



JUNIOR LEAGUE
OF LAFAYETTE

EXTRAORDINARY
Women; Impact
EXTRAORDINARY

ANNUAL REPORT
2015-2016

About Junior League of Lafayette

Junior League of Lafayette is committed to building a better Lafayette. Our members are extraordinary women who are dedicated to improving the community through effective action and leadership. By focusing on the organization's mission, Junior League of Lafayette members raised millions of dollars over the years, which have been invested right back into the community to directly impact the lives of women and children.

Last year alone, Junior League of Lafayette awarded \$135,000 in grants to support local organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of Acadiana, Boys & Girls Club of Acadiana, Second Harvest Food Bank, Acadiana Center for the Arts, and Lafayette Community Healthcare Clinic. And 25,391 hours of volunteer service from our members made an extraordinary impact through programs such as Kids in the Kitchen, NO FEAR NO FUTURE, and Jump With Jill.

We are a league of extraordinary women.
We are Junior League of Lafayette.

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.

HISTORY

Founded in 1957 as the Service League of Lafayette by 17 civic-minded women, these driven women changed the landscape of our community. In 1974, the Service League of Lafayette was admitted into the Association of Junior Leagues, and officially became Junior League of Lafayette. Collectively, AJLI represents 293 Junior Leagues having over 155,000 members across four countries. Today with over 600 members, Junior League of Lafayette remains one of the strongest and progressive mid-size Leagues across the Association.



Message from the President



On behalf of Junior League of Lafayette, I am so pleased to present the 2015-2016 Annual Report. It is full of exciting photos and information on our wonderful community activities, fundraising efforts, and most importantly, our beautiful, talented, and committed members!

Junior League of Lafayette engages 650 Extraordinary Women, who are committed to Extraordinary Impact. This impact, you see, is why we strive every

day to give back to the Lafayette community. At the same time we are accomplishing this impact, we are training our members to recognize their leadership potential! It is exactly this TRAINING that sets us apart from other volunteer organizations and the part of our mission that we are most proud of!

Originally founded as the Service League of Lafayette by a group of civic-minded women who were dedicated to improving the lives of those in our community and developing the potential of women as trained volunteers and community leaders, we assumed the official name Junior League of Lafayette after joining the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI), in 1974. Today, we remain true to that original commitment and are dedicated to making a lasting community impact, while training future leaders within that same community.

A part of every Junior League of Lafayette volunteer's tenure is the training that they receive. Almost every month, whether within the community or internal placement opportunities, members are trained on finances, community impact, servant leadership and other vital skills for creating leaders and skilled volunteers. We pride ourselves on what we do best—training our members! This year, the League's members contributed 25,391 hours of volunteer service to our

community through these training and service opportunities. Of course, I would be remiss in not mentioning our financial supporters. These are the means to accomplishing our goals of fulfilling our Mission. We have award winning, volunteer based fund development businesses, including Tinsel & Treasures Holiday Market and our four stellar cookbooks: the legendary *Talk About Good!*, *Talk About Good II*, *Tell Me More*, and *Something to Talk About*. I am very proud to announce that our very first Kitchen Tour was extremely successful, and contributed to our overall financial sustainability. The community support of these fundraisers, as well as our remarkable sponsors and community partners, help to ensure the continuation of our Mission.

"We assumed the official name Junior League of Lafayette after joining the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI), in 1974. We remain true to that original commitment and are dedicated to making a lasting community impact, while training future leaders within that same community."

I am honored to have lead this group of exemplary women this year. I personally thank each member, supporter, community partner, and staff member for making this organization, Junior League of Lafayette, the premier training and volunteer organization that it is. Without you, we could not accomplish the extraordinary Impact that we strive to achieve!

