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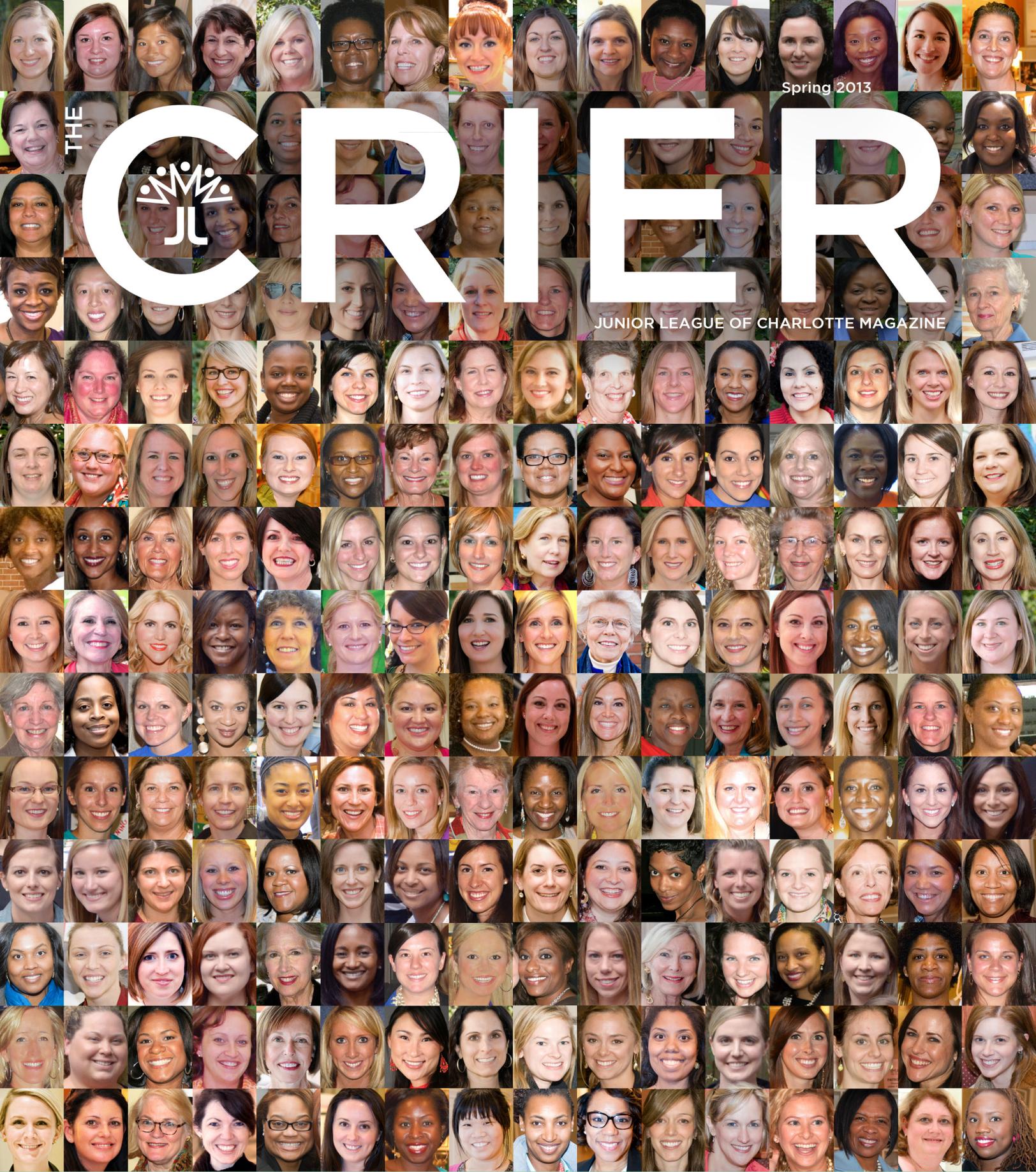
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Spring 2013

# THE CARRIER

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CHARLOTTE MAGAZINE



## DIVERSITY IN THE JLC

2012-2013 Annual Report · Focusing on Sustainers and Transfers  
Introducing the 2014-2015 JLC Leadership Team

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Amie Hutchison

2013-2014 JLC President

### Mission Statement

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

### Reaching Out Statement

The Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. and The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. reach out to women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism.

The Junior League  
of Charlotte, Inc.

## President's Letter



At the March 17 Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. (JLC) General Membership Meeting, we were privileged to host guest speaker, North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker. It was a wonderful experience and very apropos for our current JLC season where we are reaching out to our members seeking their willingness to serve. Ms. Decker focused on four elements everyone needs in their life. I have taken these 4 elements and applied these to the JLC.

First, we must all be open to possibilities. We should not always need to be talked into doing something; rather we should look at opportunities with an openness to serve and be served by the experience. This does not always mean we meet every possibility and opportunity with an energetic "Yes" but we should greet opportunities and weigh the value of the experience.

That being said there is and should always be a time where we follow Ms. Decker's second element and learn to be still. Part of being open to possibilities relies on the ability to know oneself which comes with making time to do so. Whether that's an hour in a hot yoga class or a long morning in pajamas with a cup of coffee, we must all make time to recharge and evaluate ourselves. Be still. This reflective time is crucial to the well being of both our mental and physical states. JLC members are known for showing initiative and being open to possibilities to serve both within the League and in the community. In short, we are all at our best when we take time for ourselves.

Thirdly, Ms. Decker reminded us of the importance of being thankful. Just seven short years ago the Charlotte region was hit hard by the financial crisis. Many companies and individuals that seemed infallible were forever changed by the economic crises. Over the years I've heard countless times in one form or another those uncertain times caused many to be reminded of what's really important, and to be thankful. I would hope that we could make being thankful a priority in life without going through another economic crisis. Being thankful is so very contagious and inspiring. Thankful for our health, thankful for the opportunity to serve the less fortunate in our community, thankful for the rainy days where our children are trapped inside with us and begging for our attention. There are many so many every day moments to greet with a thankful heart. The older I get the more I realize the cliché that life flies by is very true but somehow very hard to believe on those long rainy days. We should all make an effort to be thankful.

Fourthly, Ms. Decker encouraged everyone not to look for balance in life but to dance through life. Balance can lead to missed adventures and loss of spontaneity. We should attempt to dance through life moving with the flow of the music of life rather than settling into the metronome beat. Lee Ann Womack performs a song called "I Hope You Dance" which was written as a message for a child but as adults we should all try to embrace the possibilities and opportunities that await. They won't all be opportunities to moonwalk, shag or pop-n-lock, but whether we like it or not, life will require us to be open to change and adventure whether you dance through or fall flat is greatly up you.

In closing, I would ask that each of us take the time to mentally walk through the four elements Ms. Decker provided. Be open to possibilities. Be still. Be thankful. Don't try to balance, Dance instead. This is the season of JLC where we ask members to consider their willingness to serve. I ask that you each take a moment to integrate Ms. Decker's elements into your decisions and commitments. I am so very thankful to serve as President of the Junior League of Charlotte. It is truly a strong and giving group and I am thankful for the tremendous support and impact we have on our community. Here's to another wonderful year of committing to and serving our community.

Amie Hutchison  
2013-2014 JLC President



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**Alyson Vaughan**

2013-2014 *The Crier* Editor

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**Vision Statement**

The Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. will be a leading force in improving the lives of children and families in this community.

**Diversity Statement**

The Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. will maximize its potential and enhance its effectiveness by integrating diversity into every aspect of its organization.

**The Junior League  
of Charlotte, Inc.**

## Editor's Letter

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*Beautiful spring is here! I love seeing crowds build at Freedom Park, running in shorts instead of tights and getting that first, brightly colored, post-winter pedicure to ready my toes for several months of sandal weather. It's all totally worth the itchy eyes from the pollen!*

**I**n the Carolinas, we are so fortunate to have four distinct seasons, but spring may just be the most rejuvenating, as we take a deep breath to recover from the winter fatigue and enjoy a glass of wine on the back porch before evenings become too sweltering. Members of the Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. (JLC) are well into their League year, volunteering in the community, and are ready to think ahead for what more can be done to help Charlotte families.

My parents would always spend a good deal of springtime in our yard. My mom would prune and plant flowers, while my dad mowed and mulched. They saw so much satisfaction in working hard to improve the view from our bay window. Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. (JLC) President Amie Hutchison started her term with the theme "Promote. Develop. Improve" (PDI). Spring is definitely the time to push for improvement.

I hope you enjoy this issue. This includes our 2012-2013 Annual Report, where we share the numbers behind our hard work. I am excited for the opportunity to share some history about how diversity has changed the Junior League — and how things can be improved in this area. Check out the profile of our current Sustainer President, who explains how the community can be improved beyond active Junior League membership. Finally, in this issue, we introduce the 2014-2015 JLC Management Team and Board of Directors. These women will continue the PDI mission as we transition to the new League year.

Thanks for reading!

