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Jeff Armstrong, Senior Vice President and Bill West, President of The Bank of Tampa with Dr. Sandy Goodman and Dr. Samuel Tarantino at The Reproductive Medicine Group’s IVF/Surgery Center.

Samuel Tarantino, Jr., MD
Medical Director, The Reproductive Medicine Group and IVF/Surgery Center
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PHOTO BY: DAPHNEY CORDEIRO

Mom, Tammy and her son, Ronderick found each other through an adoption event made possible through a collaboration between JLT and Eckerd Youth Alternatives.
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Our new Assistant Editor, Sommer Stiles, writes about one of many JLJ projects, Love Bundles, in her article on page 40. She begins with the question, “If your house were on fire, what would you take with you on your way out?” So tell us, assuming all of your family members were safely out, what would YOU take with you if your house were on fire?

Ashley Collado
Writer

“I would take all of the pictures that capture many memories made with my fiancé, David and my dog, Blitzen.”

Avril Shelton
Writer

“My purse (which has everything but the kitchen sink in it).”

Jenna Simpson-Oliver
Features Editor

“I would take my Dali painting (a gift from my oldest brother), the pearl earrings my husband bought me when I passed the bar and my recipe book that has recipes from my mom and grandmothers that are no longer with us.”

Jamie Forsyth
Writer

“I would grab my favorite things in the world. My fiancé, Michael, and our 2 dogs, Sonny and Reyna.”

Jessica Burns
Assistant Features Editor & Writer

“Does my dog count? Ha ha! If so, then I would grab my four legged fur baby Macy and anything having to do with my wedding day (including my husband!) since a lot of the original items can’t be replaced. Of course, I would also make sure that no one else was in the house before leaving.”

Hilary Dalton
Copy Editor

“I would take all of my 3 kids’ baby albums, kids’ pictures and DVDs, and family pictures. My kids and husband are my life!”

Kathryn Hall
Writer

“Of course, all my photos. I’d also take a cookbook I got as a wedding gift. It has handwritten recipes from friends and family, some of whom have passed away.”

Sommer Stiles
Assistant Editor

“If my house were on fire, and there was only time to grab one thing I would make certain to grab my keepsake box which includes every card or letter my husband and I have given each other. Whether written between the folds of a lovely card or scribbled on a post it note, each is symbolic of the ‘bricks’ that built our home and together remind me of the strong foundation on which our marriage and family stands.”

Meg Forehand-Korakis
Writer

“I would snatch all of my pictures of my daughter Ashley Anne, husband Alex, painting of my mother and my computer hard drive.”

Marissa Moss-Hyman
Photography Editor

“Our dogs and our photographs (in that order!)”

“Two hundred years ago slavery was thought to be an economic necessity. It was not. One hundred fifty years ago it was believed that women were not capable of voting. That was not true. We fervently hope that by 2100 individuals and society at large will no longer believe that poverty is inevitable.”

-Ruby Payne
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THE SANDSPUR, the official magazine of The Junior League of Tampa is published four times a year. For advertising, please email: sandspurads@jlthq.com or call (813) 254-1734
Anthropologist and author, Margaret Mead, once said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

While the Junior League may not exactly be small, it is certainly filled with thoughtful, committed leaders and members alike. And when the League combines its efforts with other thoughtful, committed individuals and organizations, real change is not just possible, it is practically guaranteed.

Partnering with like-minded organizations in the Tampa Bay area is not a new practice for the JLT. Features Editor Jenna Simpson-Oliver explores one partnership that helped to develop a JLT seminar about child abuse into a multi-faceted non-profit organization that still continues to thrive. In addition to continuing to provide support to children of abuse, Champions for Children also helps thousands of Bay area children and parents in other ways. Learn about this amazing organization and how JLT helped to create it on page 48.

Another way in which JLT works to help children of abuse is through its Love Bundles program. With the help of local law enforcement agencies, Love Bundles fills a need that might otherwise be overlooked. Assistant Editor Sommer Stiles explains just how this program is designed to comfort children during what is otherwise a terribly lonely and frightening time.

Bridges Out of Poverty, written by Ruby Payne and Phillip DeVol, is not just a book, it is a movement. JLT, along with some other local organizations, helped to bring this potentially life-changing training event to Tampa Bay. With a new perspective and novel ideas for fighting poverty, this event provided many of our League leaders with insight that they can apply to our new and existing programs that are designed to bring about positive changes in our community. You can read more about Bridges Out of Poverty in Kathryn Hall’s article on page 29.

Sometimes one of the best things about change is being able to look back at how far one’s come. Writer Meg Forehand-Korakis offers a glimpse into how far JLT has come with regards to its nomination and election processes. In her article, “A Slate Story,” Meg explores these interesting changes that have taken place over the several decades since The Junior League of Tampa began; you won’t want to miss this informative piece.

In order to welcome fresh ideas and different perspectives into the League, its leadership positions change every year. In addition to new committee chairs, a whole new Executive Board is elected as well. Each February, members of this newly elected Board are introduced to the members of JLT, including the woman elected to serve as the next JLT President. Sommer Stiles has the privilege of introducing the 2014-15 JLT President to you. Do not miss this personal, in depth look at our new President-Elect, Lynette Russell!

Change does not begin and end with one individual; but one individual can be all the change that is needed to make a positive difference in someone’s life.

Be the change you want to see.

Yours,

Cynthia Valdez
Bella Bridesmaid

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Meghan & Molly, besties since Pre-K

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Building Impact through Collaboration

Stephanie Wiendl

I have had the opportunity as The Junior League of Tampa President to participate in some amazing events this year: from representing with the RNC through the Tampa Bay Host Committee, to participating on panels regarding poverty at the Funders’ Forum; and from messaging our community impact to civic organizations, to introducing us as an agent for increasing human trafficking awareness. In each instance, I am so proud to say that I am a member of The Junior League of Tampa.

