Junior League of Tampa (JLT), the one thing they are so happy they did as part of JLT, or the meaning of this year's theme of "the power of us" to them.





## Miranda Henderson

### MANAGING DIRECTOR ELECT

I am a part of an organization where diverse and inclusive membership can directly affect change in our communities. Also having a servant leadership attitude always. Our efforts serve far beyond what we can see and far past our time served! I strive to better understand Tampa's community needs and aspirations and find ways to directly support those needs through the League. Having an inclusive engagement strategy is important which can lead to improved outcomes of our communities. Having a servant leadership attitude while engaging within the community will empower all levels of participation resulting in lasting positive change.

*Engagement AND Leadership*



## Melanie Brown

### ADVOCACY MANAGER

This year's theme "The Power of Us" is incredibly meaningful during these unprecedented times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our theme speaks to JLT's leadership and commitment to our mission and values. We have been intentional with our efforts to face challenges together and work collaboratively with our members and community partners.

*Mission AND Values*



## Kathryn (Katie) Crowe

### COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE MANAGER

Since becoming a member of The Junior League of Tampa, I have pursued various leadership roles, each with its own fair share of successes along with teachable moments and opportunities for development. My leadership experience has taught me that remaining true to our purpose aligns our efforts and even in a large organization like the league where we have so many moving parts and different projects, we are aligned in our mission to serve those in our community as best we can.



*Collaboration AND Growth*

## Kelley McCarthy

### COMMUNITY CHILD WELFARE MANAGER

Kids Connect is a committee that has peaked my curiosity ever since the moment I heard about it. It has the power to actually change the life of a child. There are not many opportunities in life where you can proudly say "I changed a life of a child today for the better". But through Kids Connect it can be. To be part of their journey and their story is an incredible gift; one that is inspiring and life changing. The memories and experiences are moments that go with you forever.

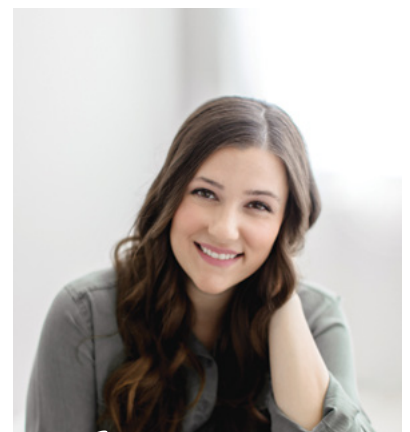


*Life AND Changing*

## Nicki Mohr Hall

### COMMUNITY EDUCATION MANAGER

It is absolutely incredible to me that our organization has been so flexible and able to pivot the ways we execute while remaining committed to our Mission during what can only be described as one of the most trying years of all of our lives. What else is more powerful than a group of widely diverse women from every background under the sun working towards the same goal of improving our community? Watch out world, we are powerful women who empower each other to continue the work of JLT! Nothing can stop us when we are together, even 2020!



*Flexibility AND Empowerment*





*Change AND Impact*

## Kristen Brady FUND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Junior League of Tampa has the ability to bring great change and impact within the community through our service. By surrounding yourself with others working toward a similar goal or objective, you'll get the motivation & support you need to be successful. We are stronger together than we are alone and there is power in numbers.



*Relationships AND Gratitude*

## Alexandra Palermo INTRALEAGUE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

My parents served collectively in the Air Force for over 60 years. My father's motto is "It's All About Relationships." So I was raised with a focus on service and knowing that life is about becoming a better version of myself through those that I meet and learn from. The incredible women that make up The Junior League of Tampa inspire me each and every day. I am surrounded by brilliant, hard-working, compassionate women who are change-makers all throughout our community. These women make me a better servant leader and an overall better version of myself and for that, I am forever grateful.



*Connection AND Compassion*

## Mychael Sumbly MEMBERSHIP MANAGER

In this time of the pandemic, the opportunity to connect and be compassionate with both members and the community has created an opportunity we have never had in my time at JLT. I have found that as we grow older we all have two hands, one for helping ourselves and another to help others. This has been put to the test during the past seven months. As volunteers and members of JLT, we need to model the values of compassion, patience and just plain caring about others during this time. I try to live by a quote I grew up with "If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life." I believe that this quote embodies what JLT is all about.



## Lindsay Seel

### OPERATIONS MANAGER

When I first joined JLT, I was asked to start a project I was nervous to lead. I accepted the position anyway and ended up falling in love with our literacy projects. This new-found passion led to my volunteering with other local organizations and boards supporting the literacy of children. The woman of the League believed in challenging me to move outside my comfort zone and I'm grateful for such a life-changing opportunity.