Alyson Vaughan

2013-2014 *The CRIER* Editor



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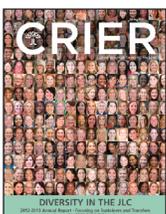
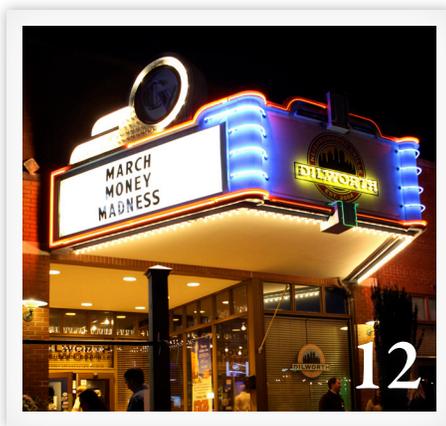
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# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CHARLOTTE 13 ANNUAL 2012 REPORT

## Mission Statement

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

## Reaching Out Statement

The Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. and The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. reach out to women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism.

## Vision Statement

The Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. will be the leading force in improving the lives of children and families in this community.

## Diversity Statement

The Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. will maximize its potential and enhance its effectiveness by integrating diversity into every aspect of its organization.

## Community Commitment

The Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. annually reviews project proposals submitted by community agencies and/or League focus area committees. Final decision on community partnerships are voted upon by the membership and are based on community needs, membership interest and available League resources.

## Membership

*The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc.*

The JLC is a member of The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI). The AJLI is comprised of 292 Leagues throughout the U.S., Great Britain, Mexico and Canada. Collective membership stands at more than 155,000 women.

### *Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. Volunteers*

Founded in 1926, the JLC has provided millions of volunteer hours and more than \$12.6 million dollars to the community.

A total of 2,137 women who reside in Mecklenburg county and contiguous counties are members of the JLC.

78 provisional members who meet eligibility requirements and engage in an extensive six-month training course along with hands-on volunteer placement experience.

826 actives: members who fulfill community volunteer commitments as well as manage the organization. More than 70 percent of the actives are employed, either part- or full-time.

1,233 sustainers: members who serve in advisory roles and provide support for League activities.

## Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. Projects and Placements of 2012-2013

Alexander Youth Network	\$10,000
Allegro Foundation	\$5,000
Arts for Life	\$4,000
Big Shots Saturdays	\$11,000
Chameleon's Journey	\$10,000
Child Life	\$2,500
Circle de Luz	\$4,000
Discovery Place	\$9,500
Done In A Day	\$1,000
JLC Enrichment	\$15,970
JLC Family Resource Center at Levine Children's Hospital	\$2,000
JLC Puppets	\$37,370*
JLC Smiles	\$7,000
JLC WearHouse (volunteers only)	
Girl Scouts	\$3,750
Go! Kids! Go!	\$8,000
Kids in the Kitchen	\$7,500
Kids Health Link	\$12,000
KinderMourn	\$1,200
KIPP Charlotte	\$12,000
Mental Health Awareness	\$6,000
Presbyterian/Arts for Life	\$1,000
Ronald McDonald House	\$2,500
Second Harvest Food Bank	\$5,950
Speakers Bureau	\$4,000
Thompson Child & Family Focus	\$5,000

\* Includes 36,730 carried over from FYE 5/31/12

## In Memoriam

The JLC is saddened by the loss of the following active and sustaining members during the 2012-2013 League year and deceased members we were notified of after the last published list. These women represented true loyalty and commitment by serving, supporting and sustaining the JLC. They will be missed:

Jacqueline Ashford  
Mary Briley  
Martha Byrum  
Paula Calhoun  
Martha Grodziki

Pauline Lester  
Judith Martin  
Ally McNeill  
Mary Newell  
Billie Nichols

Mary Pease  
Alice Sebrell  
Katherine Springs  
Sarah Tomlinson  
Wilda Williams-King

We have made every effort to include a complete and accurate list based on our records. If you know of any updates or changes, please contact the JLC office at (704) 375-5993. Thank you.

## JLC Position Statements

Healthy Child Initiative Mission Statement and Goals

### Mission

Our programs, projects and advocacy will be focused on the physical, dental and mental health needs of children ages 0 to 17 years and their families in the Charlotte community.

### Goals

Raise the awareness of children's health issues particularly in the areas of physical, dental and mental health in the community.

Employ trained volunteers to partner with other organizations in the community to address children's physical, dental and mental health needs and support family needs related to those issue more effectively via our projects, placements and advocacy efforts over the next five years (formally beginning in 2006 and ending in 2011; in 2010, the initiative was voted to extend to 2013, for a total of seven years).

Educate and connect the community to health and wellness services for children ages 0 to 17 years and their families.

Facilitate on-going dialogue among the community and its leaders regarding the physical, dental and mental health needs of children and their families living in Mecklenburg County to foster long-term solutions and approaches.

### Methods

#### Physical Health

Provide education and awareness for the community on the physical health issues facing children ages 0 to 17.

Increase awareness of the lack of services available to adequately identify and care for children with health-related issues. In partnership with the community, develop programs focusing on preventative physical health education to improve the lives of children ages 0 to 17.

Provide support for families of children that have physical health needs.

Encourage ongoing community dialogue regarding physical health needs of children and their families to foster long-term solutions.

#### Dental Health

Provide education and awareness for the community on the dental health issues facing children ages 0 to 17 years.

Develop programs with other community partners focusing on preventative dental health for children ages 0 to 17 years.

Encourage ongoing community dialogue regarding dental health needs of children and their families to foster long-term solutions.

#### Mental Health

Provide education and awareness for the community on the mental health issues facing children ages 0 to 17 years, and increase awareness of the lack of services available to adequately identify and care for children with mental health-related issues.

In partnership with the community, develop programs focusing on preventative mental health education to improve psychological lives of children ages 0 to 17 years.

Develop programs aimed at education to remove the stigma of mental health issues facing children and their families.

## JLC Board of Directors 2012-2013

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Malone Lockaby

### Education and Training Manager

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Tami Backlinie Burriss

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### Risk Manager

Aynsley Spencer

## Statement of Activities

	2013			2012
	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL	TOTAL
<b>REVENUES AND SUPPORT</b>				
Membership and other:				
Membership dues and fees	\$ 339,287	\$ -	\$ 339,287	\$ 330,033
Investment income (loss)	262,189	-	262,189	(90,908)
<b>Total membership and other</b>	<b>601,476</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>601,476</b>	<b>239,125</b>
<b>FUNDRAISING</b>				
Contribution of merchandise to the WearHouse	521,330	-	521,330	530,578
Contributions and grants	33,393	-	33,393	59,438
Annual Campaign, net expenses of \$5,511	40,621	-	40,621	40,017
Lights!Camera!Fashion!, net expenses of \$3,061	41,034	-	41,034	42,671
WearHouse consignment income, net cost of sales of \$62,064	64,750	-	64,750	88,945
Kids in Motion, net expenses of \$8,958	19,262	-	19,262	24,859
Other Fundraising, net expenses of \$93	9,853	-	9,853	3,999
<b>Total Fundraising</b>	<b>730,243</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>730,243</b>	<b>790,507</b>
<b>CRIER SALES</b>				
Net assets released from restriction	32,441	(32,441)	-	-
<b>Total revenues and support</b>	<b>1,364,160</b>	<b>(32,441)</b>	<b>1,331,719</b>	<b>1,051,002</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Program services	863,803	-	863,803	831,665
Support services	379,983	-	379,983	351,171
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>1,243,786</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,243,786</b>	<b>1,182,836</b>
Change in net assets	120,374	(32,441)	87,933	(131,834)
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	<b>3,093,620</b>	<b>45,013</b>	<b>3,138,663</b>	<b>3,270,467</b>
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 3,213,994</b>	<b>\$ 12,572</b>	<b>\$ 3,226,566</b>	<b>\$ 3,138,633</b>



PHOTO BY TRICIA WILLIAMS

## Statement of Financial Position

	2013	2012		2013	2012
<b>ASSETS</b>			<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:			Current liabilities		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 251,300	\$ 494,772	Accounts payable	\$83,715	\$373,106
Investments	1,027,537	1,170,404	Deferred revenue	<b>219,268</b>	<b>239,928</b>
Contributions receivable, net of an allowance of \$40,000 in 2012	8,851	30,816	Contributions payable	57,550	79,400
Accounts and other receivables	36,767	35,679	Deferred rent liability	46,250	3,750
Inventory	134,090	136,886	Total current liabilities	406,783	746,184
Prepaid expenses	68,193	42,387	Other long-term liabilities	9,803	13,767
Total current assets	1,526,738	1,910,944	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>416,586</b>	<b>759,951</b>
Foundation investments and cash, long-term	1,289,495	1,165,354	Net assets		
Property and equipment, net	826,919	822,286	Unrestricted		
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$3,643,152</b>	<b>\$3,898,584</b>	Undesignated	1,296,778	870,184
			Board designated	<b>1,917,216</b>	<b>2,223,436</b>
			Total unrestricted	<b>3,213,994</b>	<b>3,093,620</b>
			Temporarily restricted	<b>12,572</b>	<b>45,013</b>
			<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>3,226,556</b>	<b>3,138,633</b>
			<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$3,643,152</b>	<b>\$3,898,584</b>