I grew up “Junior League.” My mother, Deborah Hendrix, still positively influences me today as a sustainer in The Junior League of Central and North Brevard. Some of my earliest memories are watching her engage in Junior League projects. I still smile whenever I remember her practice sessions for the annual Follies or the dances at “Teen Town” that I attended ages ago while I was still in junior high. And even though it might have been slightly embarrassing to have my mom be there during all of the dances, I was so proud of what she was doing.

I followed my good friend at work, Sheila Esslinger, into The Junior League of Jacksonville in 1996. Like so many others, we joined for the prospect of new and wider circle of friendships, but the League quickly became something more for us. As time passes you become passionate about the changes in the community that are the direct result of the Junior League, and passionate about our core principles. I am confident that whether it is Tampa, Jacksonville, or Merritt Island—or any of the 292 Leagues in the world for that matter—our foundation is solidly based on our Mission. In Tampa, we have been going at this for 87 years! That is, 87 years of improving communities, promoting voluntarism, and developing the potential of women.

We continue to carry the torch towards helping to break the cycle of poverty in Hillsborough County through our programs in education and foster care. As you read the article about “Love Bundles,” I hope you will be inspired by our community impact, and at the same time appreciate that we do not achieve our impact alone. It takes collaboration and situational appropriate leadership to be truly effective. At the April General Membership Meeting, our speaker, Joe Clark, President of the Eckerd Family Foundation, called us a “neutral convener.” Ruby Payne, author of “Bridges out of Poverty,” which is the basis for our “Getting Ahead” project curriculum, says that in order to be a neutral convener you need be able to do three things: get the ‘right’ people to the table, be a sustainable organization, and be nonpolitical—which is to say, having no dog in the fight. We need to be “Switzerland.” Because of our long history and the truly remarkable women that have grown this organization over the past 87 years, we provide and are all of those things.

It is an exciting time to be a member of The Junior League of Tampa. We are being perceived broadly as thought leaders in the community, perhaps for the first time. We are being proactive in our leadership development programs, and this fall, we will welcome 173 of the most talented provisionals that we have ever seen. I hope you enjoy this edition of The Sandspur including the introduction of next year’s President Elect, Lynette Russell. Congratulations Lynette!

In service,

Stephanie Wiendl
President, 2012 – 2013
Lucky Dog
Daycare & Resort of South Tampa

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Communication is Key

Angier J. Miller

We communicate with each other in so many different ways. Communication is a key component of collaboration and, similarly, collaboration is a key part of effective communication. I spend a great deal of time as Communications Vice President thinking how best to connect within an organization of over 1800 members as well as to the entire Hillsborough community. What strikes me most is how critical collaboration is within the framework of any effective organization. It goes without saying…I could not do my job alone.

Our Communications Advisory team oversees all internal and external League communications. It is comprised of four committees — Public Relations, Technology, The Spur of the Moment and The Sandspur. Without collaboration within and among these committees, our overall ability to communicate effectively and efficiently both internally and externally would be diminished.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Suzanne Brownstein has provided tremendous leadership to her committee and the League. As a result she has elevated and advanced the Junior League within a very short period of time. Our Public Relations Committee has circulated numerous press releases, helped orchestrate multiple television appearances and inspired a number of quality newspaper articles, all focusing on the positive impact the League has on our community.

TECHNOLOGY

Under the leadership of Leigh Lambert our Technology Committee has worked to both improve and advance our internal and external technological League experience. This group of women spend a great deal of time working behind the scenes often dealing with some of our most challenging communication issues.

THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT

Editor Ellen James keeps all JLT members, Provisional, Active and Sustainer, up to date on all League activities from month to month. Publishing a twelve page newsletter every month, on time and under budget is no small feat…And Ellen's committee is a committee of one…Ellen.

THE SANDSPUR

Cindy Valdez, The Sandspur Editor, has inspired and motivated her team to develop thoroughly the content of all Sandspur articles. Under her leadership, The Sandspur has achieved status worthy of recognition from other Leagues in the U.S. and the Tampa community at large.

Without the timely and honed communication skills of these women and their committees, the League would not be able to make as big an impact and difference in our community. It is a privilege to serve as Communications Vice President this year and an honor to be a part of such an effective organization.

Sincerely,

Angier J. Miller

Communications Vice President
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Spring is upon us! Hopefully, many of you were able to participate in some of the activities offered by the League this winter. First was the newest fundraiser on Gasparilla Day. Our beautiful headquarters has always been the ideal spot for watching Tampa’s most unique celebration, the Gasparilla pirate flotilla invasion. Drinks, a delicious brunch and live bands made the morning complete. Fun was had by all!

In February, our Sustainers gathered as the Lunch Bunch met for a delicious lunch at the Columbia Restaurant at the Tampa Bay History Center. Sustainer Tammy Waugh has done a wonderful job organizing these luncheons this year.

A Day at the Races at Tampa Downs is always a well attended event. Sustainer Stella Thayer graciously allowed us the use of her box to view the races while enjoying lunch among delightful company. Chairwomen Pat Van Dyke, Nell Ward and Catherine Marston are the perfect hostesses.

The Junior League of Tampa was most fortunate to be selected to host the Container Store Preview Gala on March 14. The party was lots of fun. If you have never been to a Container Store, I promise you will love it. There are so many useful and unique storage and organizational products to purchase. The new store opened across from International Mall at Westshore Blvd. and Spruce Street. They have graciously donated 10% of the opening weekend sales (Saturday, March 16 and Sunday, March 17) to The Junior League of Tampa. It was a huge success!