*Challenging <sup>AND</sup> Experiences*

## Liz Fisher

### TRAINING MANAGER

We cannot serve our community without our members. What sets The Junior League of Tampa apart from other charitable organizations is our trained volunteers. Our strength lies in the diverse group of women that recommit its time and talents to the JLT year after year. This is the power of us.



*Phenomenal <sup>AND</sup> Women*

## Monica Kirkland

### TREASURER

What inspires me as a member of JLT is our community projects that help the most vulnerable in the Tampa Bay area, working with passionate volunteers, and the talented group of women in the JLT. I joined the Junior League to be a part of an organization dedicated to making an impact in the community. I am proud of the work the Junior League is doing and to be a volunteer. JLT has an amazing group of women who are passionate about the mission. I am honored to work with so many talented women who dedicate their time and inspire me everyday.



*Passion <sup>AND</sup> Volunteerism*





*Collaboration AND Friendship*

## Laura Warren

### ASSISTANT TREASURER

The Power of Us simply means that we are stronger when we work together. Every single member brings value and different perspectives to the League. The fact that we are all unique and everyone can be themselves is one of my favorite things about JLT. Personally, JLT has allowed me to meet, volunteer, and become friends with so many amazing and diverse women. I appreciate those friendships and have such wonderful memories of accomplishing tasks for our community by working together. This year, I look forward to seeing all the incredible things we will do just through The Power of Us!



*Friendship AND Gratitude*

## Ginny Veit

### SUSTAINER ADVISOR

There are so many things I'm happy I did at JLT. An experience that comes to mind that really surprised me was being a part of Holiday Gift Market in my year as Treasurer. My goal in joining JLT was getting plugged in for community service and advocacy, which I had done for years by then. I never thought of myself as a fundraising person. Seeing the HGM Committee come together to put on this amazing event was incredibly rewarding. I loved being a part of it all and being behind the scenes with all of the amazing women on the committee. It was so much fun and brought so many wonderful women into my life who I otherwise may not have met. I'm so grateful to have had that experience among so many wonderful ones.



*Connection AND Diversity*

## Ashley Zohar

### LEGAL CHAIR

As someone who loves to volunteer in my community, JLT allows me to reach a diverse set of organizations and connect with them at a more in-depth level than if I were to simply volunteer piecemeal with organizations on my own. The leverage and strength of JLT in our community is immense and it allows me to volunteer with a multitude of organizations, big and small, that may not have been willing or able to work with me individually.



## Ashley Stultz

### MEETING MANAGER

When there is chaos going on everyone is looking for something to stand on. JLT is a solid foundation of assistance to the community. Our community partners know they can rely on JLT to keep true to our promise. It's only through our collective membership that we are able to continue this promise. The women (Active members and Sustainers) in JLT are passionate, compassionate and driven to improve the Tampa Bay communities. I have seen big visions made real and small daily tasks make big impacts. Nothing within the League escapes leaving some kind of a mark on another person.



*Foundation And Members*

## Marysue Mathews

### OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

I first joined the JLT family as a receptionist in 2008. While many things have changed over the past 12 years, I can say without a doubt that the passion and devotion of our members continues to be the glue that binds this organization. While our projects evolve with current needs, our members remain passionate and inspirational volunteers who still devote their time, talents, and treasures to serving and improving our Tampa Bay Community with fresh ideas. It is an honor to serve as the Office Administrator of The Junior League of Tampa and work with such amazing women.



*Passion And Inspiration*

HEADSHOTS BY BRITTANY ELISE ANDERSON PHOTOGRAPHY  
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## PRESIDENT-ELECT

# Taylor Jones

by STEPHANIE HAAS

This past January, The Junior League of Tampa introduced 2020-2021 President-Elect Taylor Shine Jones. Taylor joined the League in 2009 and for the past eleven years, her experience has spanned all corners of JLT where she has led transformational change in membership, community, and as her role mentoring and developing the potential of women.

Taylor brings a unique cross section of talents to her role as President-Elect, her strengths lie in her ability to see the League from both a macro and micro level, charting strategic initiatives while being able to keep her eye on the day to day minutia of League management and operation. She is also exceptional in her talent as a leader whose emphasis is developing emerging League leaders, guiding them in understanding the League's strengths and opportunities, then allowing those leaders the freedom to develop their potential. Those who have worked closely with Taylor know that mentoring the women of the League is one of her strongest attributes. Taylor is the true example of the leader that as she rises up, she brings others along with her.

Since joining the League, Taylor has been at the forefront of the League's most transformative initiatives including: leading and implementing the Point System, introducing the Decade of Dedication to Sustainer Eligibility change, creating JLT's Community Agency database along with leading the Community Project culture shift conversation, and as the League's first Managing Director, leading the day to day management of the League while navigating new terrain and developing this new role.