## Statement of Functional

	COMMUNITY IMPACT	EDUCATION AND TRAINING	WEARHOUSE	2013 TOTAL	2012 TOTAL
Contributions to the community	\$ 172,829	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 172,829	\$ 130,817
Education and training	-	53,327	-	53,327	46,688
Association dues	-	75,447	-	75,447	68,583
Salaries and related expenses	24,209	52,828	127,975	205,012	198,136
Operating expenses	8,361	19,509	27,419	55,289	68,074
Facilities expenses	4,810	11,224	200,739	216,773	229,782
Marketing	-	10,417	26,498	36,915	59,580
Insurance	1,468	3,426	4,672	9,566	4,715
Depreciation	1,808	3,615	5,423	10,846	25,290
Printing expenses	-	27,799	-	27,799	-
Total expenses	\$213,485	\$257,592	\$392,726	\$863,803	\$831,665

	MANAGEMENT & GENERAL	FUNDRAISING	2013 TOTAL	2012 TOTAL
Salaries and related expenses	\$ 133,238	\$ 52,081	\$ 185,319	\$ 192,025
Operating expenses	49,783	25,336	75,119	94,394
Facilities expenses	10,980	7,320	18,300	17,690
Insurance	2,402	1,602	4,004	3,857
Depreciation	58,750	20,789	79,539	20,692
Printing expenses	-	327	327	-
Professional fees	10,425	6,950	17,375	22,513
Total expenses	\$ 265,578	\$ 114,405	\$ 379,983	\$ 351,171



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- 8 The Salon, Village at SouthPark
- 96.9 The Kat
- Alpha Graphics Pineville
- Another Printer, Inc.
- Bednar Cosmetic Surgery
- Belk SouthPark
- Belk, Inc.
- Blackhawk Hardware
- Brock Moran Home
- Brooks Brothers
- Brooks Brothers
- Bruegger's Bagels
- Carmen! Carmen!
- Carolina Pad
- Carolina Panthers
- Carolinas Healthcare System
- Carolinas Medical Center
- Channel 96.1
- Charlotte Athletic Club
- Charlotte Checkers
- Charlotte Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat Associates P.A.
- Charlotte Knights
- Charlotte Pediatric Clinic
- Charlotte Public Library
- Charlotte Radiology (also for 2013)
- Charlotte Style Magazine
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
- Cherry, Bekaert & Holland
- Chick-Fil-A
- Cinhte Magazine
- Coca-Cola
- Criswell & Criswell: Plastic, Reconstructive & Cosmetic Surgery
- Custom Security
- Davola Group
- Dawn Freeland Photography
- Dean & Deluca
- Delta Dental of North Carolina
- Dilworth Neighborhood Grille
- DoubleTree Hotel
- Earth Fare, SouthPark (or leave blank)
- Einstein Bagels
- Family Dollar Stores, Inc.
- Flemings
- Flex + Fit
- Flywheel
- Frito Lay
- Fuze Beverages
- Gorgeous Glo
- Grey Seal Puppets
- GUM Brand
- Harris Teeter
- J Major's Bridal Boutique
- Jazzercise
- L & M Monogramming
- Lowery, Haywood & Associates
- Martial Arts
- Massage Envy- SouthPark and Myers Park
- Mecklenburg County Health Department
- Monkey Joe's
- Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital
- Panera Bread
- Paul Simon Co.
- Pinkberry
- Proctor & Gamble - Colgate
- PRP Wine International
- Queen City Dance Out
- Queen City Exclusive, Exclusive Media Group
- Rachel Sutherland Communications
- Ruth's Chris SouthPark
- S.T.E.P.S. Developmental Academy
- Scoop Charlotte
- Snyder's-Lance, Inc.
- SOCIETY Charlotte
- Sow Much Good
- Speedway Children's Charities
- Starbucks, East Blvd.
- Subzero-Wolf
- Susan G. Komen
- The Container Store
- The Merancas Foundation
- Time Warner Cable
- Yelp.com
- YWCA 



# MARCH MONEY MADNESS

SPRING FUNDRAISER IS A SLAM DUNK

March Money Madness raises funds while raising spirits

By Kari Kessell

This year's March Money Madness was one for the record books. The Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. (JLC) has sponsored this event as their spring fundraiser with great success for several years. March Money Madness was held on March 13 at Dilworth Neighborhood Grille, and was attended by double the number of attendees as last year. The event acts not only as a fundraiser for the JLC, but a viewing party for the first day of the ACC basketball tournament. The event attracts both JLC members, as well as members of the community. More than 400 attendee tickets were sold and 560 raffle tickets. Attendees took advantage of unlimited food, plenty of TVs to watch the games, and two drink tickets—all included as a part of the ticket price. As always, attendees waited in anticipation to see if they were winners of one of the great raffle prizes.

The raffle was bigger and better this year than in years past as well. Raffle ticket holders were entered to win one of 16 prize packages ranging in value from \$250 to over \$1000. There was also a cash prize of over \$2,800. Prize packages were donated by fifty different area vendors and offered everything from golf lessons, event tickets, spray tans, to wine tastings. The prizes were handed out by two different emcees for the evening; Norm Randall, the owner of Dilworth Neighborhood Grille and Rodney Smith, former Panthers defensive back, current President of NFL Alumni Carolina Chapter and board member for Speedway Children's Charities. As Smith continues to interact with different volunteer organizations in Charlotte, he experiences the JLC as a consistent presence. Smith noted that he appreciates the obvious support for children and families the JLC demonstrates year in and year out.

This year's event vice-chair, Lauren Ponder Dayton, was quick to thank Dilworth Neighborhood Grille and their Randall for his amazing support of this event. Not only does he allow the JLC to use his facilities, but he takes an active part in making the evening a success. When asked why he continues his relationship with the JLC and this event, he spoke about his passion for philanthropy in the community. He sees this event as an extension of what he is inspiring in his employees and how he is shaping the culture of his business. In March, Dilworth Neighborhood Grille launched a project to encourage employee community involvement called #MarchItForward. The project focused on four employee nominated charity organizations. Employees donated \$1000 to each organization and then planned and executed a way to raise money to match their donations. Randall sees March Money Madness as the perfect opportunity to demonstrate to a larger audience the importance of

Dilworth Neighborhood Grille hosted the event for the third consecutive year. PHOTO BY JAMIE FERGUSON

Below: Members of the JLC and guests enjoy food, prizes and the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) basketball tournament. PHOTO BY CRYSTAL HEILIG



giving back to our community, and the dedication he as a local business owner has to this cause.

With the support of great sponsors and fantastic giveaways, the event was a roaring success. The restaurant was packed with dedicated basketball fans and complete novices alike. As the committee looks forward to another year and another opportunity to host this great event, they do so with great appreciation for all those who made this year memorable. 🏀

# From the JLC Kitchen

Invite spring herbs from your garden to your table

By Allison Gnilka

As spring approaches, consider the many delightful tastes and aromas of fresh herbs in your kitchen. Try the following simple spring recipes, featuring rosemary and dill, which are sure to be a hit! Taste the delicious Fresh Rosemary Muffins, and accompany the baked goodies with a colorful spring fruit or side salad for a perfect brunch. Also check out the Chicken Ice Cream Cones for the perfect hands-on kitchen project with the kids for a fun twist on traditional chicken salad!

## Fresh Rosemary Muffins

From *Stop and Smell the Rosemary* by the Junior League of Houston



**Difficulty: Medium**  
**Serves: 12**

### Ingredients

- ¾ cup milk
- 1/4 cup golden raisins
- 1/4 cup raisins 1/4 cup currants
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh rosemary
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon table salt
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 4 ounces goat cheese

### Directions

Preheat oven to 350°. Cook first five ingredients in a heavy saucepan over medium heat for two minutes or just until it begins to steam, make sure to stir mixture often; remove from heat. Add butter; stir until butter melts. Cool completely. Combine flour and next three ingredients in a large bowl; make a well in the center of mixture. Stir together egg and milk mixture until well blended; add to flour mixture, stirring just until moistened. Spoon one-third of batter into a lightly greased 12-cup muffin pan; add 2 teaspoons goat cheese to each muffin cup. Spoon remaining batter over goat cheese, filling each cup two-thirds full. Bake for 20 to 24 minutes or until golden brown. Cool in pan on a wire rack three minutes. Remove from pan. Makes 12 muffins.

## Chicken Ice Cream Cones

From Kids in the Kitchen, [kidsinthekitchen.org](http://kidsinthekitchen.org)

**Difficulty: Easy**  
**Serves: 12**

### Ingredients:

- 6 cups precooked chicken breast
- 2 cups celery
- 60 seedless red grapes
- 1 teaspoon fresh dill
- Pinch of salt
- 4 tablespoons of low-fat mayonnaise
- 12 ice cream cones

### Directions:

First shred the chicken. In separate bowls, dice celery and chop dill. Mix together shredded chicken, celery, dill, grapes, salt and mayonnaise in a large bowl. Scoop the mixture into ice cream cones. Makes 12 chicken ice cream cones. 





# CREATING AN INCLUSIVE CULTURE *Starts At The Top*

The JLC continues to embrace diversity

By Brandi Riggins

**T**oday's Junior League woman is different from the Junior League woman of 1926. Gone is the stereotype of the blue blood woman in gloves and pearls. She has been replaced with a multi-ethnic membership base, which spans ages, career fields, religions and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Founded in 1926 by Mary Harriman, a 19-year old New York socialite, the League is known as one of the oldest women's organizations in the country. The organization began in a time period when educated women had few options for a career outside the home and was predominantly made up of upper class young women, which grew to include First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

In an effort to embrace diversity and inclusion in the post-Civil Rights era, in 1979 the Leagues adopted a Reaching Out statement that explicitly welcomes women of all races, religions, and national origins.