Always,

Maggie Trahan Simar
President, 2015-16

Presiding Leadership

The 2015-2016 Board of Directors

Floor left to right: Amy Broussard, Carlee Alm-Labar

Seated left to right: Maria Watson, Elizabeth Smith, Maggie Simar, Tori Guidry, Cole Delhomme

Standing left to right: Megan Breaux, Julie Broussard, Alison Alleman, Corinne Cotten Sprague

Not pictured: Tara Bienvenu, Kim Dakin



The 2015-2016 Management Team

Left to right:

Monique Gideon, Accounting Manager

Katie Choate, Communications Vice President

Corinne Cotten Sprague, Executive Vice President

Caroline Potier, Community Vice President

Elizabeth Johnson, Personnel Vice President

Kathryn Hesse, Communications Assistant

Melissa Boudreaux, Financial Vice President

Dawn Alexander, Sustaining Advisor

Mary Courville, Placement Chair (not pictured)



Forever Fund Contributions

Alison Alleman
Megan Andrus
Carolyn Artall
Anne Baron
Tammy Bernard
Denise Bienvenue
Tara Bienvenue
Christa Billeaud
Lauren Bourgeois
Sharon Bourgeois

Sarah Brabant
Julie Broussard
Clarice Burch
Danielle Claiborne
Jolynn Cole
Columbia Pipeline Group
Mary Courville
Rhonda Darby
Marlene Dauterive
Lisa David

Lizzie Ellis
Cindy Frugé
Kasey George
Jacqueline Gillette
Greater Horizons
Katie Guidry
Alise Hagan
Daynese Haynie
Mary Hebert
Nanette Heggie

Sarah Henderson
Katherine Hill
Julie Hill Bourque
Cathy LaGrange
Ruth Landry
Marianne Lane
Janice LeBlanc
Jill LeBlanc
Stephanie LeBlanc
Elizabeth Maier

Melanie Martin
Susan McGuire
Bobbi Mendez
Angella Mills
Tracy Moody
Adele Ortego
Caroline Portier
Jennie Rader
Tracy Ralston
Debbie Richard

Stephanie Richards
Katherine Rolfes
Corrine Cotten Sprague
Phern Stagg
Allison Sylvester
Cynthia Thompson
Claire Ward
Melissa Williams
Ellen Wright
Rosemary Zehnder



2015-2016 Community Advisory Board

First row: left to right

Corinne Cotten Sprague, Dr. Jennifer Jackson, Maggie Simar, Tracy Ralston, Katie Choate, Maria Watson

Back row: left to right

Jerry Prejean, Julie Broussard, Andrew Duhon, Rebecca Taylor, Kyle Gideon, Tori Guidry, Caroline Potier

Not pictured: Jan Swift, Fred H. Mills, Jr., Debbie Mills, Zachary Barker and Jason El Koubi

Grants

GRANTS PROGRAM

Junior League of Lafayette is committed to providing this community with direct and indirect resources, namely financial contributions and volunteer hours. Each year, Junior League puts out a call for applications in which area non-profits are invited to submit proposals for either Collaborative Opportunity Grants (where League members volunteer to work with the nonprofit to assist in completing the grant) or Community Enrichment/Community Resource Funds (where funds are provided to the nonprofit to complete the grant). For 2015-2016, Junior League awarded \$62,040 in Collaborative Opportunity Grants, and \$49,914.40 in Community Enrichment/Community Resource Grants to the following programs:

COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITY GRANTS

FoodNet (\$7,400) The Greater Acadiana Food Bank works in collaboration with other partners to properly address hunger wherever it exists in our community. The Nutrition Fair at Northside High School exposed all of its students to healthy food and snacks, which made them aware of the dangers of high calorie foods and high sugar drinks.

Maddie's Footprints (\$10,000) provides support to those coping with miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant death, and is the sole provider of services specific to fetal and infant loss for mothers in Lafayette. Maddie's Footprints partnered with Junior League to purchase, assemble and deliver 280 care packages.

Miles Perret Cancer Services (\$5,000) helps families fight, survive and live with cancer. This grant allowed them to provide a cancer care kit to all newly diagnosed clients undergoing cancer treatment. The kit contained items recommended by a local oncologist to assist in managing the side effects they may experience from radiation and/or chemotherapy treatment.

