

# THE SANDSPUR

Fall/Winter 2023

THE  
JUNIOR  
LEAGUE  
  
OF TAMPA



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

**NOVEMBER 9-12**

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## 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.

## 2023-2024 COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

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## OFFICE STAFF

**Marysue Mathews**, Office Administrator  
**Chelsie Krencik**, Accounting Associate  
**Leslie White**, Communications and Member Administrator





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## a note from the president

Since The Junior League of Tampa's founding in 1926, each year has sparked a new generation of leader's ideas, allowing our 97-year-old organization to adapt and remain relevant in an ever-evolving community. Our members have risen to the challenge and learned to be community leaders by reimagining and exploring new solutions.

In my role as President, I have had the unique opportunity to see the League adapt and evolve across all mission areas. In the coming pages you will learn how our leaders are innovating to improve the membership experience, continuing our sense of belonging as members and stewards of our community, raising essential funds through our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Gift Market (November 9–12<sup>th</sup>), and deepening our community impact. As we deepen our impact, we started the process of gifting The Junior League of Tampa Diaper Bank to Hillsborough County. This is an exciting time for our organization and an opportunity for us to continue project launches as we have since the 1940s!

I continue to be in awe of how our members are addressing the challenges we have faced with such willingness and collaboration. Their creativity and commitment to pivot and try new solutions ensures the League will continue to succeed into the future. In anticipation of our centennial year in 2026, we have laid the foundation to honor the legacy of the amazing leaders before us, while paving a path for the generation of trailblazers to come in the next one hundred years. We thank the past leaders of The Junior League of Tampa who were fearless community changemakers, rolling up their sleeves to tackle some of the biggest issues facing the Tampa community. We honor them best by continuing their legacy through our passion to improve communities, build up our members, and our innovation to transform and evolve. The future is bright for The Junior League of Tampa thanks to our ever-evolving members.

Thank you for your continued support!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Meg Severino".

Meg Severino  
President, 2023–2024



## a note from the editor

In the tapestry of our lives, there are moments that define us—moments when we realize the power of our community, the profound sense of belonging, and the indomitable spirit that binds us. As you peruse these pages, you will find stories that resonate with the essence of who we are, as individuals and as a League. We celebrated milestones, embraced change, and found inspiration in the stories of our members.

We also mark a significant milestone—the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Gift Market (HGM). For two decades, HGM has raised crucial funds that have touched countless lives—providing essential support to the children, families, and community we serve. HGM isn't just a market; it's a testament to our collective strength and unwavering dedication to making a positive difference in our community.

The path that brought each of us to JLT, a community of remarkable women, is as diverse as the League itself, but it is our shared commitment to voluntarism, empowerment, collaboration, advocacy, and stewardship that unites us in a common purpose. JLT is a tapestry woven with the threads of our collective efforts—each member contributing a unique hue to the canvas.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated women who contributed to this issue, and to all of you who support and embody the principles of The Junior League of Tampa. Together, we write the next chapter of our journey, building on the strong foundation that defines us.

So, do savor the stories within these pages, reflect on our past, and recognize how our JLT values enable us to discover our potential to grow, evolve and effect change. As we continue on our centennial journey, may our sense of community and belonging continue to inspire us to shine forward, to make a difference and to leave an indelible mark on the world around us.

With warm regards,

*Murewa Olubela*

Murewa Olubela,  
*The Sandspur*, Editor-In-Chief 2023–2024





# Meet The SANDSPUR EDITORIAL STAFF



**Murewa Olubela, *Editor-in-Chief***

Murewa is a second year Active member. She is the Founder and CEO of Erudyte, an edtech startup facilitating accelerated STEAM learning for students, especially those not proficient in English or who have a learning disability. She enjoys reading, watching Netflix, and traveling.



**Madeline Morris, *Copy Editor and Contributing Writer***

Madeline Morris is a digital marketer at the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, where she leads global social media strategy and supports creative content development. Formerly the Member and Communications Administrator at JLT, Madeline continues to support the League's communications efforts. Madeline is based in Washington, DC.



**Michelle Aihe, *Sustainer-Spur Editor***

Michelle is a first year Active member. She works as a Project Manager for Endpoint Clinical, where she leads software development initiatives for pharmaceutical companies to use during clinical trials. When she is not working or volunteering at church, she enjoys traveling, trying new foods, and exploring Tampa Bay.



**Meredith Haley, *Advertising Coordinator***

Meredith is a realtor who finds fulfillment volunteering with the Junior League. She joined The Junior League of Greensboro in 2013 and transferred to The Junior League of Tampa in 2016. She's also an active member of Hyde Park United Methodist Church, and cherishes moments with her family, exploring new destinations alongside her husband.



**Hannah Ogden Starr, *Feature Editor***

Hannah is an Active JLT member who has enjoyed volunteering her time in various positions within the League. She works for a marketing consultancy on a variety of brands ranging from big name sports teams to familiar alcohol brands and more. When she isn't working or volunteering, she enjoys running, reading and traveling with her husband and golden retriever pup, Dunkin.



**Morgan Rinaldo, *Contributing Writer***

Morgan Rinaldo is a South Tampa native and fourth-generation Floridian who is currently focusing her efforts on building State Soleil (her florals and calligraphy company), and enjoying life with her darling husband, Anthony.



**Lauren Kerr, *Contributing Writer***

Lauren joined JLT in 2017. She is a construction litigation attorney; Lauren sits on the Board of Directors for the Pinellas County Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers. She enjoys spending time exploring Europe, where she and her husband are currently stationed due to active-duty military service.



**Lauren Guerrero, *Contributing Writer***

Lauren Guerrero, a 10 year Active member, is dual licensed as a mental health counselor, and marriage and family therapist. She is married to Tirso, with a 15-year-old step-daughter Ava, 2-year-old daughter Bella, and 1-year-old son Christian. She loves concerts, trying new restaurants and taking her kids around Tampa.



## The Junior League of Tampa

We love to hear from our partners on social media. Join the conversation by following The Junior League of Tampa on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. **#JLTampa**

Read about our community projects, members, and more.  
[jltampa.org/the-sandspur](http://jltampa.org/the-sandspur)

Keep a finger on the pulse of what's going on in the League.  
[jltampa.org](http://jltampa.org)

Find information highlighting the work we are doing with our community partners.  
[jltampa.org/community](http://jltampa.org/community)

Enjoy some "Face" time.  
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TheJuniorLeagueofTampa](https://facebook.com/TheJuniorLeagueofTampa)

Support our great community projects  
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Get a copy of your favorite JLT Cookbook  
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Follow us on Instagram  
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# Messages to the League



**The Spring of Tampa Bay** @TheSpringTB  
Thank you to our partners, The Junior League of Tampa, and their amazing volunteers! The JLT Diaper Bank serves domestic violence survivors by providing diapers each month for families and their children. We are thankful for your support!!



**Pepin Academies** @PepinAcademies  
A big thank you to The Junior League of Tampa for donating period packs to our schools! Period poverty is a real problem that affects millions of people around the world. It can make it difficult for students to focus on their studies and participate fully in school. Providing these packs helps us to ensure that all students have the resources they need.



**Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office** @HCSOSheriff  
#teamHCSO extends its heartfelt gratitude to The Junior League of Tampa for their partnership. The Love Bundles Project, donated by the Junior League of Tampa Bay, has made a remarkable impact by supplying over 10,000 bundle bags and more than 1,000 boxes of diapers to the Child Protective Investigations Division.



**West Florida Foster Care Services, Inc.** @wffcs  
This morning a foster mom was in our closet who has eleven children. Eleven!! They're not all fosters, but many are. This is one of the many reasons our partnership with The Junior League of Tampa Diaper Bank is so important. When we can provide necessary items for families, it makes their "YES" to foster care just a little bit easier.



**Gulf Coast JFCS** @GulfCoastJFCS  
We can't do what we do without the support of our community! Thank you to The Junior League of Tampa.

## a note from the holiday gift market co-chairs

Dear Members, Friends, and Community Partners,

We are delighted and honored to lead The Junior League of Tampa's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Gift Market at the Florida State Fairgrounds on November 9–12, 2023.

As we celebrate 20 years of hosting The Junior League of Tampa's largest fundraiser, we reflected on the success of prior Chairs, committees, and partnerships that have allowed our organization to have a tremendous impact on the Tampa community. The Holiday Gift Market Committee has worked tirelessly to ensure an elevated shopping experience while communicating our mission to serve the community. We look to provide a unique, one-of-a-kind market experience for all.

As always, this will be another year you will not want to miss! The 2023 Holiday Gift Market will kick off with our Preview Party on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> with a commemorative toast highlighting the contribution of this event over the past 20 years and the incredible Chairs who made it happen. This year will also bring a new premiere event for early-entry shopping opportunity on November 10<sup>th</sup>, from 9–10 am with purchased admission.

The Junior League of Tampa continues to promote voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving our community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. As we celebrate a remarkable 20 years of Holiday Gift Market, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude for the generous support of our members, sponsors, patrons, merchants and community partners.

Throughout our 97 years of service, The Junior League of Tampa has harnessed the potential of women to take the lead in an ever-evolving world and create a healthy community for children, women, and families. Your patronage of the Holiday Gift Market enables our members and community partners to lead and continue to deliver transformational community change. We look forward to seeing you at the 2023 Holiday Gift Market.

With great appreciation,



Sarah Martisek & Lauren Rice  
Holiday Gift Market Co-Chairs, 2023–2024







# THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TAMPA HOLIDAY GIFT MARKET

## 20 YEARS OF GIVING: *The Legacy of* HOLIDAY GIFT MARKET

by MADELINE MORRIS

The Holiday Gift Market (HGM) can be difficult to describe. On the surface it seems simple enough—a shopping event and a fundraiser. But as we approach its 20<sup>th</sup> year, this Tampa tradition demands a closer look.

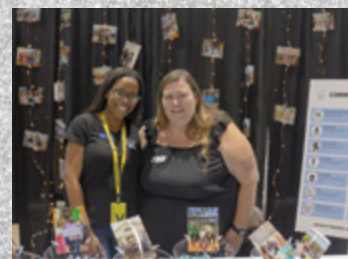
### THE HISTORY OF SHOPPING FOR A CAUSE

The origin of HGM dates back to the 1930s, when the League operated a thrift shop on Franklin Street. It had both a fundraising and a community development purpose; the shop employed women through the Great Depression while also generating profits which funded the League's community work. From clothing to homewares to children's toys, shoppers never knew what they would find at the sale. When the storefront closed, the thrift shop evolved into Trinkets & Treasures, a single day sales event.

"When they first opened Thrift Sale, it was unbelievable," late JLT Sustainer Joy Bell

reflected in a 2014 interview. "People spent the night down on the street waiting in line to get in."

Hosted for 40 years, Trinkets & Treasures sold items donated by members throughout the year, and used the proceeds to support JLT's community work. The final Trinkets & Treasures event was hosted in 2002, with Holiday Gift Market created to take its place. While some may have dreamed of it, few could have predicted how HGM would grow in 20 years. The story of HGM is not just about shopping, it is also about giving.