## Opening the Door of Diversity

In 1981 during the presidency of Jean Sullivan, the Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. (JLC) welcomed its first African American member, Patricia "Pat" Heard. Heard was encouraged to join the JLC by a friend who was also a member and liked the thought of being able focus her volunteer efforts. "I joined the JLC for the concentration of the

## REACHING OUT STATEMENT

"The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. reaches out to women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism."

volunteer effort on projects that would have a lot of community focus," said Heard. "Back then, 12 signatures were required from people who supported you. I was doing so much volunteer work in the community that I knew a lot of JLC members, so I had no problems getting my numbers. I had to say to myself, someone has to be first."

Heard, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, fondly recalled one of the service projects that received Presidential attention. "One of the neatest projects was participating in a Habitat for Humanity build with the JLC members. Right beside the Junior League house, was a house being built by President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalyn Carter. It was the first time they'd had an all female crew and the first time the Carter's had participated in a Habitat build in Charlotte"

Over the years, Heard also saw an increase of working mothers and career women. "In the eighties there were no volunteer time off policies and flexible workplaces. The membership shifted from women who primarily worked part time or

not at all to an organization where majority of the women were working in various career fields including positions in leadership," Heard explained.

## Breaking Down the Stereotypes

The stereotype of the Junior League member began to fade when the AJLI welcomed its first Latina president in 1998, Cuban-American, Clotilde Perez-Bode Dedecker. By the year 2000, an estimated dozen of Asian, Latina and African American's women held offices throughout the country, including Deborah Brittain, the first African-American President of AJLI. The JLC is also home to current AJLI President, Toni Freeman. Elected in 2003, Freeman was also the first African-American President of the JLC.

While many people believe diversity is something you only can see visually, JLC Sustainer, Nora Chambers Carter, explained diversity is much broader than that. "Diversity isn't based solely on the way someone looks on the outside. You also have women of the LGBT population, single

## Reflections from a Junior League woman of color



women and parents, military women and women with other abilities who make up our membership.”

JLC Sustainer President-Elect Liz Foster was a former member of the AJLI Board of Directors. During that time, Foster chaired a new AJLI board committee titled Membership Diversity, which was created right after AJLI last modified the organization’s Reaching Out Statement.

The idea was to provide a support network for Leagues in new diversity initiatives. The committee created a training team received their own training from experts in the field at that time, including attending seminars in New York City and a week-long training summit at the University of New Mexico, which at the time was leading studies on multicultural issues. Foster and her training partner then traveled to different leagues in the southeast, providing training to League leaders on the subject. Foster noted that this experience “totally changed [her] life,” and enabled her to be aware of and then celebrate cultural differences, a practice she still carries with her today.

In an opportunity to readdress the organization’s values around diversity and inclusion, the AJLI board created a 12-member Diversity and Inclusion task force in February. The newly formed Diversity and Inclusion task force has been asked to facilitate a wider dialogue, frame questions, provide ideas and/or bring recommendations to the AJLI Board of Directors for consideration.

Today the JLC has 856 actives: members who fulfill community volunteer commitments as well as manage the organization. More than 70 percent of the actives are employed, either part- or full-time. The demographics of the JLC include women spanning ages 25 to 85 who represent all seven AJLI regions of the United States.

To find out more about the Diversity and Inclusion website, visit the AJLI website at [www.ajli.org](http://www.ajli.org).

If you grew up in a minority household like my own, there were often family discussions about racial and ethnic inequality and inadequacies of cultural socialization. Racial segregation, though long gone, was and is often



**CHANESE BAILEY**  
League Preservation  
Vice Chair

still a societal scar that bears the truth and hurt of the not so distant past. After graduating college, I soon found myself with an inordinate amount of free time to explore various community organizations. Involvement in my community is such an important and inherently satisfying part of my life and has always been a fertile source of continued personal growth. In the summer of 2011, a friend invited me to a Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. (JLC) prospective member workshop. I cordially accepted the invite, but not without objectively disseminating the organizations background and community involvement philosophy.

Like many prospective Junior League members, I was perplexed by what I should expect from the first meeting. I had an image of a white-gloved, upper crust wealthy and well educated white woman greeting me at the door with an uncomfortable grin. Upon arrival at the first meeting the elitist image quickly faded and I was impressed by the comradely and aroma of enthusiasm that filled the air.

However, as guests arrived and the room filled I looked around and quickly noticed only a handful of minorities. I thought, “Why is there such a disproportionate attendance of prospective minority members. Over the course of three days, multiple influences begin to shape my decision to join the JLC. Monetary wealth or class rankings had never been my motivation for joining any group, but I soon realized that I had an overwhelming thirst for “non-monetary” wealth. One thing is for sure, giving back to my

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*“The internal wealth you feel when surrounded by culturally diverse and interesting people was also priceless.”*

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community had always made me feel wealthy, and the feeling of volunteering was priceless. Most importantly, I missed the exposure that I had with culturally diverse friends, many of whom had moved away, gotten married or became parents. I convinced myself that the internal wealth you feel when surrounded by culturally diverse and interesting people was also priceless.

Fast forward three years, three placements and three crumpled up drafts of this article -- I would be remiss if I did not say that my experience as a minority member of the JLC has been mixed. I have often felt like a square peg in a round hole. Moving into my next active year as a member, I am excited to be a part of a new initiative for the JLC, as well as the AJLI, taking a fresh look at our League’s diversity and where we can further enhance our minority members’ experiences.

With growing demands of society and interests of emerging members in diversity topics, this new initiative has the ability to create exciting development opportunities for our members in all area of diversity. I also hope this article stimulates efforts for enhancing our understanding of various points of view. These efforts, coupled with the ability to serve multicultural families and communities and to have a positive impact on the lives of those around me, are parts of the JLC mission that really resonate with me, and is why I am proud to be a member of the Junior League of Charlotte. 



1. Cynthia Alexander with daughter Chance Lauren Isler-Alexander and Aber Hamdan with daughter Linda Bathich and granddaughter at a Saturday morning Parlor meeting. PHOTO BY CRYSTAL HEILIG
2. Shika Raynor and Catherine Woltz at the March General Membership Meeting. PHOTO BY CRYSTAL HEILIG
3. KIPP Committee Members Katie Frear, Devlin Casey, and Amanda Simila at KIPP Career Day. PHOTO BY CRYSTAL HEILIG



4. Amy Rhyne supporting the Education and Training Council's "For Better or For Worse" discussion panel. PHOTO BY CRYSTAL HEILIG
5. KIPP Committee Members Katie Frear, Devlin Casey, and Amanda Simila at KIPP Career Day. PHOTO BY CRYSTAL HEILIG
6. Sustainers Carolyn Robertson and Jan Sweeney at the 25th Anniversary Learning Collaborative Celebration. Robertson was the organization's first Chair of Board. PHOTO BY ALSTON ROBERTSON



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7. Provisionals Meredith Croy, Caroline Mitchell, Julie Chalk, and Taylor Woods at the Provisional Kick-off. PHOTO BY CRYSTAL HEILIG

8. Sustainer Helen Patterson at the Sustainer Showcase. PHOTO BY CARMEN ECHOLS

9. Past Presidents Mary Montague, Hope Parrot, and Jan Stedman at the Past Presidents Luncheon with President Elect Beverly Shull. PHOTO BY CARMEN ECHOLS



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10. Membership Development Committee members in the JLC Kitchen preparing for Spring Provisional Kickoff. Lindsay Meek, Abbey Moeller, Kate Stewart, Mary Mozingo, Taurus Jamison, Mary Freelove and Elle Allen. PHOTO BY CRYSTAL HEILIG

11. Lauren Robinson, Robyn Corrado, and Ellen Rankin at the Wearhouse Breast Cancer training. PHOTO BY LESLIE BING

12. Carin Ross Johnson with Spouse Donnie Johnson at KIPP Career Day, where Carin was the keynote speaker. PHOTO BY CRYSTAL HEILIG

**SHARE YOUR MOMENTS**

Email your photos to [jlcrier@yahoo.com](mailto:jlcrier@yahoo.com)



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# MEET THE LEADERS

By Savannah Greer



**LISA JOHNSON**  
President-Elect

While serving as the President-Elect of the JLC, it is Lisa Johnson's goal to continue the work that the JLC's founding members started nearly 90 years ago. "By providing trained volunteers, developing the potential of women and promoting voluntarism, it is my goal for the Junior League of Charlotte to continue to meet the needs of our community, to increase membership and to bring awareness to local and global causes," says Johnson. In the role of President-Elect, she also plans to continue the support of the JLC's current Cornerstone Project and the Healthy Family Initiative.

Since joining the JLC, Johnson has served in several Vice Chair and Chair positions including Nominating, Placement and Mental Health Awareness (now a part of Community Awareness). She also served as a Member-At-Large for the Board of Directors and the Risk Manager for the Management Team. Johnson states that she has had the pleasure of working with some amazing women throughout her time in the JLC.