I was happy to see some of you in April for our Spring Cocktail Party, the Spring Meeting where our 50 year members were honored, as well as at for the New Sustainer and Transfer Luncheon. In May, the Annual Dinner was a great evening where the Sustainer of the Year is announced.

Finally, let me again ask for your participation in the Annual Campaign. It’s never too late and any amount is greatly appreciated. Remember, 100% of all fundraising dollars go directly to the community projects of The Junior League so that the League may continue to make a difference in the lives of the women, children and families in our community who need our help.

Sincerely,

Sue Cox
Sustainer President, 2012 – 2013
Dear Elizabeth,

On behalf of Allister Drain and Success 4 Kids and Families, I want to thank you so much for making a donation to our new scholarships program. Our goal is to help support women back into the workforce. Your support will enable us to launch a very diverse, faith-based initiative.

Again, thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Clay Broxton

---

Lisa Broxton

Dear Mr. Wideman,

As a Big Sister, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the help you have provided to the Junior League of Tampa. I have been a 'Big' for over 20 years, working for a leadership and career development program. Your support is invaluable to the mission.

Sincerely,

Lisa Broxton

---

November 27, 2011
Ms. Elizabeth L. Broxton
Junior League of Tampa, Inc.
PO Box 2122
Tampa, FL 33655-2122

Dear Ms. Broxton,

We sincerely appreciate your continued support of the "Girls of Promise" program. Your generous gift allows us to continue providing support to the girls in our community.

With sincere appreciation,

Sandra P. Pierce
Junior League of Tampa

---

November 11, 2011
Ms. Elizabeth L. Broxton
Junior League of Tampa, Inc.
10 Columbia Group
Tampa, FL 33608

Dear Ms. Broxton,

I am writing to thank you for your generous donation to the Junior League of Tampa. Your support is invaluable to our mission to support women and girls in the community.

With sincere appreciation,

Sandra P. Pierce
Junior League of Tampa
Dear Mrs. Betty Jones,

Thank you for your kind consideration in Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay for holiday party and volunteer opportunities, and my support of $500 at the United Way of Pinellas County in the name of my husband and myself. In 2015, I was able to help 80 children during the holiday season, and this year, I pledge to continue to support Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amy Smith
Chief Development Officer and VP of Research

---

Dear Ms. Betty Jones,

Thank you for your donation to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amy Smith
Chief Development Officer and VP of Research

---

Dear Mrs. Germain,

Thank you so much for donating books to Woodbridge Elementary. The students are already looking forward to reading them and learning more. This is a wonderful way to encourage reading and learning among children.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

---

Dear Mrs. Betty Jones,

Thank you for your support of the United Way of Pinellas County. Your generosity helps us make a difference in the lives of those in need.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
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A Commemorative Gift is a way to recognize a significant event in a Junior League member’s life. It is a way to let a fellow League member know that you are joining in their celebration or thinking of them in a time of sorrow.

You can commemorate anything you would like; here are a few ideas:
- Celebrate a birthday, an engagement, a marriage, a birth, a promotion, a new job, etc.
- Honor someone’s service to JLT, going Sustainer, etc.
- Offer condolences to a member who has lost a loved one

**CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frank Berry Diamond III</td>
<td>son of Christina Diamond</td>
<td>Gretchen Dominguez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allison Christine Astrab</td>
<td>daughter of Stefanie Astrab</td>
<td>Gretchen Dominguez</td>
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<td>Madeline Kodadek</td>
<td>daughter of Sarah &amp; Ben Kodadek</td>
<td>Nicole Hubbard</td>
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<td>Selah Reagan Miller</td>
<td>daughter of Jonathan &amp; Janelle Miller</td>
<td>Mary Ellen Collins</td>
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<td>Luke Graham Mavar</td>
<td>son of Graham &amp; Natalie Mavar</td>
<td>Nicole Brink</td>
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<td>Blake Phillips</td>
<td>son of Heather Walsh</td>
<td>Beth Thompson</td>
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<td>Alexis Annis</td>
<td>daughter of Erin &amp; Jay Annis</td>
<td>Tracie Domino</td>
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<td>Emily Preston</td>
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<td>LeRoy Collins IV</td>
<td>son of Mary Ellen and LeRoy Collins</td>
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<td>William John Howard</td>
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<td>William James</td>
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|                                           |                                        | son of Molly & Robert James                        |}

**IN MEMORY OF**

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher Zutes</td>
<td>brother of Camille Zutes</td>
<td>Eli Pento</td>
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<td>Krista Dietrich</td>
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<td>Phil Cusmano</td>
<td>husband of Porter Cusmano</td>
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<td>Jillian B. Wilson</td>
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<td>Kelly Holbrook</td>
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<td>Dordie Matthews</td>
<td>grandmother of Suzy Mendelson</td>
<td>Andrea Augustine</td>
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<td>Stephanie Wiendl</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Honorable Sam Gibbons</td>
<td>in memoriam</td>
<td>Suzy Mendelson</td>
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<td>Angier Miller</td>
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<td>Tiffany Jo Messingham</td>
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on her new job
- Eli Pento
- Krista Dietrich
- Jessica Kendall

Paula Perry
on her new job as Executive Director of Kids Charity of Tampa Bay
- Tracie Domino
- Gretchen Dominguez
- Stacy Carlson
- Lynette Russell
- Stephanie Wiendl

Sarah Walters
for chairing the Pavilion Young Patrons Party
- Erin Annis
- Lee Lowry
- Nicole Hubbard
- Danielle Post
- Stephanie Wiendl

Caroline Vostrejs
for graduating Leadership Tampa Bay
- Lee Lowry
- Angier Miller
- Sarah Walters
- Staci Carlson
- Erin Annis
- Nicole Hubbard
- Stephanie Wiendl