## THE IMPACT OF GIVING

Every year, without fail, a community member sends an email or a message on social media to ask why there is an admission cost to attend HGM. Our answer remains the same; the Market is the League's largest fundraiser and ticket proceeds help fund our community projects and programs.

To truly understand the impact of the Holiday Gift Market, you have to leave the Florida State Fairgrounds. You have to go to the University Area and see the Giving Libraries, which enable children to build their own home libraries. You have to go to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, to see Love Bundles provided to children removed from their home without the necessities they need during a difficult transition. You have to head to the Metropolitan Ministries'

warehouse in the afternoon, and watch JLT volunteers load thousands of diapers into the cars of community partners, ensuring families in our communities have access to basic needs. These projects, and more, are supported in some part by the Holiday Gift Market.

**"HGM has generated millions of dollars to support women, children, and families in Hillsborough County," says President Meg Severino. "The legacy of the Market is not just the gifts given each holiday season, but the lives impacted thanks to this spirit of giving."**



## BECOMING A TAMPA TRADITION

That spirit of giving is why after 20 years, the Holiday Gift Market is a Tampa tradition through and through. From paper tickets at the port to a multi-day event at the Florida State Fairgrounds, HGM offers its 20,000 attendees a curated shopping experience with more than 200 specialty merchants from within the region and beyond.

One of the most impressive things about HGM is that it is completely volunteer-run. A committee of over 50 women give their time and talents to support marketing, logistics, merchant relations and more. Many of the women are veteran committee members, coming back again and again.

"The bond that develops within the committee while we brainstorm, problem solve and finally execute a large-scale event is truly special," said Lauren Rice, HGM Co-Chair. "We work hard but that hard work is what builds strong relationships. I am motivated by the women on our committee and constantly impressed by how they balance relationships, careers and voluntarism."

HGM also holds a special place for many shoppers, who make the journey to the Florida State Fairgrounds each year from across the Tampa Bay region. Mothers, daughters, sisters, and longtime friends have made the Holiday Gift Market an annual part of their holiday season.

"Holiday Gift Market means so much to our shoppers," said Rice. "We have been fortunate to improve the Market year after year, growing it into what it is today—a multiday experience that shoppers look forward to each holiday season."

This year's Market is sure to impress first-time attendees and returning shoppers. Thursday night will kick off the festivities with the VIP and Preview Party. During the weekend, shoppers will be able to upgrade their experience with the Bargain Bracelet, a glamorous way to save, and with a Santa Snaps ticket to get a head start on making holiday memories. New this year will be a special Early Bird Shopping Hour on Friday morning, where shoppers can be on site for the official ribbon cutting with Mayor Jane Castor and celebrate 20 years of HGM.

"I am honored to lead this historic event along with my Co-Chair, Sarah Martisek," said Rice. "With our dedicated committee we have the chance to leave a legacy and set an example for the women who will build this event into an even bigger and better event over the next 20 years."







*Come join us for lunch!*

**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. We look forward to meeting in person for lunch, to discuss a variety of topics and speakers. Please join us.

Contact Krista Allred, **813.766.3313** and we will send you more details.

## 2024 MEETING CALENDAR

**11:30a – 1:00p**

Jan 12, 2024

Feb 9, 2024

March/April

to be determined

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# HOW TO WIN HGM

The Junior League of Tampa's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Gift Market (HGM) is the event of the season. Here are our tips and tricks on how to win HGM and kick off the season of giving.

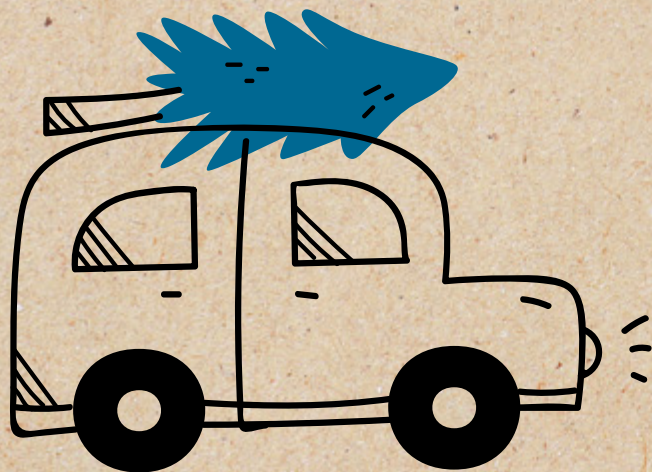


## LEAVE THE LINES BEHIND

Why wait in line at the ticket booth when you could be shopping? Purchase your tickets online at **HolidayGiftMarket.org**. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 beginning November 10 and at the door.

## BRING ON THE BLING

Giving is always glamorous but it doesn't have to be expensive. Purchase a **Bargain Bracelet** for \$18 in advance or \$20 beginning November 10, and save 10% on your \$25 and above purchases at the entire Market. These bracelets sell out, so snap yours up quickly.



## CARAVAN WITH YOUR KREWE

HGM is always better with friends. **Carpool with your friends to save money on parking** (\$10 per vehicle paid directly to the Florida State Fairgrounds). Traffic can back up, so driving together helps you start shopping even faster. Enter the Fairgrounds off US-301 and proceed to Admission Gate 1. HGM is in the Expo and Entertainment Halls.

## PREPARE TO PARTY

Get a head start on gifting and have a little fun at the **Preview Party** on Thursday, November 9. Enjoy an evening of shopping, live music, interactive photo ops, and more! Food and drinks will be available to purchase, so you can sip while you shop. Tickets are \$30.

**Feeling extra fancy?** VIP Party ticket includes early admission at 6 pm, a champagne wall, two raffle tickets and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are \$100.

**Attendees are encouraged to wear their favorite winter white outfit.**







### RISE AND SHINE

Waking up early can be tough, but worth it when you have serious shopping to do. New this year, join us for the **Friday Early Bird Shopping** to get exclusive access to the Market one hour before the general public. Tickets are just \$30 and include a Bargain Bracelet.

### SAVE TIME FOR SANTA

He is holly and jolly and may have some holiday hints of his own. Purchase your **Santa Snaps** ticket for \$15, which includes one digital photo of your group. Santa will be onsite Saturday and Sunday between 11 am and 2 pm. Ticket does not include admission to the Holiday Gift Market.



### STRENGTHEN THOSE SHOULDERS

Get ready to weigh those arms down with gifts from over 200 merchants. When you start to feel tired, drop your bags at the **complimentary bag check station** run by JLT volunteers. Donations appreciated.

### WRAP AND ROLL

Want to be ready for the holidays when you leave the Fairgrounds? Stop by the **Gift Wrapping Station** and get your gifts holiday-ready with some help from JLT volunteers. Donations appreciated.



### FOR MORE HGM SECRETS

Visit [JLTampa.org/HGM](http://JLTampa.org/HGM) and follow Holiday Gift Market on Instagram and Facebook.



@TheJLTHGM



@holidaygiftmarket



#JLTAMPAHGM





# HGM History Makers: Fireside Chat with Past Chairs

by MORGAN RINALDO

Chairing the Holiday Gift Market Committee can be challenging but rewarding. We caught up with former Chairs to share their memories, anecdotes and advice for aspiring HGM Chairs.

## WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT BEING AN HGM CO-CHAIR?

"Hands down our amazing team. We were the highest grossing HGM ever and I chalk that up entirely to every committee member and their hard work. Our motto was togetherness. It truly felt like everyone really leaned into our goal—ensuring the experience was stress-free and fun for vendors, attendees and committee members."

– Sarah Heller, 2018 Co-Chair

"So many great things, it is almost impossible to choose just one. I loved working alongside our HGM Committee throughout the entire process. They poured their heart and soul into HGM and spent hundreds of volunteer hours to raise critical dollars for JLT projects. We also had a ton of fun and got to know each other well."

– Kara Schafer, 2021 Co-Chair

"Being HGM Co-Chair was my favorite placement other than being President! I loved getting to know my Co-Chair Kelly Lastra, troubleshooting challenges and leading the team. I was happy to continue making an impact with HGM, even after being Chair. The year I was Finance VP, I helped with the transition to the larger Expo Hall at the Florida State Fairgrounds. It was a bit of a gamble but I believed we were ready, and we have since taken over both halls."

– Lee Lowry, 2008 Co-Chair

"My amazing Co-Chair Hannah Gross, our incredible steering committee. Everyone was all in and had such great ideas to make HGM a success. Our year was the first time we used our booth selection software, switched from VIP party to Preview party, hosted Breakfast with the Princesses, and pivoted from community performances to have Gasparilla Music Festival sponsor entertainment. Our committee hit each one out of the park".

– Tracie Domino, 2016 Co-Chair

"I loved managing a large committee that had such a large impact on our community. It was so fun to do a lot of new things and step out of my comfort zone."

– Meg Severino, 2014 Co-Chair





### WHO WAS YOUR FAVORITE VENDOR TO WORK WITH OR SEE AT THE MARKET AND WHY?

"Southern Doe, owned by Kristen Ostow, who was our first Young Entrepreneurship Program (YEP) winner. To see her booth and success during and after HGM was definitely heartwarming and something I will always remember."

– **Kristin Wilson, 2014 Co-Chair**

"I love seeing the YEP winners. I love seeing them surrounded by JLT members and supporting their business. And Topsy Candle Company. Steven Neher passed away during the COVID-19 pandemic and with that loss, HGM lost a star that we will never forget."

I feel the need to add here that we had the best Merchant Coordinators Carla Shah and Aly Zamore. They handled everyone and everything including the new trade show software we rolled out that year. In full transparency, I rarely spoke to the merchants before the event weekend. They were superstars."

– **Tracie Domino, 2016 Co-Chair**

"I love them all equally, but I really enjoyed working with all the businesses in the YEP and Entrepreneur on the Rise program. The growth many local female owned businesses experience thanks to YEP and JLT's support has been a pleasure to watch over the last 10 years. I also served as YEP Coordinator three times and was a YEP Committee member during the program's first year so I have a special connection with this program."

– **Danielle Tinsley, 2022 Co-Chair**

"Can't overemphasize how incredible it is to witness the vibrant synergy between all our merchants and community members who show up to support us. It's the heartwarming connection between them that truly embodies the spirit of HGM."

– **Meg Severino, 2014 Co-Chair**





## WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST PUSH OR HURDLE IN PREPPING FOR HGM AND HOW DID YOU OVERCOME IT?

"We executed our event in November 2008, in the heart of the recession. There were certain challenges we faced in hoping we would retain the number of vendors as well as grow attendance year over year. We followed our strategic marketing plan and targeted areas outside of South Tampa to increase attendance."

– Kelly Lastra, 2008 Co-Chair

"We weren't permitted to post flyers with our presenting partner that year. It was the first time they denied our request. It forced us to promote the event utilizing our network and members and yard signs really took off that year because of it."