For those who have not met her, Johnson feels that they will quickly learn she is mission-driven with a servant leadership philosophy. She also looks forward to serving beside Beverley Shull, who will serve as the President during the 2014-2015 JLC year.



**KELLIE LOFTON**  
Human Resources Manager

In the role of Human Resource Council Manager, Kellie Lofton plans to focus on growing the JLC's membership amidst an ever-changing community demographic and furthering efforts towards helping members get the most from their League experience. "JLC membership is filled with dynamic women of diverse backgrounds, talents and interests; and the formula for each to succeed and feel satisfied as a member varies from one member to the next," she states.

"As the Charlotte community continues to grow increasingly diverse, the JLC's ability to recruit and retain members from a variety of backgrounds will greatly contribute to the future success of the organization," says Kellie. She finds it personally meaningful to be a part of an organization that values the development of all women and works to improve the Charlotte community. She looks forward to furthering that cause through her upcoming position.

The Junior League of Charlotte, Inc., (JLC) Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the proposed slate for the 2014-2015 League year. Congratulations to the following members on being selected for the JLC Board of Directors, Management Team or Nominating Committee slate! Membership voted to approve the slate at the March General Membership Meeting. Read on to learn more about a few select leaders.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**President:** Beverley Shull

**President-Elect:** Lisa Johnson

**Nominating Chair:** Elizabeth McMillan

**Chief Financial Officers (CFO):**

Katheryn Woodruff

**Board of Directors Secretary:**

Caroline Rooks

**Board of Directors Members-at-Large:**

Kirsten Pittman

Kimberly Williams

Malone Lockaby

Nicole Baldon

Mimi Pickens

Heather Martin

Nikki Fleming

Megan Anderson

**Sustaining Member-at-Large:**

Alyson Bailey

**Sustaining Advisor:** Kelley Cobb

## MANAGEMENT TEAM:

**President-Elect:** Lisa Johnson

**Communication Manager:**

Ashley Snider

**Community Impact Manager:**

Mary Sherrill Ware

**Education, Training and Advocacy**

**Manager:** Destiny Jenkins

**Fund Development Manager:**

Whitney Sturge

**Human Resources Manager:**

Kellie Lofton

**Vice President of Finance:** Anna Portal

**Risk Manager:** Helen Stockstill

**Management Team Secretary:**

Savannah Solomon

**Sustaining Advisor to the**

**President-elect:** TBA

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

**Chair:** Elizabeth McMillan

**Vice Chair:** TaLeayah Johnson

Christine Sperow

Chrissy Fischer

Erica Frazier

Mary Katherine Bridgers

Lexi Parisi

Elle Allen

Amanda Kohout



## DESTINY JENKINS

Education, Training and Advocacy Manager

As the Education, Training and Advocacy Manager, Destiny Jenkins seeks “to refine the League’s education and training programs.” She would like to see the League “begin to include ways that will make it more convenient for our members to get the training they need in order to effectively serve our community including online and on-demand training events.” Some of the topics that will be her key focus include providing members with educational experiences that will help them further develop their communication skills, leadership skills, interpersonal skills, community awareness and JLC knowledge.

Lastly, Jenkins would like to see more of a focus on advocacy efforts. She states, “The JLC’s advocacy committees (SPAC, PPI and APA) have been working hard and have made a tremendous impact for the JLC locally, statewide and federally. The council is currently working to revamp its strategic plan for 2014-2015 to include more of a focus on advocacy efforts so I am hopeful that we can continue to make a great impact for many years to come.”



## SAVANNAH SOLOMON

Management Team Secretary

Savannah Solomon believes that “the secretary should be the liaison between JLC leadership and members, partners and the community.” According to Solomon, the secretary should make a point to drop by as many council or committee meetings and events as possible just to increase face time with leadership for members. “Oftentimes, people might have a concern or idea they would like to bring to leadership but they stay quiet because they think the president or specific officers might be too busy with other obligations.” “Therefore”, she states, “the secretary should be a go-to resource for happenings within the League such as upcoming events, Cornerstone progress and strategic plan adherence. She should also be a good resource for policies and procedures such as Robert’s Rules or approval processes.”



## WHITNEY STURGE

Fund Development Manager

Whitney Sturge’s goals as the Fund Development Manager include “continuing to grow JLC involvement, enthusiasm and support for all fundraisers as well as to continue to educate JLC members on annual campaign and planned giving so they know where their dollars go and why each one is important to the JLC.” She states that she would also love to see more JLC members and their families attend Lights! Camera! Fashion! and March Money Madness.



## ASHLEY SNIDER

Communication Manager

“One of the things I love about the Junior League of Charlotte is the amazing leadership opportunities that are given,” says Ashley Snider. “Looking back to my first placement as Membership Meeting Vice Chair, I remember the apprehension and uncertainty I felt about becoming a leader, but soon realized that while a leadership position can be challenging, it is also extremely rewarding.” Looking ahead to her new role as Communications Manager, she hopes to continue to grow and learn as a leader, and she says that she “looks forward to this new adventure!”



## ELIZABETH McMILLAN

Nominating Chair

In her new role, Elizabeth McMillan plans “to seek out and/or cultivate the best leaders for the League so that the League can best serve the community.” McMillan is excited to serve with the members of the board and she states that “the women who serve the JLC are so inspiring; it makes me proud to be part of the organization.”



## HEATHER MARTIN

Board of Directors Member-at-Large

Heather Martin states she is “honored and excited to be serving on the upcoming JLC Board.” According to Martin, “I am always amazed by the generosity of spirit of the women of the JLC and I look forward to working with such a dedicated group of women.” 

# Building Lasting Relationships Through the Years

Sustainers reflect on fun times with the transfer group

By Brandi Riggins

It all started with a piece of paper. That is what Sylvia Hawe, a Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. (JLC) transfer sustainer member, asked for to get the ball rolling with the Sustainer Transfer group. The group consists of sustainers who have come to the JLC from other Junior Leagues throughout the United States.

Hawe, a retired business owner and vocal and music teacher, joined the Junior League as a provisional in Columbus, Ohio in the 1970s. With several moves as an active member, she was thrilled to have ended up in the beautiful city of Charlotte as a sustainer in 1990.

When asked how the Sustainer Transfer group officially started, Hawe explained, "It was simply a need to stay connected and engaged with other sustainer transfers. A small group of girls were invited by the sustainers for a lovely welcoming luncheon. Not knowing even one person in Charlotte, I thought it would be fun to get together with some of the new transfers going forward."

During this luncheon, Hawe asked for a piece of paper and started to sketch out what would become activity planning for the sustainer transfers from January through December. "From there, the ball got rolling. Before long, we had a bridge group, a tennis group and a book club. We also scheduled evening social gatherings with guys and gals."

With many great memories to choose from, Hawe recalled some of the fun times the group shared through their bond as sustainer transfers. "Some of my fondest memories were trips to the Blowing

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*"It was simply a need to stay connected and engaged with other sustainer transfers."*

— Sylvia Hawe, sustainer transfer

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Rock area filled with shopping, dining and of course a stop at the Doncaster outlet. Then we ventured to the beach with a visit to DeBordieu—waking up to sun glistening on the ocean while enjoying breakfast."

Nancy Elberson, former board President of the NC Dance Theatre, also shared Hawe's admiration of the Sustainer Transfer group. "The wonderful part about this group is you don't graduate and they don't kick you out. You can stay and do how much or little as you please. People come and go and we miss them, but we keep up our friendships," said Elberson. "When we first met, there were about 20 of us including Becky Carney, a former league president. Although many of the original members

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*People come and go and we miss them, but we keep up our friendships."*

— Nancy Elberson, former board President of the NC Dance Theatre

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have moved, we still keep in touch. We travel together and it's been wonderful to see the growth."

When Elberson transferred to the JLC from the Winston-Salem Junior League 21 years ago, she immediately got involved in the Sustainer Transfer group. "The first thing I participated in was a bridge group and that is still going today. The book club is at least 15 years old. We called ourselves the Charlotte Literacy Society because it would look good in our obituaries," Elberson chuckled.

Elberson credits the group with allowing her to stay connected and foster relationships within the JLC. "It has been a wonderful way to meet people of all ages; I've made many friends outside of the usual circle we meet. We come from all over the country, not just the south. Our ages range from a 40- to 45-year age span, which is great diversity. I am a big fan," she explains.

Today the sustainer transfers continually look for ways to stay connected with each other. Last fall the



Sustainer Sylvia Hawe shares her experiences as a Sustainer Transfer. PHOTO PROVIDED BY SYLVIA HAWE

group introduced various connection groups which provide a smaller group setting due to the growing size. "Suzy Garvey and Lo Simon have been wonderful in planning and keeping us involved. Thanks to Lo and Suzy, we meet quite often and hear from them regularly," Elberson said.

Both Hawe and Elberson agree that the support that the sustainer group as a whole provides keeps the transfer group growing and strong. "The sustainers, in general, have been more than helpful in welcoming and including new arrivals to the Junior League of Charlotte," said Hawe. Elberson agreed, "It has been a success and that is what has made me happiest about being a member of the Junior League."

The Sustainer Transfer group is open to all JLC sustainer transfers who would like to join at any time. Please contact Suzy Garvey for more information. 