Second Harvest (\$10,000) Food Bank helps fight hunger and build food security in South Louisiana by providing food access, advocacy, education and disaster response. They partnered with Junior League to fill backpacks for 50 children with 7 to 10 pounds of kid friendly, single-serve meals and snacks. Over 15,300 pounds of food, the equivalent of 12,750 meals, were provided over thirty-six weeks to these children at risk of going to bed hungry on the weekend.

Bridge Ministry of Acadiana (\$3,350), at the corner of University Avenue and Cameron Street, has built a neighborhood of improved hope, education, and safety through tutoring, bible study, life skills classes, and character development lessons. With Junior League, Bridge Ministry developed an etiquette program with classes focusing on meal etiquette, public speaking, dance, and fashion (including personal hygiene and budgeting). In April, the 20 participants participated in a dinner and fashion show, and answered an interview question in front of their families, in order to practice and demonstrate what was learned.

Children's Museum of Acadiana (\$10,000) fosters a creative environment through "hands-on" exhibits and programs, where children and their families explore and make discoveries. Junior League assisted with the Barn Expansion 2015 in the Wee Acres Exhibit. Wee Acres has been a dedicated Infant-Toddler play area for 20 years, and encourages outdoor exploration, perceptual-cognitive and social-linguistic development while fostering a curiosity of nature. From a milking cow to an egg-laying hen, a garden plot and fruit trees, this exhibit provided children the opportunity to learn from where their food originates. The grant assisted in remodeling the existing "barn" (currently unusable space) into a mini barn with a chicken coop, weather mobiles, mother/baby farm animals, soundboard and interactive play.

Healing House (\$2,305) provides support and education for grieving children, their caregivers and the Acadiana community so that no child grieves alone. "Koping Kits" were distributed through hospitals, hospice agencies, funeral homes, insurance agencies and other social service agencies to children who have experienced the death of a loved one. Healing House sends an average of 250 "Koping Kits" per year to bereaved children, and this grant allowed them to expand the number to 400 this year.

Hearts of Hope (\$6,485) responds daily to those affected by the trauma of sexual violence in our community through education, advocacy and empowerment. With the pervasiveness of smart phones and the internet access, teens today face different challenges than generations before them. It is vital that parents and teens understand sexting, underage sexual activity and non-consensual sex. This awareness campaign kicked off with a community event, followed by programs in specific schools targeting 1,000 high school students, their parents and instructors.

Lafayette Education Foundation (\$2,500) (LEF) promotes and supports excellence in education. The LEF Teacher Awards is a special awards ceremony designed to honor Lafayette Parish public, private and parochial school teachers in grades PreK-12 who go above and beyond the call of duty. Sixteen educators are selected as finalists in four categories from among 600 educators nominated by the community. LEF's Student Presenter's Program offers students the opportunity to attend the event and present their nominated teacher.

LARC's Acadian Village (\$5,000) aids individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities in learning new skill sets to be successful both vocationally and in their personal lives. Treats in the Village is scheduled near Halloween and free to all special needs children and adults. Attendees with autism, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, and other ailments are given this opportunity to celebrate Halloween in a relaxed, low stimuli and quiet setting.

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT/ COMMUNITY RESOURCE FUND

Autism Society of Acadiana (\$1,200) improves the lives of all affected by autism by supporting families of individuals and striving to raise awareness in the community about living with, educating and caring for a person on the autism spectrum. This grant focused on a four-hour seminar to educate law enforcement personnel on working and interacting with people with autism, especially in potential crisis situations. This helps attendees to recognize children and adults who have autism and discuss proven tactics that law enforcement can use in these situations.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana (\$15,395) enables all young people, especially those who need it most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. "Project Play" will provide a playground area for youth participants at the Granberry Unit located at 121 S. Washington Street. Currently, there isn't an area for youth to just "play" freely.