Ginny Daniel
for passing Series 7 exam
- India Witte
- Jessica Kendall
- Lynette Russell
- Nicole Hubbard
- Gretchen Dominguez

Jessica Kendall
on her promotion to Senior Vice President
- Suzy Mendelson
- Andrea Augustine
- Laura Everitt
- Jenay Jurato
- Angier Miller
- Staci Carlson
- Casey Carefoot
- Erin Annis
- Shannon Walsh
- Caroline Vostrejs
- Nicole Hubbard
- Angier Miller
- Gretchen Dominguez
- Suzy Mendelson
- Caroline Vostrejs

India Witte
on her promotion to USF’s Senior Director of Foundation Board Relations and Executive Director of Women in Leadership and Philanthropy
- Lee Lowry
- Jessica Kendall
- Laura Donaldson
- Danny Post
- Jenay Jurato
- Nicole Hubbard
- Angier Miller
- Gretchen Dominguez
- Suzy Mendelson
- Caroline Vostrejs

2012 Holiday Gift Market Committee
for their efforts towards a very successful event
- Caroline Vostrejs

BEST WISHES TO

Ashley Macaluso
on her engagement
- Krista Dietrich
- Danielle Post

2012-13 JLT Board Members
for demonstrating a Willingness to Lead
- Nicole Hubbard
- Lee Lowry
- Stacy Carlson
- Danielle Post
- Stephanie Wiendl

Lauri Kleman Burgess
on her marriage to Thomas Burgess
- Krista Dietrich
- Danielle Post
- Gretchen Dominguez
- Sarah Walters

Jessica Weiss Doherty
on her marriage
- Valarie Lewis

Gail Messamore
on her marriage to Justin Wilson
- Gretchen Dominguez
- Jenay Jurato
- Caroline Vostrejs
- Stacy Carlson

Timothy Anderson
in celebration of his birthday
- Molly James

Jackie Taylor
on her engagement and marriage to Aaron Carricato
- Krista Dietrich
- Sarah Walters
- Gretchen Dominguez
- Erin Annis

Susie Scott
on her engagement to Cory Ellison
- Hannah Gross

Britt Ereskson Blume
on her marriage to Tye Blume
- Stacy Carlson
- Danielle Post
- Lynette Russell
- Andrea Layne
- Nicole Hubbard

Casey Carefoot
Happy 40th Birthday
- Kim Carswell
- Eli Pento
- Krista Dietrich
- Stacy Carlson
- Lee Lowry
- Danielle Post
- Gretchen Dominguez
- Stephanie Wiendl

Jamie Forsyth
on her engagement to Michael Planas
- Laura Everitt

Nicole Andriso
on her engagement and marriage to Chris Mantzanas
- Carrie Avoy Humiston
- Danielle Post

Cori Cutler
on her engagement and marriage to Tommy Henderson
- Laura Donaldson

Christine Malpartida Cramer
on her marriage to Robert George Cramer
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- Gretchen Dominguez

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- Casey Carefoot
- Gretchen Dominguez
- Sarah Walters
- Stephanie Wiendl

Carrie Avoy Humiston
on her marriage to Brian Humiston
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- Kristen McDowell

Kristen McDowell
on her marriage to John Fitzgibbon
- Carrie Avoy Humiston
- Lauri Burgess
- Danielle Post
- Gretchen Dominguez
- Stephanie Wiendl

2012-13 Placement Committee Members
for their efforts on behalf of JLT
- Jessica Kendall
- Stephanie Wiendl

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Thank you for your interest in donating to The Junior League of Tampa’s (JLT) endowment fund. We truly appreciate your support. You can use this form to make a first-time donation/pledge or contribute to a previously made pledge. The following pledge levels are available:

- Platinum Legacy: $25,000 and above
- Gold Legacy: $10,000 — $24,999
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- Benefactor: $2,500 — $4,999

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My gift is designated in honor or memory of someone special
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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact endowment@jlthq.com.

Thank you for your support!
The Junior League of Tampa Endowment Fund

Leaving a Legacy...Sustaining our Service

The Junior League of Tampa Endowment Fund (The Fund) is a permanent endowment fund that was established to ensure that our League is able to maintain fiscal stability and fervently pursue our Mission without being radically affected by changes in the economic climate or decreases in lifelong membership. A strong endowment fund will give us the opportunity to pursue exciting, new opportunities or deal with unforeseen circumstances without creating an additional financial hardship for The Junior League of Tampa or our members.

We have our sights set on our “Hike to a Half Million” goal! We are also proud to announce the recognition categories for those who donate $5,000 or more each year:

**Platinum Legacy** — $25,000 or more

**Gold Legacy** — $10,000 – $24,999

**Silver Legacy** — $5,000 – $9,999

The Fund was established to support the long-term sustainability of the League and our charitable endeavors. Gifts made to The Fund are not spent, but rather are permanently invested and managed by the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay.

Once the principal balance reaches $500,000, a portion of the earnings generated by The Fund will be used to cover future operating needs, which might include funding special community projects, supporting new training initiatives, providing JLT membership scholarships to those in financial need, covering unanticipated expenses or financing capital expenditures.

There are many opportunities for giving at all contribution levels with a minimum donation of $250. We recognize that donors may choose to make an immediate gift, a planned gift or a combination of the two. We will work with you to accommodate both types of giving. Whatever your decision, the greatest impact is made the moment you decide to participate. For more information, please visit the donor page located on our website at www.JLTampa.org/support.

