

Petit POTPOURRI

NOVEMBER 2020

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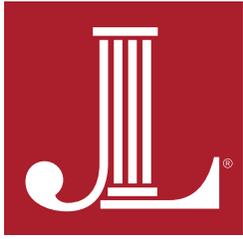


TINSEL & TREASURES

JUNIOR LEAGUE
OF LAFAYETTE



The Most Wonderful Time of the Year



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LAFAYETTE

OUR MISSION Junior League of Lafayette is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

OUR VISION Women as Leaders for Lasting Community Change.

2020-2021

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Use our hashtags

- #JLLafayette** whether you're out in the community volunteering or witness League members in action.
- #TinselandTreasures** for all Tinsel & Treasures posts and photos from this year's event.
- #WhyJLL** with all of the reasons you choose to be a member of Junior League of Lafayette.
- #JLBetterTogether** we are better when we work together.

COMMUNITY FEATURE

COVID Response

Junior League of Lafayette Adjusting Scheduled Activities

In March 2020, the whole world stopped and everything we thought we knew was challenged. What didn't stop was the tremendous need in our community for resources bringing assistance to those most vulnerable in our area. COVID-19 has been, in many ways, a stopping point for the world, and in other ways, for organizations like Junior League of Lafayette, it was a catalyst to find new ways to continue the work we're committed to. As an organization dedicated to serving the community, Junior League of Lafayette stepped up through this unprecedented time in our history and continued the work of serving, volunteering, and supporting our community.

Throughout the year, our **SMILES** committee whose mission is to provide an escape and supportive environment through activities for children who are fighting cancer or have a parent/sibling with cancer, was still able to bring joy to the families it serves. Some projects looked a bit different from previous years, but the sentiment and intention remained the same. As many of the participating families were quarantined at home, the Fall activities turned into take-home baskets, with each participant receiving goodies to have a little fun while unable to spend much time outside of their home. In October, each child received a pumpkin carving basket to bring some normalcy and fun to Halloween. In November, the committee put together fun movie night baskets, and in the month of December, each child will get a basket filled with holiday-themed treats and activities to make the holiday season a bit more magical.

Amid the pandemic chaos, Junior League of Lafayette's **Diaper Bank** did not slow down. In fact, it was more critical than ever. The mission of bringing diapers to families across Acadiana became more important than ever before, and in less than six months, over 20,000 diapers were distributed to families in need. To replenish supplies, the League held a League-wide diaper drive through the month of November to ensure we are ready to serve those who need us most.

Tinsel & Treasures holiday market is Junior League of Lafayette's premier event each year, and, like so many events and celebrations, had to be hosted virtually

this year. Shoppers enjoyed browsing vendor sites and joining-in for special events from the comfort of home. Preview Party was a live virtual event with a competitive silent auction while Ladies' Night offered the opportunity of intimate groups of friends to gather safely at home with boxes of wine, cheese, and other surprises found within the Ladies' Night boxes. The money raised through Tinsel & Treasures goes to supporting Junior League of Lafayette's community programs and Collaborative Opportunity Grants each year.

Though **Junior Quiz Bowl** had to be put on hold for 2020, the committee is working with local schools to secure a plan for Spring 2021. Competitions can only effectively take place in person, so the committee is looking forward to being in the schools again when it is safe for everyone participating.

Kids in the Kitchen continues to promote healthy lifestyles to Acadiana's youth. The participants at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana have been able to virtually exercise with an instructor via RingCentral. The cooking aspect of Kids in the Kitchen has been made possible by League members dropping off groceries to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana for the students to cook themselves. Students then call into RingCentral where another instructor guides them in making delicious and healthy treats.

The **NO FEAR NO FUTURE** committee plans to monitor state guidelines in anticipation of the event in Spring 2021. They anticipate making a few adjustments to the outdoor event while enforcing social distance guidelines and any others mandated by the state.

Through everything this League year has thrown at us in the wake of COVID-19, Junior League of Lafayette's presence in the community has become even more impactful. Our group of committed volunteers strives each day to make a lasting impact on the community we are proud to call home. It is only by standing up together, even when we physically have to be apart, are we able to profoundly impact the community for the future. We are committed to this work. We are committed to improving the lives of those we serve. And we are committed to this community.

BETTER TOGETHER THE JUNIOR LEAGUE

Welcome to the first installment of Petit Potpourri for 2020-2021!