Children's Museum of Acadiana (\$9,431) has the philosophy that a child learns by doing. The museum serves as both a learning resource for educators and a development center for exploring new methods of informal education. This project helped the Children's Museum update the floors, risers, and walls; and update the Audio Video system for the Amphitheatre.

Hearts of Hope (\$2,550) Recognizing that one in three girls and one in five boys will be sexually abused before they turn 18 years old, Hearts of Hope is dedicated to giving children a voice to speak up. "I Have A Voice" is designed to teach children ages four to six about safe and unsafe touches; what parts of their bodies are considered private; the difference between a good secret and a bad secret; and who are trusted adults. This program uses interactive scenarios in a fun and engaging manner and provides children with an age appropriate book on their reading level to take home and share with their parents, thus educating both of them.

Lafayette Animal Aid (\$1,200) educates, advocates, shelters, and protects. Its mission is to provide care, shelter, sanctuary and medical attention for stray, abandoned, and unwanted companion animals. Junior League of Lafayette helped start the "I Read to Animals" reading enrichment program in 2012. The program provides second graders, who are challenged in their ability, the tools to read confidently, while teaching compassion towards animals. This grant allowed the program to expand by providing service to 720 children in Lafayette.

Lafayette Education Foundation (\$4,774) (LEF) The goal of the "Matching Struggling Readers with Books that Fit" project is to increase the percentage of students reading on or above grade level by third grade. By providing leveled texts, LEF is successfully meeting this goal and the grant will help LEF continue to grow this program. Leveled texts allow teachers to match books with an individual student's reading ability. Research shows that children who become discouraged by grade three have a higher dropout rate. A solid foundation of literacy skills in elementary school will increase success in all content areas.

Lafayette Parish Bar Foundation (\$2,141) exists to advance and improve the administration of justice and foster confidence in the law. Lafayette Parish Bar Foundation used this grant to inform the public about their numerous programs designed to help the needy of our community in obtaining legal assistance. The brochures, which this grant covered the price of printing, are aimed to increase access to justice programs such as: the homeless, domestic violence victims, and those involved in contested custody litigation who meet federal poverty guidelines.

Grants Awarded
25 Grants • Value \$135,000

Shining Light (\$2,500) provides financial assistance to underserved children from low-income families for the purpose of academic enrichment. This project allowed school personnel to submit requests for financial assistance for children to participate in field trips, musical programs, or other school activities in school curriculum. Approximately 250 children in Kindergarten through 6th grade were impacted.

Community Members Impacted

Girls on the Run **54**

Life Skills **106**

Jump with Jill **4,000+**

No Fear No Future **1,800**

Junior Quiz Bowl **1,008**

Smiles **450**

Kids in the Kitchen **88**

The Family Tree (\$4,723) was founded in 1979 by Junior League as a nonprofit agency designed to help parents create stronger families. The Healthy Start to a Safe Sleep Project is an initiative of the Family Tree that will provide participants with a Safe Sleep kit, which includes a Pack-and-Play, safe sleep resource materials, and ongoing safe sleep education. Approximately 60 percent of Healthy Start participants do not have adequate sleeping environments for their children. This project was designed to combat the Lafayette problem of SUID (Sudden Unexpected Infant Death), which includes SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) and ASSB (Accidental Suffocation and Strangulation in Bed).

SPRING GRANTS

Junior League of Lafayette awarded \$23,046 to area nonprofits in its Spring Grants Cycle, bringing the total funds awarded for the 2015-2016 League year to \$135,000. The following Community Enrichment Grants were awarded during the Spring Grants Cycle:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Acadiana, Inc. (\$2,702) Big Brothers Big Sisters provides children facing adversity with strong, enduring, professionally supported one-on-one relationships with mentors that change their lives for the better, forever. The funds awarded in this grant will be used to purchase brochures and The Mentor's Field Guides for more fully trained volunteers.

CYT Lafayette, Inc. (\$1,220) CYT is dedicated to developing character in children through training in the arts and by producing wholesome family entertainment. The funds awarded in this grant will be used to provide assistance for under-resourced schools to produce their own musical (Once Upon a Mattress at Northside High School) and funds for bus transportation for under-resourced schools to attend musical theater performances (Footloose).