– Caroline Vostrejs, 2012 Co-Chair

"My year was the 2<sup>nd</sup> year and it was held at the Port of Tampa. The location, there on the water, was so amazing and we used that to guide the decor and entertainment. The challenge of our year was that a hurricane came through the same weekend as our event. I spent hours on the phone with Paul Dellagatto (bless him) trying to determine if our event was going to get canceled. Since vendors travel from all over, they were contacting us to find out if they should travel and of course, some were canceling. While the hurricane ended up hitting south of us, the State of Florida needed the Port where our event was being held to divert other cruise ships that couldn't stay in Miami. As it turned out, the event went off fabulously and we were quickly out of there so it could be transformed for its actual use. All this to say, it was decided that the beautiful Port of Tampa was not a great spot for HGM."

– Wendy Garraty, 2005 Co-Chair

"Switching to a virtual format to keep our shoppers safe. With the COVID-19, we did not feel it was responsible to host a huge event and we wanted to keep our community safe during the pandemic. We were tasked to still fundraise, but find a virtual option that was not too costly and also easy for our volunteers and shoppers to use. It was a hard task, but I am proud that we persevered and saw this project through. We raised vital funds for our community."

– Laura Walsh, 2020 Co-Chair

"In 2015, we introduced electronic tickets through Eventbrite. Prior to that we had paper tickets which members had to come to Headquarters to pick up; it is crazy to think that was the emerging technology back then. It was a big change in management at that time and the committee went to various General Membership Meetings (GMM), committee meetings, Provisional and Sustainer meetings with detailed instructions on how to purchase your required member tickets and tickets for special events."

– Laurel Waites, 2015 Co-Chair





## SPECIAL ANECDOTES FROM YOUR HGM EXPERIENCE

"I was pregnant the weekend of HGM and didn't know. What's funny about this is that I wasn't the first or last Co-Chair to have this experience. There is something in the water!"

– Tracie Domino, 2016 Co-Chair

"Our year was the first year we sold tickets in advance of the market to the general public. We sold 7 tickets. My hope was to sell on Eventbrite which we did soon after our year. People did not believe anyone would buy tickets in advance, but I knew that would change very soon!"

– Caroline Vostrejs, 2012 Co-Chair

## IF YOU COULD GIVE A PIECE OF ADVICE TO AN ASPIRING HGM CO-CHAIR, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

"Enjoy getting to know and meet friends. Meeting new people was one of my favorite things about JLT. You learn so much and expand your world. Just like raising kids, it goes by so fast. I love and cherish my Active JLT days."

– Wendy Garraty, 2005 Co-Chair

"The best—and I mean THE BEST—thing Hannah and I did was we went to lunch, dinner, or coffee with every past HGM Chair who would agree to meet with us. There is so much institutional knowledge that does not get passed down in the traditional ways and that experience gave us so much insight we would have never had otherwise."

– Tracie Domino, 2016 Co-Chair

"Cheer on future chairs with the hope that they surpass your success. We are all a part of HGM's history and we have each laid a layer of foundation for the next leaders."

– Caroline Vostrejs, 2012 Co-Chair







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# SWEET SUCCESS: MEET THE 2023 HGM YEP WINNER

by LAUREN KERR

Launched in 2014, The Junior League of Tampa's Young Entrepreneurship Program (YEP), presented by Valley Bank, is focused on growing the potential, leadership and influence of female business owners in the Tampa Bay region. Each year, YEP judges select a rising business owner to receive a \$3,000 grant from the Dorothea Adell Tinsley Family Foundation, local media promotion and a free booth at HGM.



This year's YEP winner is Angelina Spampinato, owner of Angelina Bakes, a custom bakery specializing in desserts such as cakes, cupcakes, brownies and sugar cookies. Angelina started Angelina Bakes in July of 2021, which has since grown rapidly.

## THE YEP PROGRAM IS OPEN TO WOMEN WHO ARE:

- Over 21 to under 40 years of age at the time of Holiday Gift Market
- Majority owners of their business
- Product merchants, who bring a unique addition to the Holiday Gift Market selection
- Not current members of The Junior League of Tampa



The YEP award has challenged Angelina to push past her comfort zone, demonstrating a strong work ethic for her son. She plans to use the \$3,000 grant to purchase a large stand mixer, expand her production capabilities and enroll in a professional development course.

This year, HGM shoppers can expect 2,000 cookies, in addition to mini cakes, cupcakes, and brownies. Based on last year's feedback, Angelina Bakes will offer an expanded flavor selection—chocolate chip, pumpkin spice, gingerbread and vanilla bean-almond. Angelina will be donating profits from HGM to postpartum PTSD awareness organizations. Last year, she donated a portion of her proceeds to Chapters Health Foundation.

Due to the outstanding number and quality of applicants who applied to this year's YEP program, the League recognizes two Entrepreneurs on the Rise—Full Herizon's Madison Barse and Boho Hat Co.'s Kaleigh Carrasco. They will also receive a grant from the Dorothea Adell Tinsley Family Foundation. Be sure to check all three merchants at the HGM.





# THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TAMPA HOLIDAY GIFT MARKET

The Holiday Gift Market offers a curated 3-day shopping event with a variety of merchants in different categories, including Apparel & Accessories, Home & Holiday Décor, Gourmet Food & Cookware, Children's Gifts and more. *This list is subject to potential changes or updates.*

## CHILDREN'S GIFTS

Lollipop Adventures  
Loco Lights and Bubbles  
We Craft Box

## APPAREL & ACCESSORIES

8.28 Boutique  
{a} Haley Boutique/  
Onyx and Wolf  
A Stitchy Gifty  
AD DERSIM - TOAH  
Jewelry  
Artware  
Ava's Biolet  
Beachables  
BeadnikRow  
Boho Hat Co., **2023  
Entrepreneur on the  
Rise Winner**  
Bourbon and Boweties  
Bows and Arrows  
Cali-Girl Clothing/Tate  
& Tilly  
Calia Rose Boutique  
Calico's Grove Boutique  
Casey's Collections  
Champagne and Gravy  
Chansuttpearls

Christmas Market  
Clash Clothing  
Clay By Kass  
Colorado Bloom Kids  
Cozy Toes  
East of These  
Emerson and Friends  
Emily Anne Designs  
Fabbrows  
Five Fish on the Docks  
FL Girl Designs  
For the Bay Clothing  
Forever Dainty Jewelry  
Full Herizon, **2023  
Entrepreneur on the  
Rise Winner**  
Fuse Me Baby  
Ganapati Crafts  
Haute Shop Boutique  
Headbands of Hope  
Hello Myrrh  
Hide and Honey  
Hooks and Clay  
Idol Fashions  
Into the Palms  
J. Mack Designs  
Jalex Designs  
Jessica Santander

Katey Belle  
Katie Beth's Boutique  
Kendra Scott  
Kensington Kids  
Kiri Chic  
Kouture Finds  
l.o.h. Bracelets  
LeGrande Jewelry  
Lily Bet's Children's  
Boutique  
Little Beach Babes  
Boutique  
Lokal Swim Co.  
Lola de Menorca  
Lulu Design  
Luxenberry  
M Essentials  
Macawii  
Marcela Gifts  
Marrin Costello  
Jewelry  
Meraki Unlimited  
Missy Fashion  
Accessories  
MnM Blingz Boutique  
Moda Galleria Boutique  
Nairi Handmade  
Jewelry  
Native Buffalo Spirit

Origami Owl by Think  
Goodness  
Pami Designs  
Redwood Boutique  
RockShop Fine Gems  
& Jewelry  
Rowan& Plum  
roziejune  
Salted Air Mercantile  
Salty & Chic Boutique  
Sandra - Colorstreet  
independent stylist  
Shader Productions  
Skirtin' Around  
Spenny Lane  
Stoefs Studio  
Sunshine State Goods  
The Beauty in Chaos  
The Gilded Butterfly  
Boutique  
The Ivory Palm  
The Modern Pearl  
The Treehouse  
Then, Now, Always  
TheWatsonShop  
Top Purple  
TUTUNAKI  
Two Sides of Nature  
Ultra Bella



Van Galz  
Wherewithal  
Whiskey Darling  
Boutique  
White Sands Collective  
You got this & GOT  
Jewelry

#### **FOOD & DESSERTS**

3 Beer Rub/We in  
Georgia  
A Spice Above  
All Natural Dips  
Angelina Bakes,  
**2023 Young  
Entrepreneurship  
Winner**  
Barbara's Kitchen  
Jams  
Bespoke Provisions  
Casa Truffle  
Cheers and Crumbles  
Wow Fudge/Chocolate  
Moonshine  
Drunk Chicks Craft  
Sauces  
FEATHERSS dark  
chocolate  
Festival Hot Sauce  
Florida CattleWomen  
Florida Pure Sea Salt  
For Pedros Sake  
Grown Wild Food  
Company  
Hampton Chocolate  
Factory  
Joe and Son's Olive Oils  
Kara's Greek  
Nothing Bundt Cakes

Peterbrooke  
Chocolatier  
Redneckmoonshinejerky  
inc  
Rickey's Jerky  
Savor the Flavor  
So Her  
The Pretzel Pantry  
Toffee to Go  
True Honey Teas  
Whipped N' Baked  
Uncle Dave's Kettle  
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A Teeny Bit Crafty  
AJ Collectibles  
AMidSomersNap  
Art Afterlife Skeletons  
ArtsySharri  
Baker and Company  
Beachy Bubbles Bath  
Co  
Billi Kay Designs N  
Candles  
Borgil Enterprises  
Cozy Coast Company  
Crafting Design  
Cutco Cutlery  
Da Vinci Broom  
Danforth Art  
Dear Journey Blooms  
Debbie's Artistry  
Designed 4 Your Home  
Dillard's

E Marie Tumblers  
Easy Living Products:  
Go!Sticky  
Flat Stacks  
Great Day Made  
GRIPSTIC  
Gulf Coast Custom  
Designs  
Just B Woodworks  
Hensemon Home  
Hibiscus and Palms  
Hide & Honey Co.  
Hippie's Homemade  
Candles  
Holy Land Crafts  
Home Fields, Inc.  
Home Sweet Candle  
Kay Hova Art + Home  
KP FireBowls  
La Belle France  
Littlebird's Wreaths &  
Things  
Lois Lane  
Medis inc  
Mermaid Girls Studio  
Mix It Up  
Moomo Studio  
Moringa Vinga  
Mrs. Claus' Workshop  
My Massage Pillow  
Ocean Gems Jewelry &  
Décor  
Outdoor Wonders  
Petals + Glow  
Pierce and Jade  
Plante La Vie Nursery

Red's Shadow  
Sassi Home and  
Hollidaze Décor  
Scentsy Wickless  
Candles  
Seventh Avenue  
Apothecary  
Soapmomento  
Southern Bay Farm  
Steam Mop  
SunnySouthLove  
Tampa Bay Merch  
The Baa Baa Boutique  
The Cottonseed  
Marketplace  
The Fouta Spa  
The Perfectly Imperfect  
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Umays Boho Designs  
Vintage Warehouse  
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Designs  
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Toasteepups Pet  
Clothing



# INTRODUCING OUR 2023-2024 *Provisional Class*



The Provisional Class is building momentum quickly, thanks in large part to the robust curriculum and schedule of events put together by the Provisional Education team, headed by Chair Courtney Ryals. The Provisional Class includes 143 women, between the ages of 23 and 49, who come to the League with varying work and life experiences. When the class meets the room is brimming with excited members and engaging speakers.