As I reflect on the first half of the League year, I am amazed at the innovation, collaboration, and sheer courage our members have displayed! This year is like no other, and amid challenges, both large and small, our members have excelled at every turn.

For more than a quarter century, we have brought holiday magic to the last week of September by transforming the CAJUNDOME Convention Center into a world-class holiday market, Tinsel & Treasures. With courageous hearts in June, our Board of Directors made the decision to pivot our 27th annual Tinsel & Treasures holiday market to a virtual platform. With the support of the Management Team, our tremendously creative Tinsel & Treasures Committee reinvented and reimagined each of our valued traditions. Through our website and social media, we welcomed 125 online merchants and more than 13,000 virtual shoppers! Our Ladies' Night virtual event was sold-out, and the Online Auction and Sparkle & Shine Raffle were more successful than ever!

Tinsel & Treasures is a true partnership between our League and our community. It takes the energy of our members, the incredible support of our shoppers and merchants, and the financial contributions of our sponsors. You have my sincerest admiration and appreciation!

Through the amazing efforts of our fundraising teams, our Community Committees are able to continue our Mission work of improving our community! Even during this pandemic, our members have been able to provide back-to-school supplies for families at Miles Perret Cancer Services Center, and we have continued distributing diapers to partnering agencies through our Diaper Bank. In early October, we gave special recognition to our Collaborative Opportunity Grants awardees, as well as the Community Program Sponsors, who help make our work possible.

A huge part of our Mission is developing the potential of women. Though we have not been able to meet in person so far this year, we have continued to train our members and provide meaningful leadership opportunities through virtual programs. As a League, we have also committed to providing education and training in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion. I am excited to see our League members grow, not only in their League careers, but also in their personal and professional lives.

As the rush of the beginning of the League year settles into a steady rhythm, and we look forward to cooler weather and holiday fun, I'd like to take this opportunity to say how grateful I am for each member, each sponsor, and each community partner. We are all pieces of a beautiful puzzle, that when combined create something very special. Our theme this year could not be more fitting: we are Better Together!



President Dr. Melanie Fowler

Dr. Melanie Fowler

HIGHLIGHTS



Tinsel & Treasures Goes Virtual



The most wonderful time of year looked a bit different this year as Junior League of Lafayette’s Tinsel & Treasures holiday market went virtual. The traditional holiday market, which has become such a staple in the community, had to be reimagined as COVID-19 restrictions were implemented in the state. After significant discussion and brainstorming, the Board of Directors, the Management Team, and Tinsel & Treasures Committee, decided to take the market virtual for the first time in the history of the event.

Over 13,000 shoppers joined the Junior League of Lafayette Tinsel & Treasures Merchant and Shopper Group on Facebook to stay engaged with the merchants throughout the two weeks of the virtual market. This was the longest-running holiday market in the history of the event and the organization. The Junior League of Lafayette website was updated to make

the merchant websites easy to access and shop, and guests could easily find information about the Sparkle & Shine Raffle, Ladies’ Night, Preview Party, and Children’s event.

The market, which kicked off on September 13 and concluded on September 26, was an easy-to-access and enjoyable experience for guests who could shop from the comfort of their homes. While many expressed their longing for the experience of an in-person market, the new virtual market offered the opportunity to create new memories and exciting purchases for those who logged on. Cindy Mayeaux, Tinsel & Treasures Chair, enjoyed the virtual market with her mother as they sipped mimosas and shopped the merchant websites from the comfort of home. Though the event was virtual, they were still able to spend quality time together and support the small businesses that were represented in the market.

TINSEL & TREASURES COMMITTEE

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Along with the virtual market, the special events guests expect of Tinsel & Treasures were also hosted virtually. Many attendees gathered in their homes and tuned in to each of the virtual special events. Traditionally, Preview Party kicks off Tinsel & Treasures holiday market. This year, however, we celebrated Preview Party in the middle of the two-week market event. On Wednesday, September 23, guests were able to tune in to a spectacular Preview Party virtual event hosted from Junior League of Lafayette Headquarters. Hostesses Abby Breidenbach and Karli Sherman introduced an array of silent auction items that could be bid on prior to and during the broadcast of the event. Junior League of Lafayette member, Lauren Burns, said of Preview Party, "I love that I got to experience all the aspects I love about Preview Party each year from the comfort of my home. The signature cocktail demonstration, the familiar faces modeling Lee Michaels Jewelry, and the music were some of the highlights for me."