# Adding to our Circle of Service

## *Volunteering to Support the Cornerstone Project*

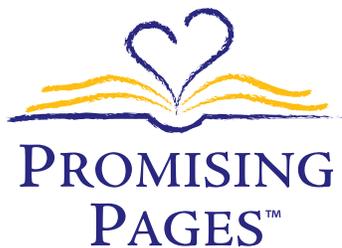
By Connie Henderson

**T**hough there are many reasons as to why a woman joins The Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. (JLC), one common interest among JLC members is a passion for improving the community. The JLC gives women many opportunities to get out in their community and work to make a difference in the lives of others. Every spring, members pick a placement they would enjoy being a part of for the following JLC year. There are a variety of placements from which members can choose. Some of the well-known placements are Ronald McDonald House, Discovery Place, KIPP Charlotte, and Levine Family Resource Center. The 2014-2015 JLC year will offer two new placements.

### **Promising Pages**

**T**his organization's mission is to take donated, gently used books and give them to students enrolled in Title I schools, in order to help develop their love of reading. Promising Pages was established in 2011, and since January 2012, over 100,000 books have been cycled through its warehouse in South End. Promising Pages' signature program The Magic Book Party Program is intended for students in grades kindergarten through second grade. Promising Pages does more than just give kids books, they believe in making it a fun and memorable experience. The Magic Book Party incorporates two mascots, Erm the Book Worm and Erma the Book Worma. The mascots attend the Magic Book Party and help the kids understand the importance of reading. Each child receives their own Magic Book that has been wrapped and the kids pledge to be lifelong book worms.

In addition, JLC members who are volunteering with this placement will spend their time sorting, cleaning, stamping/branding, wrapping and labeling books according to instructions. JLC volunteers will either work on-site at the warehouse, or if necessary, off-site at their home. JLC volunteers will also be able to help pass out books at the Magic Book Party programs at Reid Park Academy or other community outreach events.



### **Charlotte Community Health Clinic**

**C**harlotte Community Health Clinic's mission is to provide uninsured residents of Mecklenburg County with quality healthcare at a low cost. CCHC was founded in 2000 and provides high quality and low cost healthcare to low-income and uninsured residents. CCHC is able to provide healthcare by engaging the community and its resources. In 2012, CCHC provided 18,575 patient visits, and that number has only increased. CCHC offers primary care along with vaccinations, children's care, chronic disease care, women's care and health education.

JLC volunteers will help with health education and nutrition programming for overweight and obese children, with the goal being to increase their knowledge and awareness of factors that could improve their health. This will be an exciting opportunity for League members interested in program development.



### **Charlotte Community Health Clinic**

### **In Conclusion**

**T**he JLC's Healthy Family Initiative (HFI) creates a focus for the league on the mental, dental and physical health of children and their families, and these two new placements will support this initiative in a number of ways. CCHC will bring the knowledge and resources needed to families in Charlotte that do not currently have access to the healthcare the clinic can provide, while Promising pages will help foster a life-long love for reading and empowerment of ownership, through its programming and providing access to books. The JLC is excited to be implementing these new placements for the 2014-2015 JLC year. 

# SUSTAINING THE MISSION

Dianne Cates' impact as president of the sustainer group

By Savannah Greer

**D**ianne Cates' involvement with the Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. (JLC) began in 1974, shortly after relocating to the city, thus beginning her career of League involvement spanning diverse placements and leadership roles, and leading to her current role as president of the sustainer group.

Cates' first placement involved geriatric research in senior care facilities throughout the city. Cates found this placement not only interesting but also helpful as it afforded her the opportunity to learn more about her new community. Her second placement was with the *The CRIER* as a reporter. She later served as the Public Relations Chair, and she participated in the *Follies*, a theatrical production held by League members which also served as a fundraiser for the League. During her time as an active member, the placement that Cates found most challenging, yet also most rewarding, was her position as the chairman of LeaguePrint. LeaguePrint, like the *Follies*, was established as a main fundraiser for the JLC in 1978. LeaguePrint had a shop located in the JLC Building that sold stationary, gave home shows and sold printed items such as wedding invitations and printed cocktail napkins.

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*"Sustainers are always available for perspective on the League."*

— Dianne Cates

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Of her early years in the League, Cates mentions that the training she received as an active member was invaluable. She specifically cites the Management by Objective training as an asset she utilized when she became a full-time employee of Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) in 1976. Cates began as an instructor, then later worked with CPCC's Adult Basic literacy program, served as the President of the Faculty Senate at CPCC and worked as Director of Faculty Development until her retirement after 18 years.



Cates became a JLC sustainer shortly after retiring from CPCC. A previous sustainer president, Joana Wardell, asked Cates to consider the role, and she accepted the position in 2012. She first served as president-elect for a year before becoming president. Cates shares that she decided to approach her new position as a job, drawing from her experiences at CPCC.

For one year, Cates notes that she mulled over the direction she wanted to take during her presidency. She soon found inspiration from the JLC's Sustainer Purpose Statement. Drawing from the first two sections of the Purpose Statement, "to promote voluntarism and encourage continued involvement in the community and the JLC" and "to demonstrate the effectiveness of trained volunteers," Cates decided to establish the first annual Sustainer Showcase that was held November 12. The Sustainer Showcase provides an outlet for sustainers who have a product, who own a store, or who create items to display and sell these items throughout the JLC building.

The project was extremely successful as it grossed over \$9,000. Fifteen percent of the total proceeds were donated to the sustainer group, which in turn contributed \$500 to the JLC Cornerstone Project, Reid Park Academy, to be used as a discretionary fund for the instructors. The sustainers also donated \$2,366 to A Child's Place, which was a combination of money raised through contributions given at the Sustainer's Fall Luncheon and a portion of the proceeds from the Sustainer Showcase.

Cates has worked to provide many diverse course and event offerings for the 1,200 JLC sustainers in an effort "to provide fellowship and educational opportunities to enhance membership satisfaction and personal growth," the third section of the JLC Sustainer Purpose Statement. Some of these activities include a six-week Shakespeare Class. In late March, sustainers had lunch at Springdale Hall in York, South Carolina and took a tour of the historic area. One of the largest annual events is the fall sustainer luncheon. This year Cates will host the spring cocktail party at her home and at the adjoining home of Lauren Kingsley, another sustainer. These events all promote membership satisfaction that, as Cates attests, in turn helps sustain and promote the JLC's mission.

"To serve as a valuable resource and mentor, providing historical perspective, community experience, and support for League programs and projects," the final section of the Purpose Statement, Cates has served as the President of Friends of the Opera, was on the Board of Directors for the Oratorio Singers of Charlotte, and served on the board of the Mint Museum Auxiliary, in large part because she was introduced to these organizations through her time in the JLC. Cates says that she developed a strong feeling of support for her community from her time in the JLC. "If you are in the JLC long enough to create a feeling of responsibility to the community, you'll leave the League only when it's time to do something different. That's how you build commitment: expand your training knowledge, work with a diverse group of women, and get out in community arenas that perhaps you are not normally involved with and attempt to make a difference," says Cates.

When asked the question, "What do you wish active members knew about the sustainer group?" Cates states that more than anything, she "hopes that active members know that the sustainers are a vital force that accounts for almost 37 percent of the dues of the League, and that sustainers are always available for perspective on the League as they have experienced different placements and have varied experiences." Cates' participation with the League, since her first placement as a researcher to her most recent position as the president of the sustainer group, illustrates the tremendous good that comes from continued support and dedication to the League, both as an active member and as a sustainer. 

# New Year, New Direction: Highlights from the Advocacy and Public Awareness Committee

Committee works to develop advocacy strategy

By Breana Smith Jeter

It is shaping up to be another busy year for the Advocacy and Public Awareness Committee (APA). APA — along with the Public Policy Institute (PPI) and the State Political Affairs Committee (SPAC) — focuses on educating and informing the community both inside and outside of the Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. (JLC), about selected topics of significant impact.

As current APA Committee chair Ayanna Wakefield explains, “APA partners with PPI and SPAC to put on events and inform and educate the League, the Charlotte area at large, and elected officials about major issues within our community and what they can do about it.”

While PPI focuses on training League and community members for service, and the SPAC focuses on advocating to state officials, the role of APA is to facilitate advocacy around areas of League concerns, and in particular how those issues have direct, local impact.

The 10- to 12-League member committee meets monthly to discuss and shape its advocacy agenda for the year. This year, APA continued building on last year’s focus on human trafficking in North Carolina and food deserts in the Charlotte community.

In addition, APA began to develop a new area of interest to the League: women and children affected by homelessness and poverty. The issue of homelessness among women and children in the Charlotte area falls directly in line with the League’s shift towards its new Healthy Family Initiative. According to a 2012 U.S. Conference of Mayors study, in the Charlotte area, there are more than 4,000 women with children who stayed in either emergency shelters or transitional housing throughout the year — a 23 percent increase over the prior reporting year.

APA’s key event designated to highlight homelessness in women and children this year will be its Public Officials’ Breakfast in April. The annual breakfast “provides an opportunity to speak directly to local decision-makers about identified issues that the League wants to champion,” explained Wakefield. “We make suggestions about what the

officials can do and use the breakfast as a vehicle to strike up dialogue and ask questions of them as well.” This year’s breakfast is scheduled for April 25.