A recent initiative that Taylor introduced is including a Sustainer Advisory Member on Management Council. Taylor aimed to leverage the expertise, seasoned leadership, and a diverse perspective that Sustainers bring to the Management Council room. At the Slate Announcement, Casey Carefoot the 2019-2020 Sustainer Advisory Member, is quoted saying, "Taylor is the whole package. She's smart, thoughtful, hardworking and genuinely cares about people. JLT has gone through many large-scale changes in the past few years including the points system, Sustainer eligibility and numerous community enhancements. Taylor has been at the helm ushering in all of those changes. Taylor is a terrific example for all members of JLT".



PHOTO BY BRITTANY ANDERSON





Just as active outside of the League as in, Taylor is a fourth generation Tampa native and graduate of the University of South Florida with a degree in Communications and a minor in Creative Writing. Since 2011, Taylor has been a partner at Kirby's Men's Wear, a family owned business that recently celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At Kirby's Taylor oversees operations and business strategy.

She is also active in the Tri Delta Organization as an Alumnae Advisor, Alumnae Chapter President, and currently as a Collegiate District Officer, overseeing the success of three southeast chapters, while also acting in a mentor and adviser capacity. Meg Severino, who serves with Taylor on the League's Executive Board as Leadership Director as well as in various Tri Delta positions states, "Taylor is an exemplary member of our community as well as, a national mentor and leader to young collegiate women through sorority. I have been honored to volunteer with her for over 15 years in Tri Delta. Her commitment and kindness is unwavering, and she truly shines in all she does".

In addition to all that Taylor does inside and outside of the League, balancing both her nonprofit service and her career, she is also a wife and mother. Taylor and her husband Wesley, are raising two very smart, spirited, and of course, stylish daughters, Blakely and Annabelle, all while finding harmony between service, career, family, and life. JLT President Meghan McGuire sums up the value that Taylor brings to the League and the lives of its members, "I'm such a fan of Taylor. In fact, her biggest fan. When I think of her, I think of Taylor as someone who is poised and brings harmony. As a mom, wife, friend and leader, she keeps everyone balanced and in a steady position as not to fail. She keeps us sane and smiling at the same time. I'm beyond thankful for her every day and thrilled she will be the leader helping us move forward".



As Past-President Isabel Dewey said, *"You will be hard pressed to find a leader more committed to Tampa, the League and our members than Taylor. She lives our mission, appreciates our history and will make us the best versions of ourselves."*



Past-President Nicole Hubbard says, *"Taylor's unique ability of being able to think strategically at a 30,000 foot level while also mastering & navigating the day-to-day is inspiring and has been an asset to The Junior League of Tampa over the last several years."*



*I knew the first year I served with Taylor, many years ago, that she would be at the helm one day and I couldn't be more proud of her. There isn't an area where Taylor hasn't served and she truly defines servant leadership. There is no job too small or too big for Taylor and she doesn't mind rolling up her sleeves, right beside the membership, to get the job done. Taylor leads by example."*

#### TAYLOR'S PHILOSOPHY AS A LEADER IS:

**Lead by example.** Making and keeping commitments and acting with integrity and character while creating a collaborative environment where listening, inclusivity, and building strong connections are key.

**Believe in our volunteers, organization and Mission** while building on our legacy and unparalleled commitment to the Tampa community.

**Place value in honesty, communication, credibility and growth opportunities for others.**

HEADSHOT BY BRITTANY ELISE ANDERSON PHOTOGRAPHY  
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# JLT ENDOWMENT FUND

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The Junior League of Tampa's Endowment Fund was established in 2006 with the vision to preserve the lasting legacy of our lifelong members. The Fund ensures fiscal stability for the League, allowing members to focus on our Mission no matter the circumstances. By acting as a cushion during times of economic uncertainty and a catalyst during times of prosperity, the Fund preserves the League's legacy for years to come.

## GIVING TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND

**COMMEMORATIVE GIFTS** recognize significant events in the lives of JLT members. Recognized members are featured in The Sandspur, and all donations support the Endowment Fund. Gifts can be made at [www.jltampa.org/commemorative](http://www.jltampa.org/commemorative).

**PLEDGES** for current and future donations are accepted, allowing donors to pay over 3 years. Pledge forms can be accessed at [www.jltampa.org/endowment](http://www.jltampa.org/endowment).

**CONTRIBUTIONS** can be made online, via check, securities, stocks and bonds, or through Charitable Gift Annuities.

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For more information, contact [endowment@jltampa.org](mailto:endowment@jltampa.org)

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Jennifer S. Moyer and M. Lance Tavana  
Terri D. Parnell  
Mary, David and Abigail Persky  
Stephanie and Stephen Rumbley  
Lavinia Witt Touchton, *in memory of Willie Carter Witt Blake*

## 1926 Society

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 of the League and its members.