Ladies' Night, hosted on Friday, September 25 from Paul's Jewelry, was a smashing success. Guests pre-purchased sold-out Ladies' Night boxes that included over \$300 worth of products from local businesses. Over the course of the evening, guests joined in for the unboxing of the Ladies Night box, several drawings for beautiful door prizes, and live music by the Egrets. "Purchasing the luxurious Ladies' Night box gave me the perfect excuse to have a night-in with my girlfriends," said Meaghan Savoy, Junior League of Lafayette member. "We loved the wine tasting and live music while fighting over the gift cards and the candle! It was a perfect alternative to our normal Friday night shopping trip to the CAJUNDOME."

The Children's Event will take place in December with the attendee choosing to login either Saturday, December 12 or Saturday, December 19 at 9 a.m., and it is sure to be another

memorable addition to the Tinsel & Treasures experience.

For a \$35 donation, children will be able to enjoy a morning with Santa online before he drops down the chimney. Children will be invited to join a video call with Santa where he will read a Christmas book with special guests, Olaf and Rudolph. In addition, children will find safe, kid-themed items in the box, including a signed photo from Santa with "special friends," stationery to write a letter to Santa, and other hands-on holiday activities. Boxes go on sale in November and are LIMITED.

The final component of Tinsel & Treasures was the Sparkle & Shine Raffle. With the market being free to shop this year, the raffle tickets became an even more important part of the event. Tickets sold for \$10 and gave those who purchased a ticket the opportunity to win \$10,000 or a Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry pair of diamond earrings valued at over \$5,000. The conclusion of Tinsel & Treasures was marked with the announcement of the raffle winners on Saturday, September 26.

Junior League of Lafayette's 2020 Tinsel & Treasures holiday market was one that certainly broke barriers and made the impossible possible. The experiences that make the market so memorable for guests were incorporated in new and innovative ways this year, and the endeavor for raising funds to support our Mission became even more important. This event has stood the test of time, and in a time where we all have had to pivot to something new, Junior League of Lafayette proved Tinsel & Treasures could still thrive.

Thank you to all our merchants, shoppers, sponsors, and community members for your continuous support of Tinsel & Treasures holiday market. The impact made on the community because of your generosity is immeasurable, and we are honored to be the hands and feet on the ground making lasting community change thanks to you. Until next year ...



TINSEL & TREASURES

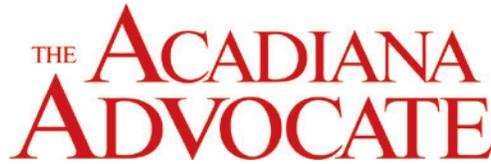
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TINSEL & TREASURES

JUNIOR LEAGUE
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This year's **Sparkle & Shine** raffle not only exceeded our goal of 5,000 tickets sold, but also set a record for the most raffle tickets ever sold during Tinsel & Treasures!

With prizes like \$10,000 cash and a pair of Lee Michael's 18K diamond chandelier earrings valued at \$5,250 it is no wonder our League had a record-breaking year.

Congratulations to **Cydra Wingerter**, winner of the \$10,000, and diamond earrings winner, **Yvonna Ochoa**.

Collaborating in the Community

Junior League of Lafayette presented the 2020-2021 Collaborative Opportunity Grants in an exciting virtual ceremony at the October General Membership Meeting. Applications were accepted from qualified nonprofit organizations who committed to distributing funds within Lafayette Parish. Our Grants Committee provides local nonprofits with direct and indirect resources, namely financial contributions and volunteer hours, to expand upon the impact these organizations make in our community. It is our collective efforts that create measurable changes in living out our Mission: promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

In addition to monetary funding, one to 10 trained Junior League of Lafayette volunteers are provided to assist in the planning, execution, and completion of the selected project. A Junior League of Lafayette volunteer is assigned to chair each project and the committee is excited to see each project through to completion. We are excited to work with the following 2020-2021 grants recipients:

2020-2021 GRANTS RECIPIENTS



Acadiana Outreach Center
\$2,000

Junior League of Lafayette revitalized the gathering area of Acadiana Outreach Center. The shelter is made available to families who are experiencing homelessness.

Catholic Charities of Acadiana
\$2,000

Junior League of Lafayette purchased bedding kits for 26 households. Each bedding kit will be given to residents at The Emily House and will go with them when they move into permanent housing.