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

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

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

STRATEGIES for PROFESSIONALS and COMMUNITIES

Ruby K. Payne, PhD • Philip E. DeVol • Teric Dreussi Smith
Poverty: a state all of us are aware of, many of us fear and few of us experience. Unfortunately, poverty’s cruel reality fills the daily existence of many Hillsborough County citizens. According to the United States Census Bureau, 15% of people in Hillsborough County live below the poverty level. The median household income in Hillsborough County in 2012 was $50,195. For a family of four, the poverty level is defined as a household income of less than $23,497 per year. The disparity between these numbers is a remarkable reminder of the wide chasm facing those wishing to cross out of poverty.

While the immediate challenges of poverty are obvious, long-term consequences also pose a barrier to those who are poor. The National Center for Children in Poverty reports when compared to non-poor children, poor children are more likely to move and change schools, attend less well-funded schools, and have fewer parental resources. These factors act synergistically making it more difficult to break the cycle of poverty. Further data indicates that 6.4% of children spend more than 75% of their childhood in poverty. Adults who experienced poverty as a child are more likely than their non-poor peers to be poor as an adult. The greater the severity of childhood poverty, the higher the risk of becoming an indigent adult. A study published by Princeton University, “The Effects of Poverty in Children” offers further unsettling statistics (see sidebar pg 30).

The barriers to leaving poverty may seem insurmountable. Luckily, the visionary leaders of Bridges Out of Poverty, Phillip DeVol and Ruby Payne, see solutions where others see obstacles. They recognized one of the inadequacies of existing programs that assist the indigent was that the programs were created from a middle-class perspective. Their innovative thinking led to the creation of a program based on a lower income class mindset.

According to bridgesoutofpoverty.com, the organization offers “concrete tools, structures, and knowledge to build a healthy, sustainable community.” Bridges Out of Poverty was written as a resource to help interested individuals engage their communities in a multi-faceted approach to ending
Effects of Poverty in Poor vs. Non-Poor Children

- more likely to be low birth weight
- 1.3x more likely to have developmental delay
- 2x more likely to repeat a grade
- 9.9x more likely to experience hunger
- 1.9x more likely to be unemployed at 24 years of age

Bridges employs novel approaches in fighting poverty. The organization engages indigent community members in the planning and decision making process. The leaders of Bridges recognize the unique insights of poor citizens as critical to understanding the daily challenges of living in poverty. Bridges directly addresses the often uncomfortable issues of class. Their goal is to build respectful relationships across all socioeconomic levels. This ties directly into their mission of positively impacting entire communities by helping those most in need.

Mr. DeVol credits the success of the Bridges program to the fact that it’s “organically grown”. He continues, “We want you (the community members) to take ownership of the ideas and innovate”. Knowledge of the specific needs of a community allows tailoring of the program to most effectively meet citizens’ needs. Bridges programs are now operating in the United States, Canada, Australia, and the Czech Republic.

Poverty is all too real for many in Hillsborough County. Poverty impacts not just individuals, but entire communities. Working together across class lines, we can positively impact the future of all citizens in our community.
Children are growing up. Parents are getting older. You want to help both.

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Our 2013–2014 candidate for President-Elect was born in Tampa at St. Joseph’s Hospital to proud parents, Josie and Sonny. Early in life she developed the skills that would make her the person she is today. Her ability to adapt quickly, stay focused, and complete a task was shaped early in her childhood.

At age thirteen, our President-Elect experienced the loss of her mother who was killed by a drunk driver. This catapulted her into a lifetime of advocacy, community service and leadership. Out of this tragedy, she saw an opportunity to help others. After her aunt started the Tampa chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, she began speaking publicly about her experience and lobbying successfully to raise the legal age for drinking.

With her dad and stepmother Carol, life was filled with philanthropy, advocacy and politics. Her father is a retired lawyer, school board member and judge; her stepmother was a former staff member for Representative Lee Moffitt. In high school, Lynette honed her speaking skills as a member of the musical theater group and the debate team. While attending college at Florida State University, she was a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority where she held many leadership roles and learned the importance of a “happy membership”.

After graduating from college, Lynette returned to Tampa. She enjoyed thirteen years at Tenet Healthcare holding positions in marketing, technology and management. During that time, she met her husband Rick with whom she has three children. Dedicating her time to her family and community, she became a full time mom in 2006. Five years prior, she joined The Junior League of Tampa and has held a variety of placements within the League. Her first Board placement was to serve as the chair of the Community Action Committee. Other leadership positions included chairing the Cookbook Committee, Placement Committee and Project Development and Evaluation Committee. These experiences inspired her to take on even more responsibility and apply for executive leadership opportunities serving as Membership Vice President and Secretary.
A common theme for our President-Elect has always been “doing more”. The impact of her efforts can be seen in the programs she helped start including The League Cares program and the new Request for Proposal process when evaluating new projects. Though her impact is best described by what others have to say:

“She has motivated others to improve their lives... she has inspired me to be more appreciative and supportive of others through her actions,” commented her husband, Rick.

“She always recognized that her tragedy didn’t have to mean her ending...there has never been a time that I didn’t look up to her,” said her sister, Brie.

“She is Polished, Patient, and Perfect — the three P’s of an amazing leader,” stated Nicole Geller, League member.

It is with great pleasure that I introduce this leader to you...the 2014–2015 President of The Junior League of Tampa...Lynette Palomino Russell!

“She has motivated others to improve their lives... she has inspired me to be more appreciative and supportive of others through her actions.”