Faith House, Inc. (\$6,924) Faith House provides safety, shelter, empowerment, and advocacy to survivors of domestic violence. The funds awarded in this grant will be used to purchase equipment for the Family Justice Center of Acadiana's women and children's program that is needed to provide services to victims of domestic violence.



FoodNet of Lafayette LA (\$5,000) FoodNet provides food to those in need, generates community support, and creates awareness through viable processes for the collection and distribution of food in an accountable and compassionate manner. The funds awarded in this grant will be used for the Children's Healthy Snack Program, during which children at Bridge Ministry of Acadiana receive nutrition education lessons from a nutritionist from the Southern University Ag. Center. The children will be able to select five healthy food items from a printed shopping list.

Funds Raised

Kitchen Tour **\$15,575**

Cookbook **\$4,640**

Tinsel & Treasures **\$296,181**

Lafayette Parish Bar Foundation (\$7,200) The Lafayette Parish Bar Foundation exists to advance and improve the administration of justice; foster confidence in the law, lawyers, and the judiciary; encourage altruism among the legal profession and the general public; to support worthy causes of a charitable nature related to the legal profession; and to remove barriers and provide access to the civil justice system regardless of mental or physical condition, economic status, religion, sex, age, or race of the person in need. The funds awarded in this grant will be used for the following programs: Counsel on Call and Pro Se Kiosk Expansion. These self-help programs enable family members needing legal assistance in Family Law cases to represent themselves in filing and preparation of legal pleadings to allow them to seek access to justice in Family Courts.

Events in the Community

Life Skills: As a one-year program, Junior League of Lafayette partnered with Faith House to provide a curriculum focusing on nutrition, fitness, parenting, finance, emotional wellbeing, and creativity.

Girls on the Run: The empowering program was held in the fall and spring. After 10 weeks of training and motivational lessons, each culminated with a 5K race. Girls from the Boys & Girls Clubs and their League mentors ran, danced, and celebrated their personal accomplishments.

Kids in the Kitchen: At two Boys & Girls Clubs locations, League members interacted with Club members in weekly nutrition and activity segments. Nearly 100 students participated in the Kids in the Kitchen program, which culminated with a graduation dinner held at a local restaurant.

No Fear No Future: This past fall, No Fear No Future launched a new program for ninth grade students. Held in October at the Heymann Center, it exposed 1,800 students from seven high schools to the dangers and consequences of distracted and impaired driving. In April, the two-day program was held at Comeaux High School for its juniors and seniors.

Jump with Jill: For the second year, national nutrition sensation Jump with Jill brought her show to Lafayette. This year, PreK – 5th grade students at seven schools were treated to two live shows each.

Smiles: Partnering with Miles Perret Cancer Services, committee members host fun events throughout the year for patients who have been affected by cancer and their families. Events this year were Spooktacular Event at Acadian Village, Christmas Lights Viewing at Acadian Village, Tour of Krewe of Gabriel Float Den, Painting with a Twist, Ice Gators game, Build-a-Bear, Family Day at Zoosiana.

Junior Quiz Bowl: Middle schools students competed all year in a series of academic recall competitions culminating in the final tournament held this spring at Lafayette High School. Two Paul Breaux Middle School teams faced each other with Paul Breaux Team 1 taking the victory.