Although the breakfast is only open to elected officials and members of League’s Board of Directors and Management Team, APA has the opportunity to host other events such as community forums as well. Because this year’s shift to the Healthy Family Initiative, APA instead plans to focus on developing its advocacy strategy and identifying local solutions.

Accordingly, no forums are currently scheduled for the remainder of this League year, though Wakefield indicates that the committee has not ruled out possibility that one may develop as a follow-up to the Elected Officials’ Breakfast. Wakefield hopes to continue to spread her passion for empowering and informing others throughout the remainder of her term. “My interest in APA was that I like the idea of learning the issues and knowing what’s going on in my community. I feel like that is where we can make the greatest difference.” 

## Lend A Helping Heart

By Alyson Vaughan

### HEART Tutoring [hearttutoring.org](http://hearttutoring.org)

Some children need that extra boost of support through the school year. For those who are interested in supporting the community outside of their Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. (JLC) placement, please consider the opportunity below.

HEART (Helping Ensure Academic Results through Tutoring) is seeking weekly tutors for the 2014-2015 school year, to begin in September. Community members commit one hour per week to deliver HEART’s effective,

hands-on curriculum in one-on-one tutoring sessions during the school day in Title I elementary schools. In addition to providing academic support, tutors act as mentors, providing much-needed encouragement that can have a long-term positive impact on students’ confidence and enthusiasm towards academics. 97 percent of students in HEART’s math intervention program have shown significant growth in foundational

number sense, and teachers report that HEART students show improved confidence as a result of the program. HEART’s provides training, hands-on activities, and on-site support for the weekly volunteers. There are also partner and team options for volunteers. 

Contact [volunteer@hearttutoring.org](mailto:volunteer@hearttutoring.org).



**HEART TUTORING**  
Helping Ensure Academic Results through Tutoring

# KEEP CALM AND KATIE ON

Katie Walmsley brings League experiences from across the pond.

By: Kari Kessell

**M**oving to the states was not a difficult transition at all for Junior League of London transfer Katie Walmsley—she was quite excited to be coming back home. Originally from upstate New York, Katie is used to moving with her husband as his job regularly takes them from place to place. Their most recent transfer was to Charlotte after a three year stint in London. Moving to a new city with no contacts can seem quite daunting for some, but knowing that the Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. (JLC) was waiting made Walmsley's experience much easier.

In 2010, Walmsley and her husband left their home in Philadelphia for London on a three year work assignment. Getting used to living in London was quite an adjustment at first. She was unable to talk to family and friends as often or as easily as she would have liked due to the time difference, and understandably, there were a few flights across the Atlantic plagued with tears. Even though Walmsley had a great job with work friends established, she was missing that much needed connection to girlfriends. She took to Google and started researching outlets for volunteering and socializing in London. She then remembered some friends from back in Philadelphia were members of the Junior League, and sure enough, there was a League branch in London.

The Junior League of London was established in 1985 and today boasts 400 members who have provided 20,000 volunteer hours towards the work of several different community partners. Among those community partners is Centrepoint, an organization backed by Prince William that focuses on feeding, healing and rehabilitating homeless youth in London. The Venture Centre hosts events for children in a historic London park; volunteers work in Colville Primary School during school hours to help students with The Learning Club, and League members foster a love of reading in underprivileged children through Dolly Parton's

Imagination Library. One of the longest running outreach projects of the London League is Holiday Hampers. This program takes place in mid December and for the last 15 years has prepared hampers filled with gifts, food, toiletries and other essentials for over 1,700 individuals. In partnership with 17 other agencies, Holiday Hampers delivers 1,000 hampers to many of the underserved populations in London.

Not only did Walmsley meet good friends with whom she had a lot in common, but she had the opportunity to work with great placements offered by the Junior League of London. Her first placement was with a group whose sole purpose was to set up events to make members feel welcome. The "Welcome Committee" planned activities for League members which allowed opportunities to socialize as a large group. Events included wine tastings, barre classes, pub nights, movie nights and a Christmas cookie exchange. The second placement she worked with was the New Member Development Committee. This offered her a challenge with its demanding time commitment, but was rewarding and another way to meet even more people.

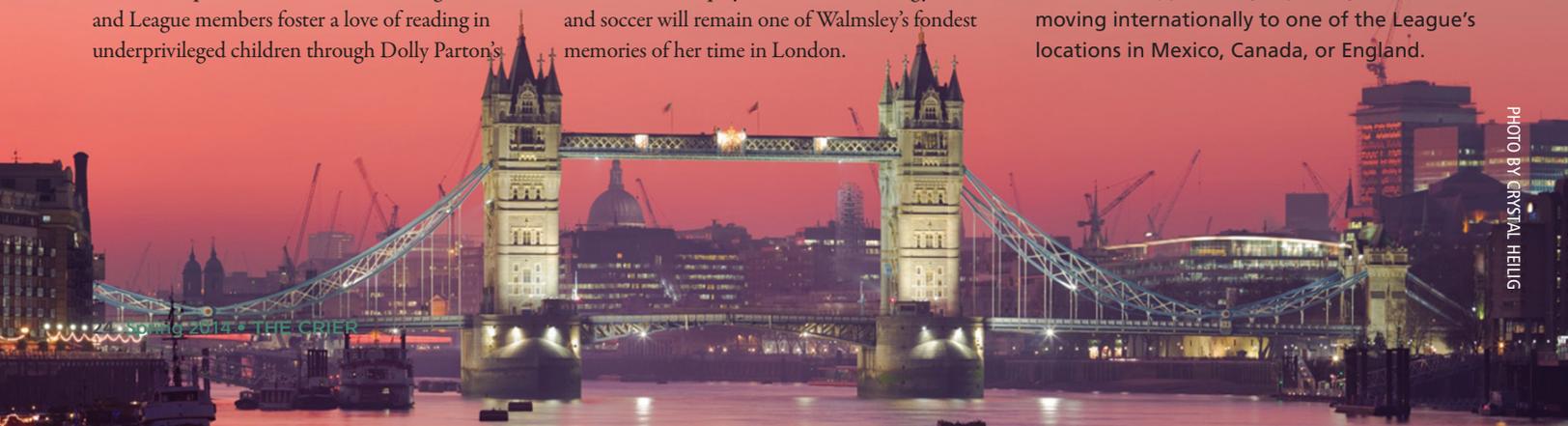
In addition to making new friends, Walmsley's time in London was witness to great moments in the history of London, specifically the Royal Wedding and the 2012 Summer Olympics. The wedding hype was palpable throughout the city during that time. Later, the 2012 Summer Olympics provided yet another exciting event to rally behind. Walmsley loved meandering through the streets and checking out different countries' large, elaborate tents that represented their culture and history. She attended the marathon, the women's soccer gold medal match, and the women's team gymnastics final. Walmsley remembers the British gymnasts falling out of the competition early and the Brits in the stands subsequently switching over to cheer for the American women. She remembers tears in her eyes when the ladies won gold. Hearing her national anthem played at both women's gymnastics and soccer will remain one of Walmsley's fondest memories of her time in London.



Walmsley thoroughly enjoyed her time in the London League. She soon learned that it has a very high turnover rate. Many members are expatriates who find themselves on two year work assignments in London and most transfer out when they move to the US. This leads to many members serving only 18 month periods in London; however, some, like Walmsley, continue to serve the League through work in their next home city.

Walmsley is excited to get involved with the JLC, and her new city. She has never lived in the south and is glad to have League members to ease this transition. As months go by, she misses life and the League in London. And though it was a wonderful experience, Walmsley expects nothing less out of her time in Charlotte with the JLC. 

As members of the Association of Junior Leagues International, all League members have the ability when changing cities of residence to transfer from League to League, a welcome opportunity especially when moving internationally to one of the League's locations in Mexico, Canada, or England.





Thompson Child and Family Focus Committee members show off for the camera at the Evening of the Heart event. PHOTO BY TAYLOR STADING

# *The Evening of the Heart*

JLC partners with Thompson Child & Family Focus to celebrate families

By Rebecca Jones

**P**icture this: It's February 8, almost one week before Valentine's Day, a day designated for celebrating love. In this case it's not just the romantic kind that's being honored, but the kind that exists between children and their parents, between families with a strong commitment to loving and supporting each other.

The Evening of the Heart is a well deserved evening out for parents who have completed a state mandated parenting course through the Thompson Child & Family Focus organization.

On this special night, 45 parents and 25 kids walked down the red carpet into the entry way of the child development center on Clanton Road. Once inside, parents enjoyed a catered dinner by Roots Catering and bingo complete with prizes. The kids, supervised by members of the Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. (JLC) members, chowed down on a fully donated dinner from Chick-fil-A and participated in a mock Winter Olympics. Families also spent time in the photo booth making memories that they won't soon forget.

Members of the Thompson Child & Family Focus placement spent the three

months prior preparing every detail of the event. This is the second year the JLC has been involved.

"It's such an honor to be part of a celebration of families who are committed to the betterment of their children and relationships as a family unit," said committee member Kimberly Delp.

The Thompson Child & Family Focus is a non-profit organization operating several distinct campuses, each providing comprehensive education, treatment and care for children in need. Over its impressive 128 years of existence, the organization has served over 13,000 families. The JLC has partnered with the Thompson Child & Family Focus for nearly 20 years. In addition to supporting events like The Evening of the Heart, JLC volunteers support the Parent Education Program by providing child enrichment activities while parents attend support groups. The organization also receives funds from the JLC to support their mission.