Courtney attributes all successes to the incredible support and “go-getter” attitude of the Provisional Education Assistant Chairs, Kristen Antonello and Shelbie Bynum, and Requirements Coordinator, Jennifer Malone.

The Provisional Education Committee includes 15 Provisional Mentors: Elizabeth Austin, Samantha Barker, Alicia Blevins, Ali Bowlby, Allyson

Cooper, Kadi Derby, Kelsey Johnson, Elizabeth King, Tori Litschgi, LaLencia Matthews, Katie Mendicino, Molly Rau, Katie Schab, Danielle Scott, and Melissa Simons. The mentors focus on engaging Provisionals and planning many intimate small-group gatherings for the League's newest members.

In August, the Provisional Class attended PE 101, where President Meg Severino spoke about Centennial planning and her excitement for this year. Provisionals also learned about the history and mission of the League, Holiday Gift Market, and all the community projects. In attendance also were representatives from diverse League committees, who shared the League's impact.





## PROVISIONAL CLASS 2023-2024

Victoria Armoyan	Jennifer Dobies	Demrie Lowry	Riley Rousseau
Kristen Arseneau	Marin Donnelly	Courtney Matthews-Patel	Molly Rubin
Alysia Augustine	Cecily Dubaj	Loreal McDonald	Catherine Rubinson
Laurel Avery	Kenzie Erickson	Whitney McGrew	Julie Sabolic
Lauren Avila	Elizabeth Ernest	Jenna McKinney	Elizabeth Scarwid
Maria Balestriere	Willena Faison	Jenny Messeroff	Jaclyn Schaffer
Christina Balterman	Courtney Farrior	Brianna Mills	Rachel Schaffer
Alexandra Barboza	Samantha Fitzpatrick	Tara Mitchner	Chelsie Shariat
Tennille Barth	Rachel Fleishman	Carolina Montoya	Jenna Smith
Gabriella Beck	Maryhelen Friel	Molly Moran	Karen Smreker
Christina Bilbrey	Giannina Garcés-Ambrossi Muncey	Macey Moss	Karen Spangler
Morgan Billig	Brittany Gehrke	Allison Munden	Sofia Stack
Rhonda Billups	Emily George	Kirah Murphy	Monika Staruszkiewicz
Lauren Birch	Macy Godeaux	Anne Myers	Sabina Staruszkiewicz
Rebecca Blackler	Maribeth Graham	Ashley Nadeau	Megan Stiles
Jingyi Blank	Courtney Gross	Carolina Neves	Keebler Straz
Chelsea Bolter	Sarah Hartney	Vanessa Nicholson	Christie Sullivan
Laura Bonnemort	Samantha Heaps	Sarah Niesyty	Sydney Sultenfuss
Kayla Boronell	Lindsey Hendrix	Samantha Norman	Bailey Sweeney
Tiana Brockway-Horne	Kayla Henson	Hunter O'donnell	Laurel Thaxton
Reina Brown	Michelle Hernandez	Saadatu Olanrewaju	Tina Thomas
Sydney Bruen	Grace Hickey	Franchesca Organ	Rashada Timkee
Elizabeth Buck	Kathryn Huynh	Miranda Parsons	Alexandria Toler
Paige Carbon	Katie Jarrett	Sonaly Patel	Paige Tucker
Kimberly Carey	Dana Justus	Annie Patterson	Stephanie Tucker
Elly Carrere	Madison Kacir	Savanna Pearson	Deanna Vanworp
Jacqueline Cathcart	Romana Kahvedzic	Caroline Perry	Mckenzie Ward
Marci Christensen	Kat Kazaba	Amanda Pomp	Bria Washington
Natalie Christie	Mitchelle Kelley	Lucretia Profit	Adair Weekley
Katie Cloonan	Jessie Killoren	Sterling Purdy	Emily Welch
Mariana Corpus	Courtney King	Allison Putnam	Amy West
Kailand Cosgrove	Lauren Kupstas	Sophia Ramesar	Taylor West
Zoe Cuva	Iva Kusan	Laura Rasche	Pamela Whitney
Natalie Davis	Lo Lafond	Kimberly Reid	Clare Wierzel
Diana Delacruz	Kellie Llona	Lauren Robertson	Nicole Williams
Samantha Denis	Ryan Loflin	Mackenzie Roost	
Bernadette Di Piazza			



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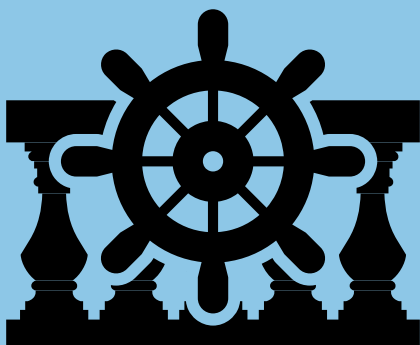
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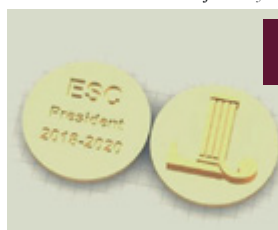
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# MEET THE 2023-2024 LEADERSHIP TEAM



Lindsay Seel, Lyndsey Siara, Katie Crowe, Meg Severino, Jamiel Maze, Nicki Mohr Hall, Danielle Tinsley, Monica Kirkland, Samantha Greer (not pictured: Laura Everitt and Kristen Brady).

by HANNAH GEAUMONT

Each of our members leads by example, and the women who make up our Executive Board and Management Council exemplify the JLT values of inclusion, vision, empowerment, collaboration, and integrity. Get to know the newest class of JLT leaders.

Images by Leslie White Photography

## Executive Board

The Executive Board governs League business by ensuring the alignment of the JLT Mission and Vision at all levels of the organization through strategic planning, policy administration, fiscal management and operational continuity while serving as trustees and stewards on behalf of the membership.



## *President:* **Meg Severino**

Meg Severino joined the League in 2010 and began her League career as a Provisional Mentor. Meg's favorite placement was Holiday Gift Market Co-Chair in 2014 which gave her an opportunity to lead our largest fundraising event. Without JLT, she wouldn't have had the opportunity to gain this experience.

She is a wife to Tampa native, Anthony and a mother to two boys, Michael and JT. She works in the Business Innovation Office at Pfizer. Meg is passionate about assisting collegiate women and has served in an advisory role at the University of South Florida since 2009. Meg is originally from Denver and enjoys traveling home to visit family. She is looking forward to celebrating our Centennial year in 2026!

**FUN FACT:** "I was a Department of Defense Contractor upon graduating college and traveled to Kabul, Kandahar and Bagram for my work."

## *President-Elect:* **Nicki Mohr Hall**

Nicki Mohr Hall is the Chief of the County Court Division for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit in Hillsborough County. Her favorite role in the League has been Managing Director, as it allowed her to be involved in every aspect of JLT. "From boots-on-the-ground chair-level leadership to the Executive Board, you have your finger on the pulse of what is happening, big picture and day-to-day," Nicki said.

She is married to Jason and mom to 2.5-year-old son, Wyatt, and a 3-year-old Goldendoodle, Hank. Tampa-bred through and through, Nicki is originally from Temple Terrace—her parents and brother still live in her childhood home, and currently lives in Tampa Heights.

**FUN FACT:** "I love Karaoke and prefer to sing old-school country or rap. Get a mic in my hand, and I am on another level."







Photo by Dani Smith Photography

## *Managing Director:* **Katie Crowe**

Katie Crowe joined JLT in 2015; her favorite roles have been Provisional Education Chair and Community Assistance Manager. The League has always been something Katie wanted to be a part of. She attended her first League volunteer shift as a young girl in Texas, when her mom was an Active member of the Junior League of Austin (JLA). Originally from Austin, TX, and Lake Forest, IL, Katie currently lives on Davis Islands with her husband Justin and their fur baby, Boomer, who they adopted as a foster dog.

A Realtor in Tampa Bay for nearly 10 years, Katie works for Smith & Associates. In addition to her dedication to the League, Katie has served as the Fundraising Chair of the Tri Delta Alumnae Association, alongside several JLT friends and leaders.

**FUN FACT:** "Tampa is now the city I have lived in the longest...does that mean I get to call myself a Tampanian?"

## *Director at Large:* **Kristen Brady**

Kristen Brady is an Operations Director at MetLife and is involved with A Kid's Place, the Heart Gallery of Tampa and Habitat for Humanity. Kristen enjoys being an Active member and her favorite role thus far is Fund Development Manager, a role she held for three consecutive years. Originally from Greenbrae, CA, Kristen attended the University of South Florida and has been in the League for nine years. Her family lives locally in Brandon. In her spare time, Kristen enjoys spending time by the pool.

**FUN FACT:** "The Brown University soccer field is named after my grandfather, Cliff Stevenson Field."



Photo by Brittany Elise Photography



## *Director at Large:* **Jamiel Maze**

Jamiel Maze is Resource Development Manager at the Nonprofit Leadership Center (NLC). She coordinates and manages NLC's fund development process, including grant writing and reporting, sponsorship acquisition and coordination, and donor recognition and stewardship. Originally from Cleveland, Jamiel attended Allegheny College for her Bachelor's and St. John's University for her Master's.

She joined the League five years ago. Her favorite part about the League is there are so many different types of members in the League. Everyone comes with their own history, their own intentions, and their own unique skill sets ready to make our community better. Outside the League, she serves on the board of Girls Rock St. Pete and volunteers with the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida. She has two children: Mia, her 16-year-old daughter, and Micah, her 12-year-old son.

**FUN FACT:** "I played lacrosse and ran track in college. I used to backpack and love camping."



## *Director at Large:* **Lindsay Seel**

Lindsay Seel loves being an Active member of the League because it allows her to be surrounded by like-minded, strong women. She has been a member of not one, not two, not three, but four Leagues, and this is her 12<sup>th</sup> Active year.

Lindsay is from Palm Harbor, and attended the University of Florida for college. She has been married to her husband Brian since 2012 and is a proud mother to her three beautiful daughters. She is the owner and designer of Vivant Event Rentals, a company that provides rentals and custom designs for events of all types. When Lindsay is not at the League, at work, or with her family, she enjoys taking a peaceful stroll on the Tampa Riverwalk.