Healing House: Hope for Grieving Children
\$2,000

Junior League of Lafayette collaborated with Healing House to create coping kits for children who have experienced the recent death of someone significant in their lives. The package will help each child process their loss and remember to take care of themselves during this difficult time.

Miles Perret Cancer Services
\$1,800

Junior League of Lafayette assisted with Miles Perret Cancer Services to create “Simply You” care packages with needed supplies for individuals undergoing mastectomies. These items are related to surgical recovery and comfort items to assist in the recovery process.



2020-2021 GRANTS RECIPIENTS



Autism Society of Acadiana **\$750**

Junior League of Lafayette will purchase office items to create a more sensory-friendly environment for the clients, making the office more comforting and inviting.

The Merle F and Herbert Hanna Foundation/The Clearport Learning Center **\$1,835**

Junior League of Lafayette will assist the Clearport Learning Center's mentoring program in putting on their Girl's Night in March. Girl's Night provides a meal as the students gather with invited female community members to discuss topics that have been previously submitted by the students. Afterwards, students will enjoy fellowship through planned activities, arts, and crafts.

DREAMS Foundation of Acadiana **\$2,000**

Junior League of Lafayette will help facilitate a "Drive-thru Mardi Gras Ball" for those with special needs, so everyone can be a queen or king for a day.

Foster Friends **\$2,000**

Junior League of Lafayette will host a Christmas party for local foster children. Lunch, snacks, treats, presents, and various forms of entertainment will be provided to the foster children for them to get in the spirit of Christmas.

Second Harvest Food Bank **\$2,000**

Junior League of Lafayette will collaborate with Second Harvest Food Bank to provide contactless, mobile food distributions. Healthy food with notecards will also be provided to include nutritional fun facts and information about the benefits of consuming the healthy food products.

United Way of Acadiana **\$2,000**

Junior League of Lafayette will collaborate with United Way of Acadiana to purchase, sort, package, and distribute additional groceries for Early Head Start (EHS) families' Thanksgiving meals. Books will also be purchased for parents to read to students during the Thanksgiving break. The Day of Thanksgiving event will allow these EHS families to have a Thanksgiving meal at home, a meal they likely would not be able to otherwise afford.

TOTAL AWARDED: \$18,385.00

COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITY GRANTS COMMITTEE

CHAIR Adrienne Reed

STEP-UP CHAIR Casey Ardoin

SUSTAINING ADVISOR Judy Kennedy

PLACEMENT ADVISOR Adrienne Mullens

DAY COORDINATOR Amanda Landers

DAY COMMITTEE Cara Acomb, Morgan Berard, Traci Brochard, Kelly Domingue, Kathryn Gonzalez, Shelly Killingsworth,

Blair Kling, Lesley Mancuso, Megan McGinnis, Shannon Pratt, Katie Waxley

NIGHT COORDINATOR Robyn Guillory

NIGHT COMMITTEE Kate Bleacher, Jennifer Boudreaux, April Daigle, Kiresa Hardy, Mary Helm, Erin Hemsell, Megan Lemoine, Devon Leon, Tomeka Livings, Lauren Marsiglia, Kelee Roddy, Leslie Saloom, Kortney Sonnier

COOKBOOK

Something to Talk About Celebration



Fifteen years ago, in 2005, Junior League of Lafayette’s fourth cookbook, “Something to Talk About” was published to great acclaim and is still being met with tremendous fanfare today.

“Something to Talk About’ has stood the test of time to remain relevant and popular because it is not your traditional cookbook,” Ayesha Martin, 2020-2021 Cookbook Chair says. “Cookbooks come in all different sizes and can usually be found in the kitchen on a shelf. This cookbook, however, is different because it can be placed anywhere in a home, not just on the shelf. Because it’s more of a coffee table book, it brings about lots of questions and is a great conversation piece.”

At the time of its publication, coffee table books and using premade items from the grocery were becoming more popular. The name was chosen because we, as South Louisiana ladies, always have something to talk about. Menu plans for occasions were added to this book in particular because the committee wanted to provide an easy format for hosting meals – which we

tend to have at every gathering.

“Every recipe in this cookbook is tried and true — it is tested, accurate, and tasty,” explains “Something to Talk About” Advisory Committee Chair, Judy Mahtook. “Our committees ensured this was the case by having three separate League members create the dish, then had 3-10 taste testers who scored and ranked each one. Only those recipes with a 4 or 5 rating on a 5-point scale were included in ‘Something to Talk About,’ and even some of the 4s didn’t make the cut.”