Tinsel & Treasures

2015 Sponsors

Premium Benefactor \$30,000 and Greater
Cumulus
KATC TV3
Right Angle

Platinum Benefactor \$20,000 - \$29,999
Big 102.1
Delta Media Corporation
Pure Country 106.7

Gold Benefactor \$15,000 - \$19,999
Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry & Distinctive Gifts

Silver Benefactor \$10,000 - \$14,999
Acadiana Profile
Dr. Melanie M. Fowler Orthodontic Studio
Face Magazine
Lafayette Utilities System
Party Central
Women's & Children's Hospital

Bronze Benefactor \$5,000 - \$9,999
Acadiana Dodge - Chrysler - Jeep - Ram
Cox Communications
Kergan Bros. Inc/ Sonic Drive-In
Lamar
Louisiana State Newspapers
LUS Fiber
Pixus Digital Printing
Southern Oral & Facial Surgery / Dr. Donald Boudreaux
The Independent and ABIZ Magazine
The Stuller Family Foundation
Van Eaton & Romero, LLC

Donor Benefactor \$3,000 - \$4,999
Aveda Institute of Lafayette
Bohn, Joseph & Swan Eye Center
Carr Chiropractic Clinic / Dr. Michelle Carr
Coldwell Banker Pelican Real Estate
Denise Garon Giosa
Heart and Vascular Associates of Acadiana
Heggie Investment Partners of Raymond James
John A. Hendry, D.D.S.
Kelli M. Cocke, M.D / Parkway Pediatrics, LLC
Lafayette Airport Commission
Lafayette Coca - Cola
Lafayette Surgical Speciality Hospital
Paragon Casino Resort

Party Time Trolley
Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers
Res
Robert M's
Ruffino's on the River
Shannon Seiler Dartez, Glenn Armentor
Law Corporation
Zeus & Agave

Patron Benefactor \$1,500 - \$2,999
Acadian Ambulance Service
Acadiana Lifestyle
Adrienne Doucet - Van Eaton & Romero
Andrus Boudreaux - Complete Title
Cajun Carts LLC
Debbie Foreman & Emily Babineaux,
Realtors
Kiki
Levin Endodontics
Lowry's Printing & Copying
Pandora Wraps
Play & Learn with Me!

Angel Benefactor \$1,000 - \$1,499
008 Magazine
Advanced Supply LLC
Amor
Atmos Energy
Brother's on the Boulevard
Chico's
Coco Eros Boutique
Columbia Pipeline Group
David and Eldridge ENT Specialists, LLC
Davidson, Meaux, Sonnier, Mcelligott,
Fontenot, Gideon & Edwards
Dr. Louis Blanda, Jr.
Gauthier's RV Center
Haynie Family Foundation
Hemline
IberiaBank
Kiddeaux's
Lemon Drop
Little Town
Louisiana Icegators
Mary Ellen's Tux Shoppe
Melodi's Belles and Beaus
MidSouth Bank
Monique Monteilh MD
Pete Nicolosi & Associates

PHI, Inc
Pinhook Foundation
Red Lerille's
Rehab Source, LLC
UBS Financial Services, LLC - Rick Frayard
Vanessa V. Boutique

Contributor \$500 - \$999
Acadian Hearing & Balance Center
Christopher & Sarah Blanchard
Darnell, Sikes, Gardes & Frederick
Ogletree Deakins
Delhomme Animal Clinic
Duce Rods, LLC
Lafayette Bone & Joint Clinic
Tracey Lassere - Assurance
Financial
Neunerpate
The Picard Group
Elizabeth Bertucci Robertson, MD
Southern Lifestyle Development
Company
St. Landry Bank & Trust Company
Tuten Title & Escrow, LLC
Thomson, Smith & Leach
Insurance Agency
Whitney Bank

Supporter \$250 - \$499
Bradley & Moreau/Real Title
Brown & Brown of LA
Community First Bank
Contemporary Women's Care of
Breaux Bridge
Senator Page Cortez
Amy & Aaron Courville
Courville Toyota Happy Town USA
Digitech Office Machines
Jeff & Cynthia Dubois
Express Printing & Ad Specialties
Fezzo's Seafood, Steakhouse &
Oyster Bar
Going Sebastien Fisher & LeBouef,
LLP
Thomas R. Hightower, Jr. APLC
Laborde Thearapy Center
Lafayette Veterinary Care Center
Lolli & Bob, LLC

Mahtook & Lafleur, LLC
Chrissy & John Morris
Morrow, Morrow, Ryan & Basset
Oge's Rent-All Center, LLC
Pieces of Eight
Precision Rehabilitation
Robert Roy, CPA
Roy Motors
Searcy Orthodontics
Maggie & Todd Simar