**FUN FACT:** "I have been to every continent except Antarctica."

## *Director at Large:* **Lyndsey Siara**

Lyndsey Siara has been in the League for 12 years. Outside of the League, Lyndsey is a General Counsel for the Sixth Judicial Circuit. In that role, she provides legal counsel and support to the Chief Judge and Trial Court Administrator and oversees the court's legal department. She is active in legal professional associations, serving on the boards of the Hillsborough County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers. She is the Vice Chair of The Florida Bar Journal Editorial Board and serves as a volunteer Guardian ad Litem. Lyndsey has been married to her husband Joe for 12 years, and they have two girls, 8-year-old Sydney and 4-year-old Savannah.

**FUN FACT:** "In addition to our Goldendoodle Indy, we have six backyard chickens—Sprinkle, Sparkle, Shimmer, Shine, Sunny, and Jewel."



## *Leadership Director:* **Samantha Greer**



Samantha Greer is a Partner and lobbyist with Corcoran Partners, a full-service government relations and public affairs firm. She joined the Junior League of Tallahassee in 2014 and transferred to Tampa in September 2021. Born and raised in Melbourne, Samantha attended the University of Florida and spent 10 years in Tallahassee after graduating. She met her husband, Taylor, while sailing around the Mediterranean Sea in 2019. They moved to Tampa in 2021, and then welcomed their son Wellsey in February 2023, and have a dog, Riley.

Her League career has largely been in funding, serving as VP of Development and President of the Junior League of Tallahassee. Outside of the League, she serves on the Pace Center for Girls Hillsborough Board of Directors, contributes to needle-moving policy discussions, and volunteers with The Church at Channelside.

**FUN FACT:** "My dream job would be managing a carefully curated bookstore with a coffee and wine bar that supports community conversations."



## *Secretary:* **Monica Kirkland**

Monica Kirkland is a CPA, working in Federal Government Contracting. Originally from Valdosta, GA, Monica attended Valdosta State University for her Bachelor's and Mercer University for her Master's. She has been a League member for 10 years and her favorite role was Community Education Manager. Monica enjoys learning about Tampa's rich history, attending museums and history tours. She enjoys spending time with family. Monica has an older brother, younger sister and nieces and nephews.

**FUN FACT:** "I enjoy traveling. I would love to travel to the Maldives next."



## *Treasurer:* **Danielle Tinsley**

Danielle Tinsley has been with JLT for 10 years. She has loved every position she's held, but her favorite role was YEP Coordinator, which she held three times. A semi-retired former entrepreneur, Danielle does online marketing consulting for about 10-20 hours a week. Danielle has a huge family, although she does not have children of her own—her boyfriend of eight years has three children, and she has 11 nieces and nephews. When Danielle is not working, at the League, or spending time with family, you can find her ice skating.

**FUN FACT:** "My hometown is about 10 minutes from the Canadian border; so growing up, it was pretty normal for us to go to Canada for dinner."

## *Sustainer at Large:* **Laura Everitt**



Laura Everitt began her League journey when she graduated in 1998, in Charlottesville, VA. She transferred to JLT in the summer of 2007 and has spent time with the Junior League of New Orleans and Junior League of Nashville. Originally from the Bristol area in Southwest Virginia, Laura attended the University of Virginia for both her undergraduate and graduate degrees. Laura is an urban planner specializing in long-term transit planning projects. She helps transit agencies prepare their 10-, 20- or 30-year plans. She works for a private consulting firm with clients all over the Southeast. Laura currently serves in a national role for the American Planning Association (APA), a professional organization for urban planners. She is also the Past President of APA Florida.

**FUN FACT:** I was on the Executive Board from 2014 - 2017 before returning this year. One year, my bio in *The Sandspur* included that I did not own a television, which I didn't for many years, but alas, marriage (and COVID) has its compromises so I now own a television. People still comment on how I didn't own a television so I feel I should set the record straight."

# Management Council



(back row) Molly Fitzpatrick, Ginny Garcia, Marysue Mathews, Katie Peterson, Rachel Moskovitz, Ashley Gallagher, Cassidy Liebler. (front row) Bri Bunch, Ashley White, Lindsey Dewey, Meaza Morrison, Katie Crowe, Amanda Wiegman, Lauren Watts, Kami Lucas, Hannah Parker-McCabe (not pictured: Emily Boucher, Carrie Bien Rañon, Bianca Williams Schafer).

The Management Council implements the programs and policies of the JLT by overseeing the day-to-day operations and management of the organization.





## Managing Director-Elect:

### Meaza Morrison

Meaza Morrison has been in the League for five years and enjoys making life-long friends while giving back to her community. Meaza is Ethiopian-American and she grew up between Panama City, FL, and Liberia. Meaza went to the University of South Florida for her undergraduate and master's and Nova Southeastern University for her doctorate. Today, Meaza works as a Business and Education Consultant to help businesses and employees progress. In addition to her work in the League, Meaza is on the board of the Centre for Women, Stageworks Theatre, is an Athena Society Member, Leadership Tampa Alumni Member, USF Women in Leadership and Philanthropy Committee Member, Hillsborough County Council PTSA ESE Chair and

Champions for Children Community Council Member. Meaza is a proud mom of an 11-year-old daughter, a 9-year-old son, and a 23-year-old step-son. Meaza and her husband have been married for 15 years.

**FUN FACT:** "I love fashion and a good bargain."

## Advocacy Manager: Lauren Watts

Lauren Watts has been in the League since 2018. She is from Tampa and attended the University of Florida. Lauren is an IT Clinical Applications Manager for a large health organization. She is married to her best friend, Michael, and they have two pups, Emma and Wyatt, and two beautiful daughters, Layla and Mia, with a third on the way. Lauren has enjoyed her entire League experience but her favorite role was Fund Development Manager because it challenged her to learn and grow her skills.

**FUN FACT:** "Our family travels internationally once a year, and it's on our bucket list to take the girls to every continent. This year, it was the girl's first international trip to Ireland and we had a blast."



## Communications Manager:

### Amanda Wiegman

Amanda Wiegman is the Marketing Director for WJ Architects, an interdisciplinary architecture firm that creates engaging spaces for working, living, learning and playing. She is responsible for managing statewide marketing efforts for the firm's five offices. She joined JLT in July 2019, serving as Kids in the Kitchen Food and Materials Coordinator her Provisional year. After which, she dove headfirst into a leadership position, as Marketing/PR Chair-Elect. She loves that the League provides members the opportunities to build leadership experience while making the community a better place. Besides JLT, she has been actively involved on the Board of Directors for the Society for Marketing Professional Services (SMPS), and is a Member at Large for the UCF Tampa Bay Alumni Committee.

**FUN FACT:** "I am very competitive, growing up I was a dancer and a cheerleader. Nowadays, I love working out, lifting weights, and anything health and fitness. I am also a season ticket holder for the UCF Knights and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers!"



## Community Assistance Manager: **Hannah Parker McCabe**

Hannah Parker McCabe is from Mobile, AL, and attended the University of Mississippi. She is currently a Commercial Lines Marketing Specialist at USI Insurance Services. In her role, Hannah works to assist and facilitate the sale of middle market-sized accounts. She is married to Chris McCabe, and they have a 2-year-old son, Connor. Hannah and Chris are expecting their second son, due in early November. They also have a lab-mix named Milo.

Hannah's favorite thing about the League is the togetherness it has brought throughout the years. The League has allowed her to make connections personally and professionally, which have helped her grow into the woman she always wanted to be.

**FUN FACT:** "I was recently asked to be a "grooms woman" in a friend's wedding, and I am very excited."

## Community Child Welfare Manager: **Bri Bunch**

Bri Bunch was born in Indiana, but her family relocated to Florida when she was around six months old. She proudly considers herself a Florida gal. Bri works for Building Dreams, Breaking Barriers—she is a woman in construction and has been in the industry for almost seven years now. Bri is close with her family, especially her amazing, parents, sisters, and niece. Bri deeply values the League for providing her with the space to be her authentic self.

**FUN FACT:** "I used to be a competitive figure skater (ice skater)."



## Community Education Manager:

### **Bianca Williams-Schafer**

Bianca Williams-Schafer is a Speech-Language Pathologist and owner of New Heights Therapy. She works with the pediatric population, mainly children with autism and speech sound disorders. She absolutely adores her clients and their families. Along with the love of her clients, Bianca enjoys her work with the League. Her favorite part is meeting and collaborating with such extraordinary women.

**FUN FACT:** "I am a huge fan of Disney Parks. I have visited half of all 12 Disney Parks in the world. I am also a board game fanatic and own 50+ of them."





## *Events Manager:* **Kami Lucas**

Kami Lucas transferred to Tampa in late 2020 from The Junior League of Indianapolis, which she joined in 2016. She served on committees touching all areas of the League including Fundraising, Done In A Day, External Communications, Community Impact Project, and also served as co-chair of an HGM subcommittee in Indy. She grew up in Sacramento and lived almost two decades in Indianapolis. She and her husband, Paul, are thrilled to be living in Tampa and enjoy the great weather, theme parks, beaches, pro sports, and local dining scene.

**FUN FACT:** "I got married at Walt Disney World."



## *Events Manager:* **Carrie Bien Rañon**

Carrie Bien Rañon is a Customer Success Manager at ReliaQuest, a job she found through The Junior League of Tampa. Originally from Kansas City, Carrie went to the University of Missouri. She joined the League in 2013 and has warm memories chairing the Enabling Fund Committee. She was able to learn about amazing nonprofits in the Tampa community and see how JLT has an impact on its individual missions. She loves most the League's ability to meet people where they are. Members can create their adventure, depending on the season of their life. Married to Michael, Carrie recently welcomed their first child, McHenry. Together, they love spending time with their large extended family, in Kansas City and Tampa.

**FUN FACT:** "I moved to Tampa eight years ago to escape the cold weather and didn't know a soul. I made several close friends through Junior League transfers and am so glad to have made the leap to move here."

## *Fund Development Manager:* **Molly Fitzpatrick**

An attorney, Molly Fitzpatrick works on MetLife's UK's business contracts. She has been in the League for six years and most enjoyed time on the Grants Committee. Originally from Inverness, she attended Villanova University. She is the youngest of five kids and has a lot of nieces and nephews. Molly enjoys traveling, even if it is just across town to try a new restaurant in Tampa.

**FUN FACT:** "I've walked the Great Wall of China and gone skydiving in the Swiss Alps."



## Fund Development Manager-Elect: **Ashley Gallagher**

A labor and employment law attorney, Ashley Gallagher helps managements develop policies and handbooks, address day-to-day issues, and defend against charges and lawsuits brought by employees. Ashley is the current Vice President of The Tampa Bay Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. She serves on the National Federal Bar Association's Younger Lawyers Division Board and the BAYS Board of Directors. Ashley has been married to her husband, Thomas, for four years, and her favorite thing to do is explore Tampa with her son Wren. She is excited for Wren to grow up loving Tampa as much as she does. Ashley and Thomas also have Lady, a pug chihuahua mix they consider their firstborn.