-Rick Russell
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WHAT IS THE ORANGE EFFECT?
SCAN TO WATCH VIDEO!
Your Nominating Committee feels that this has been an extremely worthwhile year in effectively working with the League and are very much aware of the responsibility in selecting the slate of officers to continue the outstanding leadership which has characterized the Junior League of Tampa. This year, as always, we have used many tools to aid us in our efforts to select our slate, including better placement of qualifications, personal evaluations and the judgment of people who have worked with some of our candidates. If your particular candidate doesn’t appear on the slate, please remember that we have also to consider age, length and breadth of League experience, and whether this person would be most effective for the particular year. When all else fails, we must rely on our best judgment. After all, we must feel that it is best for the League. Taking all of these factors into account, we have arrived at a slate which we feel is exceptionally outstanding. It is our wish that you express your pride and pleasure that we present to you candidates for officers for 1969-1970.

Nell Lee Keen
Nominating Committee Chairman
A Slate Story: Evolution of Nominating

by Meg Forehand-Korakis

Governing and managing The Junior League of Tampa as an organization is the responsibility of the Executive Board and the Board of Directors. The Board protects and advances the organization by adhering to the Mission, setting strategic direction, ensuring that the League is ethical and prudent in all its dealings, constantly evaluating policies and activities to ensure that the League stays on course, and serving as ambassadors to the community. A board member never truly takes off her board ‘hat’, per Anne Dalton, Chief Officer for Strategic Initiatives for AJLI (American Association for Junior Leagues International). Throughout JLT history, members have overseen an evolution of diverse forms of community involvement. Just as The Junior League’s community involvement has evolved, so has the process by which its leaders are chosen.

Knowledge, reliability, experience and leadership potential have always endured as pivotal factors in creating a slate and the position of president.

Today, the “slate” to be voted upon to fill Executive Board positions is “a specified and systemized process,” said Paula N. Cardoso, Nominating Chair. Information on The Junior League of Tampa website, which is available to all members, includes a Statement of Interest and Leadership Competencies detailing League needs for leadership positions. Also, throughout the League year, the Nominating Committee seeks member input and suggestions for nominations. “With the information of statements and nominations,” Paula continued, “the process operates much like a job interview.”

This process contrasts greatly with the early method of picking officers, as outlined in the By-Laws dating back to the late 1920s. In 1928, the By-Laws read: “The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of nominations for the Officers of the League for the ensuing year and shall submit these to the President for approval. The chairman (of the Nominating Committee) shall be elected by the officers of the League and two members shall be appointed by the President. The two remaining members (five in total) shall be elected...by nominations from the floor. And should...the President fail to approve the slate as proposed by the Nominating Committee it shall take the unanimous vote of the Nominating Committee to over-ride the veto of the President to the slate as presented.”

Currently, background information of members to be slated is gathered by the League Placement Committee from; self-evaluation of skill levels, League files, information provided with the nomination, committee members’ first-hand knowledge of the individual, and other reliable sources of information.

Knowledge, reliability, experience, and leadership potential have always endured as pivotal factors in creating a slate and the position of president. Mrs. Peggy Sumner, 1950-60 JLT President, echoed these standards: “I was elected toward the end of my service in the League, which is good.
I had worked all the way in school, particularly in college, in judiciary, which helped tremendously.”

Past Presidents also had a hand in choosing their serving Board Members. Mrs. Joanne Frazier, president from 1975 to 1976, recalled, “Follow the rule that you ask people you can depend upon. As you follow up, you picked the right people,” she said.

Talent, skills and experience are germane to any leader, and a member’s experience is often fundamental to an executive position. “When I was put on the slate in 1998,” said Barbara Ryals, JLT President from 1999 to 2000, “most of my generation had very long histories of service in executive roles.”

Our organization continues to grow and evolve with a style and grace that honors our past yet utilizes advanced systems and tools currently available. Insights of history and systems of today make the nominating and slate process as fair and objective as possible.

If you are considering a leadership position, or you know a member who should be in a leadership position, please visit the JLT Member area on our website under the heading “Nominating” and review the information and forms under “JLT Elected Position Descriptions”. Become a part of the tradition of evolution as a Junior League of Tampa executive leader and be slated for great change in our future.

Become a JLT leader!
DESIGNER GOWNS FOR THE STYLE OBSESSED BRIDE

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Photo courtesy White Photography
If your house was on fire, what item would you take with you? The Burning House question is a familiar one, often asked to determine what item is a person’s most cherished belonging. My wedding album, grandfather’s medals of honor, baby’s beloved teddy bear are common answers. And there is something comforting in this question. It presumes you will have a choice to make, even if it is only one very small thing, you will be able to take it with you.

What if the question were rephrased, “If your house was on fire and you were forced to run out leaving all your belongings behind, how would you feel?” The album, medals and bear all would be left behind in the ashes not to be recovered. Feel comforted?

Now, let’s imagine you are a child. Your house is not on fire, though in a way it is disintegrating. Your family, all that you know of them, good and bad, have been deemed unfit. And you are escorted out by people you do not know to a place yet unknown leaving all behind except for the shirt on your back. Pretty scary, huh?

Between October 2011 and September 2012, it was reported that 1,521 children were removed to foster care in Hillsborough County — a rate of 47.7 per 10,000 in the County and 35.6 per 10,000 in the State (http://fosteringcourtimprovement.org/fl/County/Hillsborough/). These children have been removed from their homes by Child Protective Services to ensure their safety and well-being. Each year more than 200,000 reports of abuse and neglect are investigated by Florida’s child-protection officers; and of those reports, more than 30,000 of those children must be removed from their homes (Santich, K. “Florida Aims to Orlando Sentinel, July 11, 2012). The Burning House is more than a creative metaphor about survival and security — it is a dangerous reality for these children.