Junior League of Lafayette plans to celebrate the “Something to Talk About” anniversary this spring and bring together members of the original Cookbook Committee, current Committee members, Junior League of Lafayette Sustaining members, and current League members. This celebration will be a beautiful homage to the past and the future of this important piece of Junior League of Lafayette’s legacy and serve as a beautiful milestone for such an important piece of League history as well as community history.

COOKBOOK COMMITTEE

CHAIR Ayesha Martin

STEP-UP CHAIR Eugenie Lemoine

SUSTAINING ADVISOR Dawn Alexander

COMMITTEE Heather Cutbirth, Lainie Hebert, Whitney Linville, Ashlee Marino, Rebecca Prudhomme, Katie Sanford, Janet Wininger

ACCOUNT COORDINATOR Kacie Matte

ACCOUNT COORDINATOR STEP-UP Anna Twilley

COMMUNICATIONS COOKBOOK COORDINATOR
Clare Roubion

DISTRIBUTION CO-COORDINATORS Kimberly Sinegal,
Meghan Ray

Christmas Cosmopolitan

Something to Talk About, page 83



Ingredients:

- 2 ounces vodka
- 1/2-ounce Triple Sec
- 1/2-ounce cranberry juice
- 1/2-ounce lime juice
- Ice

Instructions:

Shake the vodka, Triple Sec, cranberry juice, and lime juice with ice in a shaker. Strain into a martini glass. Garnish with a wedge of lime.

Millionaire Cake

Serve 4 to 6

Ingredients:

- 1 (2-layer) package of chocolate cake mix
- 1 (14 ounce) package caramels unwrapped
- 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
- 2 cups chopped pecans
- 2 cups (12 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips

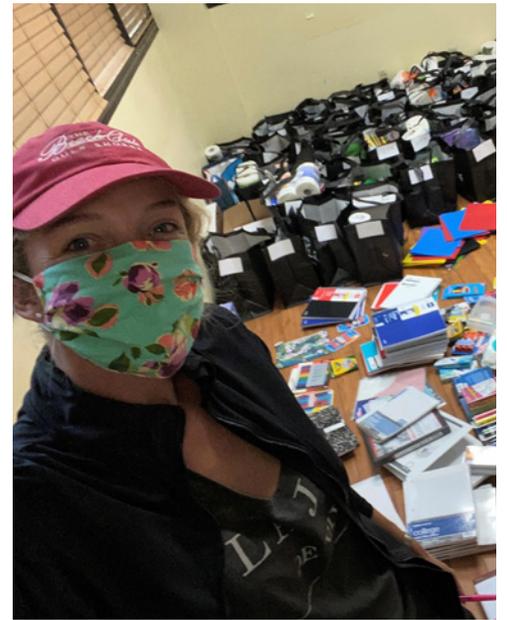
Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Prepare the cake mix using the package directions. Pour 1/2 of the batter into a greased 9 x 13-inch cake pan. Bake for 15 minutes. Melt the caramels with the sweetened condensed milk and butter in a saucepan over low heat, stirring constantly. Pour over the cake layer. Sprinkle the pecans over the caramel mixture. Pour the remaining cake batter over the pecans. Top with the chocolate chips. Bake for 20 minutes longer. Cool in the pan before serving.



SMILES

Putting smiles on every face.



Living with a cancer diagnosis is often an insurmountable obstacle for a family, but living with such a diagnosis during a pandemic is unimaginable. Compound the stress of preparing for a new, uncertain school year on top of the daily priorities, and you have one of the most difficult times some community families have faced. Through an event that eliminates one essential need from the families' already-busy schedules and financial obligations, this year's Backpack Program offered practical support to Miles Perret Center, who gifted the individually selected school supplies to families in need. Junior League of Lafayette's SMILES Committee members partnered with Miles Perret Center fulfilling school supply lists for 89 local children ages 5-18.

"One of the biggest stressors to any parent at the end of the summer is preparing for school and purchasing school supplies," says Katie Patrick, SMILES Chair. "When Junior League of Lafayette SMILES committee steps-in for the families at Miles Perret Cancer Services, we are hoping to alleviate some of that stress by shopping for and purchasing all the needed school supplies for them."

The mission of the SMILES Committee is to work with Miles Perret Cancer Services to provide an escape as well

as a supportive environment through planned activities for children who are fighting cancer, or for children whose parents or siblings are battling cancer.