**FUN FACT:** "I took a class in college on the sociology of Lady Gaga."



## Intraleague Development Manager: **Rachel Moskovitz**

Rachel Moskovitz is the Director of Marketing at Spine & Orthopedic Center. She has been a member of the League for six years, and her favorite role was Holiday Gift Market Chair. Rachel enjoys the friends she has made over the years and the chance to take on new challenges and roles each year. In addition to her work in the League, Rachel is a on the planning committee for the Heart Gallery Be Mine event. When Rachel is not in the office or working with the League, she enjoys going out on the boat with friends and family. Originally from Clearwater, Rachel Moskovitz is married to David, with a 1.5-year-old daughter, Emilia, and a Goldendoodle, Pinot.

**FUN FACT:** "I love to travel and have visited almost 30 countries."



## Membership Manager: **Lindsey Dewey**



Lindsey Dewey works as the Director of Engagement and Outreach at Congregation Schaaria Zedek. Lindsey has loved and learned from every placement she has held in JLT, cherishing the relationships she built through projects aligned with her values. Lindsey has been married to Chris, who she met as a teen, for almost nine years. Their friendship evolved after college, resulting in Lindsey moving to Tampa in 2009. They have a 7-year-old son, Lawton, who loves coming to 'The Junior League House'.

**FUN FACT:** "I spent 18 summers at an all-girls sleepaway camp. I met my husband on a day off through a friend working at the boy's camp. Our son spent his first four-week session there this past summer, and he was the youngest camper on site."



## *Operations Manager:* **Cassidy Liebler**

A Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Cassidy Liebler takes care of children before they go to surgery and ensures they are healthy. She loves being a part of JLT because it allows her to do things she doesn't do in her career. The League provides her with many opportunities to give back while being surrounded by a community of strong, like-minded women. Cassidy is married to her husband Brent, and they have a newborn baby boy who's three months old. Originally from Bozeman, MT, Cassidy attended University of Florida.

**FUN FACT:** "I love to work out and be active. I even played college volleyball for two years."



## *Training Manager:* **Emily Boucher**

Emily Boucher is a Tampa native, who attended UF for college. A former kindergarten teacher turned stay-at-home mom, Emily is involved with the PTA at her daughter's elementary school and sits on the board of the John B. Gorrie Foundation. Emily has been married to her husband Zach for ten years, and they have two girls: 7-year-old Isabell and 5-year-old Adeline. Emily joined the Junior League of Gainesville in 2014 and transferred to JLT in 2015. One of her favorite League roles is being Member Experience Chair, which included writing personalized cards to members.

**FUN FACT:** "I am the world's biggest fan of *The Office* and have seen the series in its entirety over a dozen times."

## *Assistant Treasurer:* **Ashley White**

Ashley White works for PwC where she does financial reporting and accounting. She lives in New Port Richey and is recently engaged. Her favorite role has been the Ticket Coordinator for Holiday Gift Market—"There's a special kind of energy from being in the ticket booth at HGM". Ashley enjoys trying new restaurants in her free time and walking through the neighborhood, under oak trees.

**FUN FACT:** "I love the neighborhood squirrels - I could watch them all day. I gave them a little picnic table filled with peanuts, corn, and seeds."



## *Sustainer Advisor:* **Ginny Garcia**

Ginny Garcia is a Registered Practice Associate with Ameriprise Financial, responsible for client service and operations of a wealth management practice. Ginny joined the League in 2017 and currently enjoys her role because she gets to share her League experience with a talented group of leaders and watch them move JLT forward. She loves that the League offers its members opportunities for personal growth, skills development, and lifelong friendships. Outside the League, Ginny sits on the development committee for the Glazer Children's Museum. She is married to Mike, a local orthopedic surgeon, and mother to Sebastian (4), and stepmother to Drew (16) and Gabby (13). Originally from Orlando, she attended the University of Florida. Ginny loves going out to eat and discovering new restaurants.



Photo by Brittany Elise Photography

**FUN FACT:** "I love to play golf."

## *Meeting Manager:* **Kathleen Peterson**



Kathleen (Katie) Peterson is a Registered Nurse who works at St. Joseph's Hospital in the Ortho/Trauma unit. A member of The Junior League of Tampa since 2018, Katie has enjoyed all her placements, since she said yes to a leadership role her first year as an Active. Katie loves that the League surrounds its members with an army of like-minded, strong women who help and support. She is married to Brant Peterson; they recently welcomed their first baby girl, Leland, in May. Katie's water broke at the End of Year Celebration at HQ—Leland just wants to be a JLT lady. Outside of the League, she's involved with the Professional Practice Council and Tampa Toastmasters. Born and raised in Tampa, Katie attended Florida State University for her Bachelor's in Human Sciences and the University of South Florida for her second Bachelor's in Nursing.

**FUN FACT:** "My family owned and operated a cigar factory in Ybor City from 1905 until the 1980s."

## *Office Administrator:* **Marysue Mathews**



Photo by Dani Smith Photography

Marysue Mathews is the League's Office Administrator and has been an employee with the League for over 15 years. In her role, Marysue does a bit of everything needed to support the members, leadership, and customers. Marysue went to the University of Tampa and is married to her husband, Jim, of 42 years. She has four children: a teacher at Seminole Elementary, an employee in the family business, a product designer for Foxtrot in Chicago, and an Enterprise Account Exec at Qgenda. She also has four grandchildren: 11-year-old twin girls, a 10-year-old boy, and a 7-year-old girl.

**FUN FACT:** "My husband and I, along with my youngest daughter and son-in-law, plan to visit every Major League Baseball stadium by 2030."





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All photos from the 2022 National Adoption Day celebration.

## KIDS CONNECT: Making a Dream a Reality

by MICHELLE AIHE

Family holds diverse meanings for people, from the traditional nuclear unit to chosen circles of close friends. Regardless of the formation, family carries profound importance, providing support through life's ups and downs. Kids Connect believes everyone should have the opportunity to find their forever family. The team supports more than 100 prospective and adoptive families each year, a goal they hope to meet this year as the committee resumes its mission to celebrate and support families on their adoption journeys, following a brief hiatus.

The committee temporarily paused its activities during the previous League year when Hillsborough County transitioned foster activities to a new partner. This year, with new community partners, the Heart Gallery of Tampa and the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, the Kids Connect Committee team looks forward to supporting families and foster kids. It will host three signature events this year: two Match Days scheduled for Oct. 21, 2023 and April 2024, and National Adoption Day on Nov. 17, 2023.







On Match Day, the team collaborates with the Heart Gallery of Tampa to create an enjoyable, child-centered day where children eligible for adoption and families interested in adoption can meet. It's a day for children to ask questions and form connections. The theme for the fall Match Day will be "Fall Festival."

Come November 17, the team members will convene at the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Courthouse to commemorate National Adoption Day. This unique holiday represents the only day of the year when adoption proceedings are made public. The festivities kick off with a proclamation from Mayor Jane Castor, along with a lineup of guest speakers. The Kids Connect Committee takes over a floor at the courthouse, offering games, activities, food, and entertainment while families await their turn in front of the judge to finalize their adoptions. The committee anticipates supporting 30–50 families during this crucial stage of the adoption process.

While these events are dedicated to supporting and celebrating children as they find their forever homes, the emotional impact on committee members is palpable. Members of The Junior League of Tampa have the opportunity to witness children forming connections with families on Match Day and even attend an adoption hearing in person.

"Everybody walks out of the courtroom bawling... in a good way!" says Brittany Harding, Kids Connect Committee Chair.





# Meet the 2023–2024 President-Elect: *Nicki Mohr Hall*



by SARAH MARTISEK

This past January, The Junior League of Tampa Nicki Mohr Hall as the 2023-2024 President-Elect. Nicki has been an Active and dedicated member of the League since 2013, during which she has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the League's mission of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the Tampa Bay community.

Throughout her JLT tenure, Nicki has consistently exhibited leadership qualities that have enriched JLT members and served as an inspiration to those around her. Her diverse experience, passion for community service, and her ability to drive positive change have made a lasting impact in the JLT community.

"Nicki's capacity to consider various perspectives makes her a thoughtful leader and collaborative problem-solver," said Caroline Vostrejs, 2022–2023 JLT President. "I love that Nicki is quick to celebrate wins and hold a friend's hand during a loss. I admire her ability to show strength and vulnerability simultaneously—a rare quality. As we embark on JLT's 100<sup>th</sup> year, Nicki's fresh outlook and respect for our history will undoubtedly guide us toward a bright future. I am fortunate to call her a friend; she brings joy to even the longest days."





Nicki brings a wealth of experience to her position as President-Elect, having served in various leadership roles within JLT. Her vision for The Junior League of Tampa's future is both compelling and forward-thinking. She envisions a future where JLT continues to expand its outreach, amplify its impact, and foster a more inclusive and empowering environment for all its members. Her dedication to JLT's mission, her leadership skills, and genuine desire to make a difference has made her a formidable force for positive change.

From Volunteer At-Large Chair and Community Education Manager, to Managing Director, her curiosity to learn and a "doors always open" approach grew her aptitude for collaboration. Nicki has had the privilege of overseeing community education projects including MILO, Food for Kids, and Kids in the Kitchen, while supporting other strategic priorities. The impact of many of these strategic priorities lead to increased conversation and focus on diversity, equity and inclusion progression within membership and the community at large.

She brought about efficiencies in her most recent role as Managing Director, overseeing Management Council and Leadership Council. Current Managing Director Katie Crowe notes, "Nicki has always been a constant source of calm, a reliable and trusted confidant, and someone I can always count on to show up when I need her most. Celebrating one another and turning to each other to work through whatever crazy, weird and oftentimes unforeseen obstacle was the highlight of my time on Management Council."

A native of Tampa, Florida, Nicki Mohr Hall's deep-rooted connection to the city is evident in her unwavering commitment to its betterment, her community engagement and leadership, and her educational background. She received her undergraduate degree in economics from the University of Florida, and her Juris Doctorate in Law from Florida State University, before joining the Hillsborough County State Attorney's Office. As a community leader, Nicki harnesses her passion for the betterment of her hometown, currently serving as Chief of the County Court Division for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit.

In addition to all that Nicki does inside and outside of the League, balancing both her nonprofit service and her career, she is also a wife and mother. Nicki and her husband Jason are raising their brilliant and sweet son, Wyatt. They are active parishioners of Hyde Park United Methodist, where they often give their time to community endeavors as well. Nicki has led her life with integrity, enthusiasm, and a deep sense of purpose. Her tireless efforts have made a significant difference in the lives of countless individuals both inside and outside of the League, and will continue to do so.



# The Legacy of Launching

## HOW JLT PROJECTS BECOME BEACONS OF LASTING IMPACT

by MADELINE MORRIS

What does lasting community impact look like? This question has been on the minds of the leaders of The Junior League of Tampa (JLT) since 1926. The League's mission is more than creating volunteer opportunities. It also involves investing in sustainable impact to make Hillsborough County a better place to live, work, and thrive.