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

"OUR LIFELONG MEMBERS HAVE CREATED A LASTING LEGACY WITHIN THE TAMPA BAY COMMUNITY. THE ENDOWMENT FUND HELPS PRESERVE THIS LEGACY."



## Commemorative Gifts

### CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF

**Christopher Willis Allen**, *Son of Erica Allen*

**Annie Catlett**, *Daughter of Molly Malloy Catlett*

**Jacob Palermo**, *Son of Alexandra Palermo*

**Gianluca Nicholas Lawrence Panetta**, *Son of Michele Panetta*

**Jamie Partilla**, *Son of Amanda Partilla*

**Mary Diana Sayers**, *Daughter of Lexy Sayers*

**Claire Seel**, *Daughter of Lindsey Seel*

**Adelaide Thompson**, *Daughter of Rebecca Benedict Thompson*

**Fredrik Webb**, *Son of Andrea Webb*



### BEST WISHES TO

**Tallee Williams Taylor**, *on her marriage to Shea Taylor*

**Lauren Vagnoni**, *on her marriage to Jason Berger*

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

**Stacy Baier**, *on being recognized by Florida Trend as one of the 500 most influential executives throughout the state*

**Kitty Forenza**, *on her promotion at PwC*

**Hildie Haviland**, *on being named the Bay Area Manufacturers Association's Associate of the Year*

**Morgan Holmes**, *on being recognized in Tampa Bay Business Journal's 40 under 40*

**Meg Severino**, *on her new business venture*

**Lyndsey Siara**, *on being Named a COVID-19 Tampa Bay Hero*

**Janae Thomas**, *on being sworn in as an Officer in the US Air Force Reserve JAG*

**Janae Thomas**, *on being recognized in Tampa Bay Business Journal's 40 under 40*

**Brittany Trenker**, *on starting a new job as a Community Action Therapist for at risk youth in Pinellas County*

### IN MEMORY OF

**Cameron Cochran's beloved father, Clifford Cochran, JR.**

**Molly Duffey's beloved father-in-law**

**Ren Pulido's beloved grandmother, Yolanda Pulido**

## THANK YOU COMMEMORATIVE FUND DONORS

**Kelley McCarthy**

**Meghan McGuire\***

**Ginny Veit**

**Caroline Vostrejs\***

\*2020-2021 ANNUAL COMMEMORATIVE FUND DONOR



# OUT ABOUT

Safer at Home orders and social distancing may have kept us apart, but JLT members are still finding ways to connect with each other and our community.





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## JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

Tag your social media images with **#myJLTampa** to share your League experiences and for a chance to be featured!



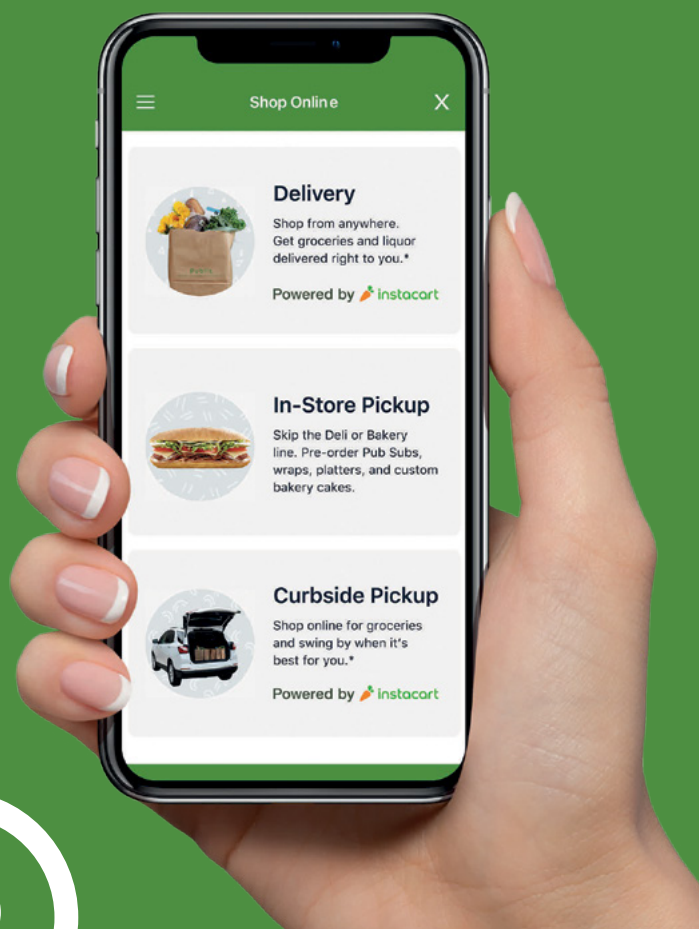


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