"This year, the Backpack program was run a bit differently than previous years due to COVID-19 pandemic," says Patrick, "but we were still able to hit our goal of purchasing school supplies for 89 students. The Backpack Project has accomplished so much in relationships and community. When we work as a team anything is possible!"

Each of the SMILES Committee members spent several hours shopping for specific supplies needed for each child in preparation for the upcoming school year.

Junior League of Lafayette is committed to ensuring the children and families of our community, especially those most vulnerable, are supported and given every opportunity to thrive. It is through partnerships, like the one with the Miles Perret Center, that allow Junior League of Lafayette volunteers to identify, support, and impact these incredible children and families who most need a community to lift them up. It is our hope that Junior League of Lafayette can offer a bit of hope to families who are facing the unimaginable and remind them that we are all better together.

SMILES COMMITTEE

CHAIR Katie Patrick

SUSTAINING ADVISOR Susan Owen

COMMITTEE Katarina Adkisson, Abbigail Bellard,

Mollie Broussard, Gwen Burleigh, Sonia Hebert, Hannah Mason, Kristen O'Neal, Sarah Parham, Elisabeth Robertson, Amy White

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LAFAYETTE

DIAPER BANK



In a time when the most critical needs of our community are being exposed, one in particular is being met by Junior League of Lafayette's Diaper Bank. Statistics show one in three families struggle to provide enough diapers to keep a baby or toddler clean, dry, and healthy. As we learn to navigate life amid the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become even more clear the need for disposable diapers exists in our community.

We are proud and grateful to partner with one of our 2020-2021 Community Program Sponsors, Our Lady of Lourdes Foundation. They will help to replenish the Diaper Bank as needed throughout the year to ensure the needs of our community are met. The diapers are stored at a warehouse located here in Lafayette, which has been graciously donated by a fellow League member. As orders are processed, diapers are brought from the warehouse to the agencies who request them. Those agencies then distribute to clients in need. Our warehouse is currently housing 14,000 diapers that are divided into packs of 25 for distribution purposes.

"The League has numerous programs that enable us to support our Mission," says Margo Dugas, Diaper Bank Chair. "I cannot imagine what it would be like to wake up each morning and wonder how I am going to afford to put diapers on my 15-month-old. I am proud to chair a committee that makes a tangible, quantifiable impact on our community. We know we are making a difference, even if it's a small one."

To date, Diaper Bank partners with five (5) agencies in Lafayette: The DesOrmeaux Foundation, The Family Tree, Love, Inc., Seasons the Green Leaf, and United Way Early Head Start. Families in need can coordinate with any of these agencies to have their needs met.

"The most important thing about Diaper Bank," adds Dugas, "is the fact we directly impact women and children. The agencies we partner with serve primarily single-parent households, and most of those heads-of-household are women with babies and toddlers."

Over the course of the past year, the community at large has stood up to help its neighbors in so many ways, and Junior League of Lafayette is proud to be a community partner meeting the needs of families in Acadiana.



DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 in every 3 families struggle with diaper need.
- Average diaper cost is \$70-80 per month, per baby.
- Diapers cannot be purchased with food stamps.

*Source: <https://nationaldiaperbanknetwork.org/>

IF YOU WANT TO

Develop your leadership skills

DO GOOD

Make friends while making a difference

BE INSPIRED

Change your community... and the world



Then join us!

**Junior League of Lafayette
Admissions Informational Sessions:**

December 1, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

January 28, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Staying aware of ongoing COVID-19 mandates, we will offer the December Admissions Open House as a hybrid model where we meet in person and offer a simultaneous live-stream of the meeting.

For questions about membership, please contact our Admissions Committee at admissions@juniorleagueoflafayette.com or visit our website at juniorleagueoflafayette.com

THANK YOU

to our inaugural Community Program Sponsors:

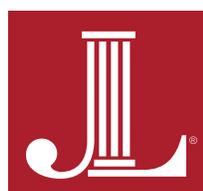
Junior League of Lafayette Community Programs serve the community through strategic partnerships that offer an interactive experience between League members and the community, which enhances our parish. Sponsorships from individuals and businesses directly support Junior League of Lafayette's community programs. It is through these initiatives we are able to impact thousands of individuals each year as we fulfill our Mission in the Lafayette community.



Drs. Shane and Melanie Fowler



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