Yet, amazingly enough, comfort can be provided. Perhaps not from a cherished belonging grabbed on the way out the door, but from a small gift received along the way to a safe place — a “Love Bundle”. Love Bundles is a partnership project of The Junior League of Tampa, Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office, Mary Lee’s House and Children’s Home Society. Through this partnership, the League creates backpacks supplied with basic essentials including toiletries and clothing distributed to these community partners. Within the first 24 hours of being removed from their home by Child Protective Services, a child will be given a Love Bundle of their very own. Approximately 1,600 bundles are packed a year. Virtually one for every child removed from their home in Hillsborough County.
“As of the end of this month, we will have packed approximately 1900 backpacks. With the grant we received from the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office, we’ve been able to add sanitary napkins to the packs of girls 10 and older. We have drastically increased the amount of non-perishable food items, including milk, soups, cereal and infant formula. Further, we have worked hard to bulk buy many of our toiletry items to save money and to accommodate agency requests for specific seasonal wardrobe items.”

-Gretchen Dominguez
Love Bundles Committee Chair

Increasing the level of awareness and providing an opportunity for greater impact, the League recently joined forces with the Tampa Bay Rays. Collaborations such as game day donation drives encourage fans to support their team and the community by donating items such as pacifiers and pajamas. “The number of people reached from a marketing perspective is intangible,” commented 2012-2013 Love Bundles Committee Chair Gretchen Dominguez.

“Love Bundles bring more than just necessities to children that are removed from their homes for abuse or neglect. They provide these kids with something that brings them some comfort and joy during a time that is unimaginable for most of us (jltampa.org).”

Take time to consider how we each play a role in improving the life of a child in our community. To learn more about Love Bundles or how you can help fill a pack, visit http://www.jltampa.org/love-bundles or contact lovebundles@jlthq.com.
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Mahatma Gandhi once said, “I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.”

The Junior League of Tampa's Mission, along with various other organizations, is to make better those communities in which they live and work. Both Joe Clark and Maggie Osborn have centered their careers around helping those in need.
Joe Clark, a local attorney, practiced law for twenty-five years and then decided to dedicate the next fifteen years of his life to building a better community as the president of Eckerd Family Foundation. The Foundation, in its last active year, is a time limited or “spend down” foundation created to assist at risk youth. “At risk youth” is an amorphous term, but for the Foundation it is a population of children who are aging out of foster care, children involved with the juvenile justice system, and children failing out of school.

The largest at-risk group of individuals in the state of Florida and in the nation is that of youths aged 14-24 who are neither in school, working, nor being trained to work. Thirty percent (30%) of children in foster care have involvement with the juvenile justice system and they are also typically challenged in school. The goal of the Foundation was to try and create some systemic change for the above referenced individuals that would far surpass the life of the Foundation.

As a 501(3)(c), the Foundation had limited resources that needed to be allocated in a sufficient way. It was critical to obtain assistance from various organizations in order to accomplish the goals of the Foundation. In doing so, the big question became “who was doing what and were they getting results?” Only then could they decide if they should do more of one thing or less of another. The Foundation accomplished many goals during the past fifteen years that would impact the at-risk youths well past its existence.

Maggie Osborn, Vice President of the Florida Philanthropic Network, has also helped build small organizations into stable community assets. Ms. Osborn grew up giving back to her community and advised that volunteerism is not only a part of her culture, but also a part of her spiritual life. Throughout her career, she has noticed that the needs of the community are so great that one must leverage the resources, knowledge and opportunity throughout the community to provide the most relief to resolve systemic problems, if possible.

No one can make a change in a community alone. Making the community a better place requires organizations and individuals to reach out to unlikely partners and become creative with their solutions. Ms. Osborne stated that she believes The Junior League has done a good job bringing different groups and partners together as The Junior League begins to take on issues of poverty within the community. Making a change in the community is a patient revolution; it is not something that will happen overnight. It takes everyone coming together to make a positive change in their communities.
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The Junior League of Tampa has a long history of community partnerships. We see a need in the community and then develop and implement a program to fulfill those needs. Then, many times the League’s projects are fostered by other existing agencies or start-up non-profits to continue the work in the community long after our time with a project is done. Many times our projects start as basic ideas that blossom into real, substantial programs that help thousands of women, children and families in Hillsborough County. Champions for Children is just one of many examples of how The Junior League of Tampa has successfully collaborated with our community partners.

Since 1977, Champions for Children has served over one million of Tampa Bay’s children and families. Formerly known as the Community Council on Child Abuse, Inc. (and eventually shortened to the “Child Abuse Council”) this organization is close to the heart of the League’s Mission. In 1977, a group of daring women held a seminar about the horrors of child abuse. That League seminar recommended a task force be assembled to handle the child abuse that was happening in Tampa and surrounding areas. By December 1977, not only had a task force been put in place, but an independent agency, the Child Abuse Council, was born. In 2012, the Child Abuse Council officially changed its name to Champions for Children. And “this year,” says Executive Director Brian McEwen, “is a special year to highlight Champions for Children because we celebrate our 35th year. Without The Junior League, we would not be here.”

Champions for Children works to build stronger families in the Tampa Bay area through child abuse prevention and family education programs. Champions for Children offers ten different family education programs that focus on positive parenting. There is no manual for how to be a parent, but Champions for Children tries to educate parents on the basics they need to raise healthy, happy children.
Most of the agency’s work is with small children and their families. Many times the small children are “failing to thrive”. They may be medically intact, but they are not progressing as they should. Through Champions for Children and the Child Welfare System, the Rainbow Family Learning Center focuses on the families of these small children, aged newborn to five years old. Classes focus on “re-parenting the parent” and on essential life skills such as nutrition and baby care basics.