Friend
Angelle Adams
Jessica Allain
Melissa Boudreaux
Roya Boustany
Julie Broussard
Misti Bryant
Mary Courville
Samantha Elias
Heather Escott
Vicki Flores
Melanie Folwer
Melanie Goudelocke
Katie Guidry
Sarah Henderson
Elizabeth Johnson
Elizabeth Laborde
Catherine Lagrange
Corbin Levin
Lesley Maxwell
Caroline Potier
Tracey Ralston
Beth Resweber
Lise Anne Slatten
Elizabeth Smith
Lauren Swan
Ashley Thom

Community Impact Fund

Junior League of Lafayette is guided by its strategic plan and annual Project Evaluation and Planning (PEP) process, which aligns future finances and (wo)manpower to specific community projects and priorities. Because community needs occasionally arise without prior planning, the League has a dedicated Community Impact Fund. Our Community Impact Fund is money set aside each year (approved during the PEP process) to provide assistance to non-profit partner agencies that are in an immediate need. These funds can provide support for a variety of events or projects, or for a targeted issue. These funds, however, may not be used to solicit additional funds or goods on the agency's behalf. While the League cannot anticipate these immediate needs, we are privileged that our internal planning process allows us to reserve funds for when such needs arise.

This year, our Community Impact Funds were used for Junior League of Columbia Flood Relief. In October 2015, South Carolina experienced historical flooding in their state. As a result, our National organization, the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) put out an "all hands on deck" request for funds. As a result, the Board directed and approved the President to reach out to the JL Columbia League to assess their needs. They indicated funds were most needed.



A new and innovative idea surfaced during this year, relating to assisting Domestic Violence Victims in Lafayette Parish. The Faith House spearheaded a multidisciplinary project entitled the "Family Justice Center" to house victim services, Bar Association and Law Enforcement under one roof, close to the Parish Courthouse. As a result of research from our League, it was determined that our long-term community partnership with Faith House could be enhanced, by Junior League's participating with furnishing interview and waiting rooms, providing educational materials, and snacks and paper goods for children involved in Domestic Violence litigation. Fortunately, Junior League was able to assist with these material needs, and the board overwhelmingly approved the expenditure, which was used between November and May.

Finally, and perhaps most impactfully, the Boys & Girls Club (Granbury Unit) experienced an unfortunate shooting at their facility. After consultation with the Unit and BGC Board, it was decided that Junior League would purchase a Video Monitoring System for the facility.



Provisional Projects

Hopeful Hearts, Helpful Hands

Hearts of Hope (HOH) provides advocacy for victims of sexual abuse in Acadiana. Their children's advocacy center is for children involved in active investigations or court processes. The model allows for an advocate for each victim from the initial emergency room visit all the way through the end of the court process. Along the way they are provided with counseling, support and follow-up services.

Those who chaired and co-chaired the Provisional Spring Project began with little more than passion - passion to do something. First they chose a project that would make a lasting impact. After 20 years of advocacy, the bathroom, floors and walls were in dire need of upgrades due to their funding being devoted to victim services. A welcoming atmosphere makes a difference to the spirit of a child who has undergone the unthinkable.

The many talents of the ladies in the provisional class were identified and everyone quickly went to work. After weeks of planning, the weekend came for the provisional class to join together and transform the space that had seen better days into a gorgeous, welcoming new space.

Other Projects

The Provisional class spent hundreds of hours in the community, beginning with the donation of 250 pounds of food to FoodNet. In November, they partnered with Hospice of Acadiana to volunteer at their annual garage sale fundraiser, and donated \$1,500 to Hospice's Camp Brave Heart. In the spring, they transformed public areas of Hearts of Hope.