One such way is its 'develop and launch' model, which has long been a part of JLT's history and has deeply influenced the Tampa Bay community. The concept is simple: members recognize a need in the community. They build a plan, through extensive research and collaboration with local stakeholders, resulting in a new JLT project. The League empowers the project through its volunteers and funds, evaluating its success and building on what works. Once the project model is strong enough, the project is launched, as a separate entity, and gifted to the community.

"Launching a project is all about giving it back to the community," said JLT President Meg Severino. "Our members invest their time and talents to build something impactful. The League's unique ability to research and evaluate programs in their infancy has helped lay the groundwork for many Tampa institutions."

Champions for Children, the Heart Gallery of Tampa, MORE HEALTH Inc., and many others can tie their origin story to The Junior League of Tampa. The League's dedication to meticulous evaluation leading up to the decision to launch has helped build many of Tampa's most impactful community organizations.

## Past Launches



### THE PREVENTORIUM

In the early days of The Junior League of Tampa, tuberculosis (TB) was a high risk for vulnerable children living in our community. League members

stepped in, running a Preventorium which offered a safe space for children to live while their parents recovered from TB. The project was absorbed by Hillsborough County in the 1940s and embedded into broader public health and child welfare service infrastructure.



### CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN

Founded as the Child Abuse Council in 1977, this project began with the mission to treat child abuse and neglect. With support from community

partners, the Council eventually transformed into the prevention-first organization we know today as Champions for Children, serving more than 35,000 children annually.



### MORE HEALTH

Recognizing the need for health education in Tampa classrooms, JLT members created MORE HEALTH as a three-year League project. With support from partners like

Tampa General Hospital (TGH), MORE HEALTH Inc. became a 501(c)3 in 1997 and has reached over four million students.



"I admired how The Junior League handled it," said Liz Kennedy, who was involved in the early days of Child Abuse Council, which later became Champions for Children. "They identified the problem, researched it, and brought in potential solutions provided by experts. Then they brought the community together and said: 'We've heard what we've heard. How do we begin to address this?'"

The evaluation process is thoughtful and thorough. Building on the strategic review process all projects go through every three years, projects are considered eligible for launch following a detailed evaluation of their long-term impact

and needs. Once the decision to launch is made, a detailed plan is built to ensure continuity of service and support.

"We don't do this work in a vacuum," said Severino. "Our members are constantly leveraging their networks to build coalitions and create long-term partnerships. Our members' connection to the community is one of the secrets to the League's success."

Being a community connector and a problem solver has made the launch of JLT projects successful.

## Let's Launch: THE NEXT PHASE FOR THE DIAPER BANK

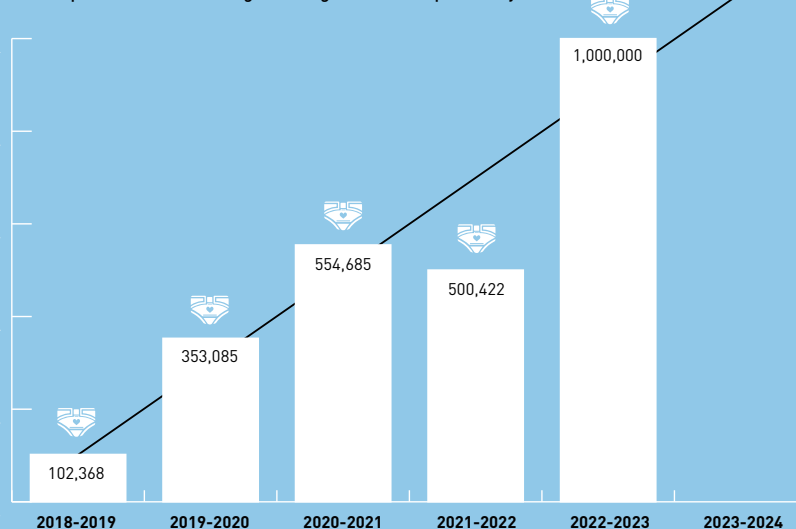
The Junior League of Tampa Diaper Bank began in 2018 with a small member-supported diaper drive collecting over 1,000 diapers for a single partner. Since that original drive, the bank has grown exponentially, working tirelessly to meet the demand of our expanding partnership network.

"It is truly incredible to see how the Diaper Bank has changed and grown," said Lyndsey Siara, 2019–2021 Diaper Bank Chair and Director At-Large.

The dedication and steadfast support of the Diaper Bank by JLT members led to over one million diapers distributed in 2022–2023. But despite these gains, diaper need persists. A recent study by the National Diaper Bank Network (NDBN) found that 1 in 2 families with young children experience diaper need—a devastating statistic that shows diaper need is a growing problem. To meet the increasing demand, membership has voted to make the Diaper Bank the next JLT project to launch into a stand-alone nonprofit.

### Annual Diaper Distribution

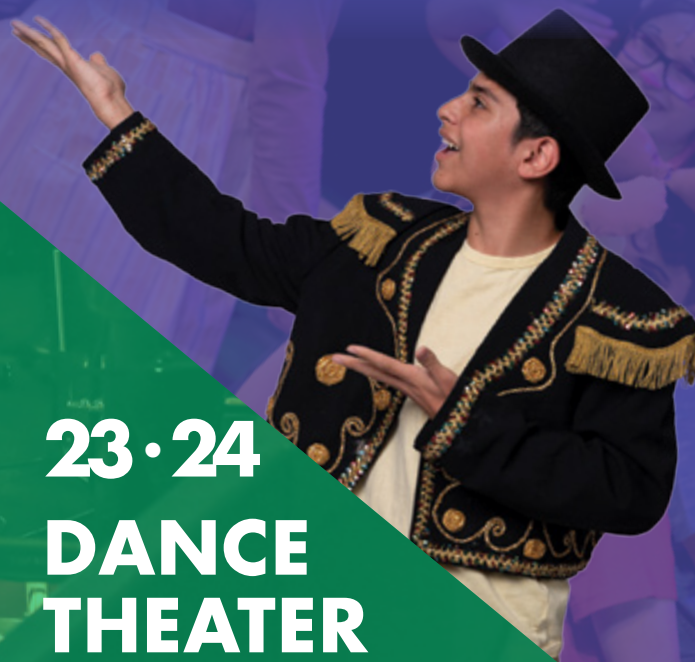
The Diaper Bank has seen significant growth in the past five years.



"Our decision to launch the Diaper Bank is about ensuring sustainability and investing in growth," said Siara. "We understand that the Diaper Bank plays a vital role in our community and we want to do everything we can to ensure it remains a resource as long as diaper need exists."

The new Diaper Bank organization is set to launch in early 2025. For more information about the launch plan, visit [JLTampa.org](http://JLTampa.org).

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## a note from the sustainer president

Welcome to the 2023–2024 League year, especially to our newest Sustainers! I am honored to be your Sustainer President and am looking forward to the year ahead. Each one of us has a different reason why we joined the Junior League. For me, while living in London, I was looking for a way to volunteer and feel part of a community. Once I joined, I quickly saw that the Junior League was much more than a volunteer organization. It was my source of making new friends, learning about a city that I came to love, while still feeling connected to home. The Junior League of Tampa provided me with all of those things and then some! I would love to hear your reason for joining.

Just like when we were Actives, we all have times in our lives where we have more time to give than other times. Whether you would like to participate on the Sustainer Board or just attend our Pop Ups this year, there is room and opportunity for us all. There are many ways you can be involved as a Sustainer: attend one of our events, participate in a volunteer opportunity, attend a training, or mentor an Active or Provisional.

Being together as Sustainers keeps us connected to each other and the League. Our wonderful Sustainer Board and Sustainer Committee have been working passionately to plan the events for the upcoming year that will bring us together. A few of these upcoming events include our Pop Up socials, the Back to the League Luncheon, the Holiday Gift Market Luncheon, art events and a winter cocktail party, to name a few. We will be planning opportunities for Sustainers to interact with Actives and Provisionals, such as round table events and socials. New and exciting events will be announced throughout the year. If you have any ideas for new events, please send them my way. I hope that you will join us for an exciting fall!

*Kathleen E Calderelli*

Kate Calderelli  
Sustainer President, 2023–2024  
SustainerPresident@JLTampa.org

### **Sustainer President**

Kate Calderelli

### **Sustainer President-Elect**

Jenny Spencer

### **Sustainer at Large (Executive Board)**

Laura Everitt

### **Sustainer Advisor (Management Council)**

Ginny Garcia

### **Back to The League Chair**

Allie Torrence

### **HGM Luncheon Chair**

Terri Dodson-Caldevilla

### **Winter Cocktail Party Chair**

Shannon Tompkins

### **Spring Luncheon Chair**

Anne-Marie Ayers

### **Community Service Chair**

Jenny Schroeder

### **Pop-Ups Chairs**

Brigid Futch  
Sarah Shanberg

### **Art Chairs**

Suzanne Ennis  
Jessica Spencer

### **Day at the Races Chair**

Pat Van Dyke

### **Transfer Chairs**

Virginia Hicks  
Barby Landers

### **Book Talk Chair**

Rona Martin

### **Liaison**

Sarah Walters

### **Past President**

Candy Olson

### **Sustainer Committee Chair**

Samantha Manning

### **Sustainer Committee Assistant Chair**

Abby Arocho



## UPCOMING SUSTAINER EVENTS

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NOVEMBER 10:  
**FALL LUNCHEON AND MEETING AT HOLIDAY GIFT MARKET**

---

NOVEMBER 17:  
**NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY VOLUNTEER SHIFT**

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NOVEMBER 30:  
**WINTER COCKTAIL PARTY**

---

DECEMBER 9:  
**ALLIANCE FOR PERIOD SUPPLIES (APS) PACKING**

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Ensure you receive the bi-weekly Sustainer Sandblast email newsletter and are part of the Sustainer Facebook Group for the most up-to-date information on upcoming events. Contact the League office for assistance.

## SUSTAINER SPOTLIGHT

# Lauren Gstalder

by MICHELLE AIHE



Junior League Sustainers are seasoned members with a plethora of wisdom and insight about navigating ones League career. We sat down with Laura Gsatlder, a Sustaining Member of The Junior League of Tampa and Executive Director of University of South Florida's Women in Leadership & Philanthropy to talk about her JLT journey.

### WHAT DREW YOU TO THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TAMPA?

I was in my mid-20s and I've always wanted to join something and serve in leadership roles. The mission of The Junior League of Tampa filled that cup for me. There was an opportunity to take my next step in volunteerism and philanthropy as an individual. And I really loved the projects. I was also looking for an opportunity to get experience in fundraising, because I was figuring my transition from healthcare recruitment. I wanted some relevant experience to add to my resume. Serving on the Grants Committee my first year gave me that relevant experience, which helped in the long run professionally and led to my current role.

### SO ASIDE FROM GRANTS, WHAT OTHER COMMITTEES HAVE YOU SERVED ON?

I spent a fair amount of time on the Fundraising Committee. I did the Grants Committee for a couple years, and Love Bundles for a few years, serving in a few different capacities. I led the Annual Campaign (now the Giving Campaign) under Nicole Hubbard, which was an awesome experience. And I have done a few other roles including serving on the Enabling Fund Committee and as a Member Liaison.