For the first two decades of its existence, Champions for Children focused on kids in the child welfare system. But in the late 1990s, Champions for Children began to focus on a broader spectrum of the community. The agency realized that every family needed the education and support it offered. In a “big, fat experiment” the agency broadened its reach and started to focus on all families and children. That meant it was time once again to partner with the League. The partnership culminated in the creation of Baby Bungalow. Many of us are familiar with the wonderful work Baby Bungalow does, but we may not be aware of the connection to Champions for Children. According to Brian, that is by design. At the time, Champions for Children was still called the Child Abuse Council. The agency was aware that there may be a stigma based on the child abuse aspect of its name and purpose. However, Baby Bungalow and most of Champions for Children’s programs focus on an “any baby, any family” perspective. All families can benefit, not just those that are victims of abuse. According to its website, Baby Bungalow services the entire community regardless of income or background. Their programs are designed to be the building blocks to raising happy, well-adjusted children. And with that, Champions for Children began its wellness-based direction.

The League’s partnerships will continue to have a lasting impact on the Tampa Bay community. As we add additional programs, more agencies like Champions for Children will continue to be born and will continue to shape our community.
Day 1

**Brie with Herbs in a Baguette**
*EveryDay Feasts, page 27*

Brie is always a hit as an appetizer for any gathering.

**Ingredients**
- 3 tablespoons dry white wine
- 2 fresh garlic cloves, mashed
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 French baguette
- ¼ cup fresh thyme, stemmed
- 1 cup coarsely chopped fresh basil leaves
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped fresh chives
- 16 ounces Brie cheese, rind removed

Combine the wine, garlic, and pepper in a bowl and mix well. Whisk in the olive oil until blended. Let stand for 30 minutes to several hours. Cut the baguette in half lengthwise. Combine the thyme, basil, and chives in a small bowl. Cut the Brie into 1/8-inch slices. Drizzle the cut sides of the baguette with the olive oil mixture. Sprinkle half the herb mixture over one of the prepared baguette halves. Top with the Brie and sprinkle with the remaining herb mixture. Top with the remaining baguette half. Wrap tightly with plastic wrap and foil. Place between 2 baking sheets and top with a heavy weight. Chill for 5 to 8 hours. To serve, remove the foil and plastic wrap and cut into 1-inch slices.

Day 2

**Really Good Chicken Salad**
*EveryDay Feasts, page 40*

Make this the night ahead for a delicious brown bag lunch that will make all of your colleagues jealous!

**Ingredients**
- 3 chicken breasts, poached and chopped
- 2 to 3 ribs celery, chopped
- 1 scallion, minced
- ½ cup to 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup sliced seedless red or green grapes
- ½ cup sliced almonds, lightly toasted
- Salt and pepper to taste

Combine the chicken, celery, scallion, and mayonnaise in a bowl and mix well. Fold in the grapes and almonds. Season with salt and pepper. You may prepare the salad one day in advance. Store, covered, in the refrigerator. If preparing in advance, do not add the almonds until just before serving.

The secret to a tasty chicken breast is to purchase a chicken breast with the bone in and the skin on to prevent drying out while cooking. To poach, combine three chicken breasts with one celery rib, halved, one unpeeled carrot, halved, one sprig fresh parsley, and a dash of salt with water to cover in a medium saucepan. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce the heat to medium and cook for 10 minutes. Remove from the heat. Let stand until cool before removing the skin.

Day 3

**Zucchini Sauté**
*EveryDay Feasts, page 53*

This is a tasty side dish the whole family will enjoy.

**Ingredients**
- 4 zucchini, coarsely grated
- 2 tablespoons kosher salt
- 2 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 fresh garlic clove, finely chopped
- Pepper to taste
- 2 tablespoons freshly grated parmesan cheese

Place the zucchini in a colander and sprinkle with the kosher salt. Let sit for 10 minutes to 1 hour; rinse. Squeeze the excess water from the zucchini. Heat the olive oil in a medium sauté pan over medium-high heat. Add the garlic and cook until softened. Add the zucchini and cook for 3 to 5 minutes stirring occasionally.

Season with pepper. Spoon into a serving dish and sprinkle with the parmesan cheese.
Tuscan Frittata
EveryDay Feasts, page 89

Try this delicious dish for an easy breakfast or dinner!

Ingredients
8 to 10 eggs
1 teaspoon salt
Pepper to taste
3 tablespoons butter
1 onion, finely chopped
½ cup chopped sun-dried tomatoes
1 cup (4 ounces) cubed smoked mozzarella cheese or smoked Gouda cheese
1 cup crumbled cooked Italian sausage, drained
2 tablespoons fresh basil leaves, thinly sliced

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Whisk together the eggs, salt, and pepper in a large bowl. Heat the butter in a large nonstick ovenproof sauté pan over medium-high heat. Add the onions and cook until the onions are soft, stirring occasionally. Reduce the heat to medium. Combine the tomatoes, cheese, and sausage with the eggs and mix well. Pour into the pan with the onions. Cook until the outside edge is set. Do not stir. Place the pan in the oven and bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until the top is slightly puffed and golden brown. Garnish with basil and serve immediately.

Banana Dippers
EveryDay Feasts, Page 98

Desserts don’t always have to be fancy. Sometimes it’s a treat in itself to get the whole family involved in the kitchen.

Ingredients
8 ounces chocolate chips
4 bananas, cut into halves
½ cup colored sugar
½ cup chopped nuts
½ cup toasted coconut
½ cup ice cream sprinkles
½ cup crushed cookies
½ cup miniature M & Ms chocolate candies

Place the chocolate chips in a microwave-safe bowl and microwave on high for 1 minute or until melted and smooth, stirring every 30 seconds. Skewer each banana half with a wooden popsicle stick. Dip the bananas in the chocolate. Roll in your choice of colored sugar, nuts, coconut, ice cream sprinkles, crushed cookies, or chocolate candies. You may cut the bananas into smaller pieces and use wooden toothpicks instead of popsicle sticks, if desired.
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By the Numbers

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