Active of the Year Award

Jennifer Raggio lives the League Mission in all aspects of her personal, professional, and volunteer life. First, she is committed to volunteerism. In 2015 – 2016, she completed her initial League obligation as Communications Tinsel & Treasures Liaison, and then agreed to a second placement as Sponsorship Development Chair. Also in this year, she served as an ODI delegate and a PEP Member at large. Additionally, she has helped to develop the potential of many women, as an organized and motivated leader. Her committee members praised her as “calm under pressure” and “all around easy to work with.” Finally, her efforts to improve the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers are already under way, as the newly named Fund Development Committee exceeded its fundraising goal for the new Kitchen Tour Event this spring, and is already at work raising funds for Tinsel & Treasures 2016. Jennifer has done all this while working full-time as Director of Marketing & Communications at United Way of Acadiana, and caring for her family of four (soon to be five).



Sustainers of the Year Award

Dawn Alexander began her League career in 1996 and served on various placements within the Community, Finance, and Personnel councils. She sustained in 2010, but returned in 2013 where she served a two-year placement on the Board of Directors as the first Chief Financial Officer of the League. She was a two-time ODI delegate. In 2015 – 2016, she served as Sustaining Advisor for the Management Team. Embodying the belief “For it is in giving that we receive,” Dawn has proven her commitment to promote volunteerism, develop the potential of women, and improve the community.

Additionally, Dawn volunteers for Krewe des Jeunes Amis where she is currently serving as President of the Executive Board, and as a Coordinator by Fatima Mercy Works through Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church. With her husband of 17 years and two children, William and Mary Morgan, she enjoys living in a community that has such a love, devotion, and faith in God.



Provisional of the Year Award

Beth Resweber contributed over 200 hours to the League and maintained perfect attendance at all Provisional Meetings and at all but one General Meetings. Beth chaired the Fall Community Project with Hospice of Acadiana. The staff at Hospice was so impressed with the Provisionals’ volunteerism under Beth’s leadership that they bestowed the esteemed Jewell P. Lowe Award to the 2015 – 2016 Provisional Class. She did all this while fighting again breast cancer.

Beth’s fellow Provisionals shared these sentiments about her:

“She has always gone the extra mile to be a team player, is friendly to all, and make everyone feel appreciated!”

“With all that she is going through, she maintains such a bright spirit. She keeps our class’s morale up just by showing up to meetings and events and being herself. She is a humble fighter who we can all learn from. She truly is a rock star and I’m blessed to be in the same Provisional class as her.”

“She never has an excuse not to help. She is one of the most giving people I’ve even met. She is an asset to the League. Her spirit is infectious, and I love just being around her.”

In her League career, she reminded us all that granting us the joy of filling someone’s needs is a gift.



Tori Guidry began her Junior League journey in 1988, serving as the 37th President of Junior League of Lafayette (1994 – 1995) before sustaining in 1997. She has remained involved as a Sustaining Advisor for various committees, the Management Team (2013 – 2014), and the Board under Presidents Molly Kallenberger (1998 – 1999), Tracy Ralston (2014 – 2015), and Maggie Simar (2015 – 2016).

Beyond the League, Tori is a Partner Attorney with The Guidry Law Group, and has given her time to multiple community organizations including Girl Scouts (serving three years as President of the Council), Volunteer Center, United Way of Acadiana, Lafayette Education Foundation, Planned Giving Council of Acadiana, Ascension Day School, Episcopal Church of the Ascension, and, most recently, the Children’s Museum of Acadiana, where she currently serves as President of the Board of Directors.

Presidential Award

The 2015 – 2016 recipient of the Presidential Award is Mary Courville. In recognizing her recipient, President Maggie Simar stated these glowing remarks, "Mary has spent countless hours this year devoted to making things better for League members and the organization as a whole. She diligently spent many hours working to make sure our members had the ability to put their best foot forward to reach their best potential. She worked endlessly to allow members to give the most from their volunteer opportunities."

In 2015 – 2016, Mary served as Placement Chair. She has previously served in various capacities on the Personnel, Communication, and Finance councils, and has served as an ODI Delegate, External Board Representative, and PEP Member at Large.



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