### HOW HAVE YOU SEEN THE LEAGUE EVOLVE?

I joined in 2006. The League is still as dedicated and committed, but the leadership roles and responsibilities have been segmented in a very positive way to provide





greater opportunities to strengthen the League. We now have a Management Council and more leadership positions. And we are expanding in regards to membership diversity, both with race and where members live. I think that is really positive. And I believe there is really great Sustainer engagement now, with both recent and older Sustainers. There just seems to be a lot more member engagement.

#### **WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A PROVISIONAL?**

I would tell them to focus on their League career in five-year increments. During your first five years, I would encourage a Provisional to join Committees, consider taking committee leadership roles, and even chairing a committee so you can get a full understanding and impact as a member. At the end of the day, the Junior League is a leadership training organization, and there's no better place to fine-tune your skills to gain that experience and to be surrounded by other women trying to do the same thing.

#### **WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR MOST MEANINGFUL JLT MEMORIES?**

There was a moment when I served on the Love Bundles Committee where I was going to drop off those Love Bundles packages that eventually make it into the hands of children who need them the most. As I was dropping off the package, there happened to be an infant that was in the office waiting to be picked up by a family member. I actually got to hold that baby and then watch the family member pick up the baby with the Love Bundle, containing all the supplies the child would need like formula, diapers and clothes. It was probably the most heart-filling moment of my League career, and I'll never forget it.

## SUSTAINER SPOTLIGHT

# Tanya Egger

by MICHELLE AIHE

Tanya Egger's JLT story keenly follows the path of caring for one's community and building a sense of belonging. Tanya, Sustainer and Chief of Communications for Hillsborough County Public Schools, spoke with *The Sandspur* team about how the League helped her reach her full potential, impact her community, and develop lasting friendships.



### WHAT INITIALLY DREW YOU TO THE JUNIOR LEAGUE?

When I joined in 2005, I wanted to get more involved in the community. I've lived in Tampa since I was about two-years-old and I wanted to give back and to help make my community a better place. I also wanted to connect with like-minded professional women and other moms. One of my friends and I discussed and joined the League together. Through the committees, I met more people and expanded my friend group. I still have a core group of Junior League friends that I am connected to, even now as a Sustainer.

### WHAT COMMITTEES HAVE YOU SERVED ON?

My first committee was Holiday Gift Market. I did ticket sales and the next year I did public relations. After that committee, I was placed in the Connected by 25 Committee. The League partnered with the organization helping young adults who were aging out of foster care. The

Connected by 25 Committee provided these young adults with move-in kits to aid their transition to living on their own. We also taught them life skills, and led seminars for interview prep, grocery shopping on a budget, etc. Overall, we helped them get ready to move into their first apartment and prepare them to live independently. Many of these young adults didn't really know what they would need to live on their own and League members helped them figure this out.

We also hosted a sibling event for children and young adults that were aging out of foster care to meet with their siblings who were also in foster care. Many of them had not seen each other in several months. We held a little get-together event at an arcade for them. That was my favorite placement because you really got to see the impact you made.

After that, I started to do things more in-line with my communications expertise. I wrote for *The Sandspur* and later became Editor. Then, I served on Management Council as Communications Manager.







**THE LEAGUE HAS LED YOU TO BE EXPOSED TO CERTAIN THINGS AND CHALLENGED YOU IN A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE. HAS IT HELPED IN YOUR CAREER AS WELL?**

Absolutely. In the beginning, I kind of shied away from communications placements because that's what I do professionally. I wanted to do something different. Years down the line, I realized I should use my strengths. I can help by making sure that the community knows who the League is and what kind of projects we do.

In my current role, I am Chief of Communications for Hillsborough County Public Schools, the seventh-largest school district in the nation. My role is to oversee all communications for the school district such as media relations, marketing, and community outreach.

**LOOKING BACK, HOW HAVE YOU SEEN THE LEAGUE EVOLVE OVER THE YEARS?**

I feel like it has been somewhat the same League as far as the programs that we do. We make sure that we are providing the most beneficial support for families, children and women in our community. And over time, we've looked at how we can do things better and areas we can really move the needle. We've adjusted, tech-wise, offering virtual meetings, to keep up with the world as it is now. We must always switch, adjust, and meet members where they are, to make sure the League is a growing membership and that we always have a pulse on community needs.

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A PROVISIONAL?**

I would say to keep yourself open to all possibilities for your placement. Find a placement that really interests you, even if you don't know anybody on that committee. You'll stay more engaged and meet new people. Pay attention to all the projects and join a committee where you can find your strength and really add to that to the committee.

**WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE SOME OF YOUR MOST MEANINGFUL JUNIOR LEAGUE MEMORIES?**

My favorite League memory is Holiday Gift Market. I love the themes every year. I look forward to Preview Night and shopping with friends. The event just brings the community in. It really shows the impact we can have. It's a fun event, but all those dollars are put back into the community and it really gets our name out there.

Overall, the friendships that I've made in The Junior League of Tampa is something that I will always treasure. I have met people I would never have met without the League—accomplished women from amazing backgrounds. And yet they are there every day, all week, doing their volunteer shifts. I'm just amazed at the women who are part of the Junior League.

# JLT ENDOWMENT FUND: COMMEMORATIVE GIFTS

A commemorative gift that honors a League member during a time of celebration or honors the memory of a member. All donations support The Junior League of Tampa's Endowment Fund. For more information or to make a gift, visit [jltampa.org/endowment](http://jltampa.org/endowment).

## CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF

**Madison Rose Scaglione,**  
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## BEST WISHES TO

**Alex Alford,** *on her marriage to Joseph Alford*

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**Amo Nader,** *Jude Masannat's Father*

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**James Hines,** *Nadyne Hines' husband*

**Zachary Robert Polans,**  
*Morgan Laurienzo's Brother*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO

**Abby Bird,** *for starting her new role as appraiser*

**Alexandra Barboza,** *on purchasing a new house*

**Aubrey Burris,** *on purchasing a new house*

**Brittany McGlothlin,** *on purchasing a new house*

**Brittney Coffman,** *for passing her Certified Financial Planner exam*

**Elizabeth "Lizzi" Muller Greminger,** *on her promotion to Chief of Felony Division at the Tampa's State Attorney's Office*

**Elizabeth Eby,** *on her new role as Upper School Dean of Students at Carrollwood Day School*

**Emily Degirolamo,** *on purchasing a new house*

**Grace Hickey,** *on her promotion to Production Artist at Fanatics*

**Jacqueline Brooker,** *for starting her new role as New Home Sales Assistant at Casa Fresca Homes*

**Jennifer Renspie,** *for her recognition in the "Top 10 Under 40" list by Tampa Bay Magazine*

**Jennifer Renspie,** *on her recognition on the "Women to Watch" list by Tampa Bay Magazine*

**Kate Douglass Nguyen,** *on her promotion to Director of Individual Giving at the Jed Foundation*

**Katy Baker,** *for her recognition as a 2022 Pinnacle Award winner by Bank of America*

**Lyndsey Siara,** *for her recognition in the "Top 10 Under 40" list by Tampa Bay Magazine*

**Kelly Bailey,** *for starting her new role*

**Kimber Martin,** *for finishing her M.B.A. from Saint Leo University*

**Lauren Huber,** *for starting her new role as Pursuit Specialist at HDR*

**Lauren Stentz,** *for finishing her PhD from FSU*

**Maggie McClelland,** *on her new job as the Chief Advancement Officer of The Spring of Tampa Bay*

**Mary Beth Williams,** *for finishing her M.B.A. from LSU*

**Rachel Oestreich,** *on her recent promotion*

**Romana Kahvedzic,** *on purchasing a new house*



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*The work never stops when JLT volunteers have a goal in mind.*



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*This includes all 2023-2024 donations received through October 6, 2023*

To make a gift, visit [jltampa.org/give](http://jltampa.org/give). For questions about giving, contact [funddevelopmentmanager@jltampa.org](mailto:funddevelopmentmanager@jltampa.org).

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# HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Try these delicious recipes from The Junior League of Tampa's cookbooks to put you and your family in a festive mood.





## Warm Fig & Prosciutto Salad

EVERYDAY FEASTS, PAGE 39

- 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 cup olive oil
- 2 tablespoons honey
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 8 fresh figs
- 1 (4–5 ounce) wedge of parmesan cheese
- 8 thin slices prosciutto
- 4 to 6 ounces field greens

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Combine the vinegar, olive oil, and honey in a small bowl and whisk until blended. Season with salt and pepper and set aside. Cut the figs in half lengthwise. Shave the Parmesan cheese into 16 very thin slices using a cheese slicer. Cut the prosciutto slice in half lengthwise. Wrap each fig half with a slice of cheese and a slice of prosciutto and place on a baking sheet. Spoon 1 to 2 teaspoons of the dressing over each wrapped fig. Bake for 10 minutes. Toss the field greens with the dressing to taste. Divide the field greens among 4 to 6 serving plates. Top each with 1 to 3 prepared figs and serve immediately.

## Brunswick Stew

THE GASPARILLA COOKBOOK, PAGE 127

- 1 4-pound stewing chicken, *cut into pieces*
- 2 quarts water
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon hot pepper sauce
- 3 tablespoons butter or margarine
- Grated rind and juice of 1/2 lemon
- 2 1-pound cans tomatoes, or 8 fresh 4 medium potatoes, *diced*
- 4 cups fresh baby lima beans
- 4 cups whole-kernel corn
- 2 cups fresh okra, *cut into 1/2 inch slices*
- 4 cloves garlic, *minced*
- 2 medium onion, *minced*
- Salt and pepper to taste

Combine chicken, water, and salt in a Dutch oven or deep kettle. Simmer, covered, until meat is tender, about 3 to 4 hours. Remove chicken pieces; cool quickly. Remove skin, then meat from bones. Cut meat into bite size pieces; return to skimmed cooking stock. Add remaining ingredients. Cover and simmer, stirring occasionally, until mixture is thick, about 2 hours.

## Peppermint Eve Eggnog

SAVOR THE SEASONS, PAGE 47

- 1 pint peppermint ice cream, *softened*
- 2 cups eggnog
- 1 (28-ounce) bottle club soda, *chilled*
- Few drops red food coloring
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream, *whipped*
- 1/3 cup crushed peppermint candy
- 16 peppermint sticks

Spoon the ice cream into a punch bowl. Add the eggnog and club soda and mix well. Stir in the food coloring. Top with the whipped cream. Spoon the eggnog into glasses. Sprinkle with the crushed peppermint candy and serve with a peppermint stick.

# OUT & ABOUT

## SUSTAINER BACK TO THE LEAGUE LUNCHEON

Photos by Leslie White Photography





# OUT & ABOUT

## LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Photos by Leslie White Photography



## WOMEN'S CONFERENCE OF FLORIDA



## BACK TO THE LEAGUE SOCIAL

Photos by Leslie White Photography



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