Rachel Eldridge, Volunteer Coordinator for Thompson Child & Family Focus, voiced her appreciation for the JLC's support of the recent event. "Evening of the Heart would not be possible with the JLC. The grant from the JLC is crucial along with the time and talents of the volunteers. Their skill in decorating, coordinating the logistics and making our families feel welcome is much appreciated." 

# SPRING INTO SERVICE AT

## Volunteer Opportunities Abound at Reid Park Academy

By Breana C. Jeter

As the Junior League of Charlotte, Inc.'s (JLC) Cornerstone Project blazes ahead, both the need and opportunity for volunteer service are ramping up. As part of the JLC's Cornerstone Project at Reid Park Academy, the League has pledged to donate \$500,000 in volunteer service hours, in addition to a monetary commitment of \$500,000 towards the System of Care and the JLC's own programming funds.

The committed volunteer hours can be provided by JLC members both through the League's existing community placements, as well as by individuals volunteering directly at the school. Whitney Jackson, JLC member and Project Manager, System of Care Initiative at Reid Park Academy noted, "In addition to the placements that are designated at Reid Park Academy, we are always looking for volunteers to support our children and families in the Reid Park community through volunteer service."

Jackson acknowledges the difficulty of volunteering in addition to the yearly placement requirement, but points out that Reid Park offers alternatives. "There are special events and one time opportunities that aren't as time intensive, but that are vital to the continued success of the Project."

Jackson notes that many JLC members have already begun to get involved in this way, and encourages others to do the same. "It's good for the school to see the League members' faces, but it is equally important for League members to have exposure to where their financial contributions are going and also to the work we are doing in the community."

Cheryl Jennings is the System of Care Volunteer Coordinator for Reid Park Academy. She works with the JLC, other community partners, and the school administration to create and publicize any and all volunteer opportunities in which the JLC can participate. "The Volunteer Voice," a monthly newsletter Jennings has created especially for JLC members, provides information on various opportunities for making a difference, such as the New Creations Youth Development Center after-school tutoring program; Scholastic Book Fair shifts in the school media center; and reading to children during the Annual African American Read-In.



Cheryl Jennings works with the JLC, other community partners, and the school administration to create and publicize any and all volunteer opportunities in which the JLC can participate. PHOTO BY CRYSTAL HEILIG

Jennings also assists in coordination and execution for the existing JLC placements at Reid Park, including facilitating the required CMS volunteer application for work at the school.

In addition, Jennings has created a volunteer training webinar tailored to JLC members in order for them to be fully prepared to go to work once they arrive at Reid Park Academy. "My job is both to develop volunteer activities and to connect eager volunteers with those activities," she said, and her enthusiasm for the task increases the excitement and effectiveness of these volunteer activities for the JLC.

For more information on volunteering at Reid Park Academy, or to be added to the "Volunteer Voice" newsletter email distribution, contact Cheryl Jennings at [cheryl@cfcr.org](mailto:cheryl@cfcr.org), or by telephone at (704) 577-7574.

More detail regarding the Junior League of Charlotte's Cornerstone Project at Reid Park Academy can be found on the JLC website at [jllcharlotte.org](http://jllcharlotte.org) under the "Support Us" tab.

## Q&A WITH CHERYL JENNINGS

Reid Park Academy's Volunteer Coordinator

Cheryl Jennings began working with Reid Park Academy in October 2013. She was asked to provide her perspectives on her role, the Academy and the Cornerstone Project.

### What is your role as a volunteer coordinator at Reid Park?

In my role as Reid Park Academy's System of Care recruiting and training JLC volunteers and creating volunteer opportunities for them at the school. Examples of existing opportunities are through JLC Family Health Link, Go Kids Go, Pathways to Girl Scouts, Kids in the Kitchen, Community Awareness and JLC Puppets.

Community members and those seeking to enhance and embrace the work at Reid Park Academy are also welcome to join in on the SOC volunteering efforts. While acting as a liaison for the SOC initiative with our external partners, I have the opportunity to create additional volunteer experiences for the broader community. Additionally, I work with the SOC Leadership and Planning Teams to gather a clear understanding of the types of volunteers needed to help support the school's initiatives. My goal as the Volunteer Coordinator is to serve the Reid Park Community through providing extraordinary service alongside our committed volunteers.

### Why did you become involved in the Project?

Over the course of a year, I had the opportunity to serve the Charlotte Mecklenburg Community as a volunteer for HandsOn Charlotte, Classroom Central, Salvation Army and Statesville Road IB World School. It was my experience at the school-level that truly sparked an interest in me to become part of the CMS system. Under the guidance of the Communities in Schools (CIS) Representative, I was able to experience the great need for volunteers and the roles that they play in enhancing the well-being of the school and community. When offered the opportunity to become a part of an initiative that shared my values and goals, the decision was

# REID PARK ACADEMY

made without hesitancy to join such an innovative process that would help our families and the West Charlotte community.

## What makes volunteering at Reid Park important?

Reid Park Academy makes great strides to help our children become a vital part of the community through academic success and higher level education preparation. Our teachers and administrative staff play an intricate role in making sure that the students reach their goals and that the community is well connected to assist with these efforts. No matter how valiant their efforts, volunteers are still a necessity. With stringent budget cuts, and a wavering economic environment, schools are often forced to seek out additional ways to help counter these situations; volunteers are a critical resource that can be utilized to assist with efforts. Furthermore, volunteers become beneficiaries of the successes of the school and are able to utilize their experiences to enhance their own lives and subsequent communities.

## What role would you like to see the Junior League of Charlotte play as a partner with Reid Park?

Although I know the Junior League has already donated a tremendous amount of volunteer hours and financial support, I would love if even more Junior League members could be involved in the various volunteer opportunities available on any given day. When students arrive at Reid Park Academy at 7:45 a.m., they may share a wonderful breakfast with a volunteer. Once that child enters the classroom at 8:15 a.m., a volunteer can assist children with math problems or other classroom assignments. At 9:30 a.m., children can be escorted to a resource/special education class by a volunteer. Then at 10:00 a.m., a teacher can get assistance with classroom tasks. At noon children can have lunch with a volunteer. When the children go out to recess, a volunteer can lead them in playing a game of dodgeball. In the afternoon, more classroom support is needed by volunteers as well as escorts to the bus for a trip home — and leaving the children with knowledge that a volunteer will greet them again the next morning. It is my great hope that a combination of volunteers, including Junior League members and others in the community, can someday soon fulfill all of these roles for the students at Reid Park Academy.

## CURRENT JLC VOLUNTEER INITIATIVES AT REID PARK

**Pathway to Girl Scouts Club** — The Girl Scouts is an international organization dedicated to building leadership skills for success in the real world for girls from Kindergarten through 12th grade. The JLC is helping implement a Girl Scout leadership model called Pathway to Girl Scouts, where girls participate in a six to eight week leadership program to learn new skills and build confidence. The first event in February was cancelled due to snow, but future events are on schedule.

**JLC Club** — The JLC has developed programming for a second club to participate in the ARK in the Park Family Night program. Programming for this club includes Kids in the Kitchen healthy eating demonstrations, Kids in the Kitchen Garden activity, Community Awareness (viewing of Metal Health and Bullying DVDs), JLC Puppets, and Go Kids Go Preview Night.

**Go Kids Go!** — The inaugural Go Kids Go! event for Reid Park Academy is scheduled for Saturday, May 17. Go Kids Go! is a free community event with activities designed to get children moving by providing them with active ideas they can use daily and teach others. Events also provide children and their parents with educational opportunities relating to healthy eating and an active lifestyle. Emphasis is placed on non-traditional, indoor/outdoor and group activities.

**Family Health Link** — The first of the JLC's Family Health Link programs for Reid Park Academy is being scheduled in coordination with Reid Park Academy's principal for September. This is a free community health fair during which the JLC and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) partner to sponsor Family Health Link and feature health assessments and vision, hearing and dental screenings for children Pre-Kindergarten - 12, as well as education topics for children and families, entertainment and giveaways.

**Second Harvest - Backpack program, Mobile Pantry** — The JLC and Second Harvest Food Bank have implemented a backpack program to provide weekend food to families in need, with over 600 backpacks delivered to date. JLC members pack the backpacks and also participate in Friday deliveries. This program will be expanded in the 2014-2015 year to include a mobile pantry for neighborhood families to obtain food on a regular basis, possibly monthly or quarterly.

**Reid Park Community Service Day - NeighborWoods Tree Planting** — In spring 2013, the JLC made the commitment to be a part of the team to volunteer for NeighborWoods, a service day where trees will be planted in the Reid Park neighborhood. The lead agency in this effort is TreesCharlotte. This service day took place March 22.

**Kids in the Kitchen Garden Relocation** — In order to provide greater opportunity for student involvement and participation with schoolyard gardening, Kids in the Kitchen is hosting a spring service opportunity to relocate the raised bed garden currently located at Amay James center to a location adjacent to Reid Park Academy. The committee will then enhance the programming around this project to include planting, tending and harvesting at the garden, as well as teaching demonstrations in the school using a new mobile kitchen cart and produce from the garden.

**Staff Appreciation** — The JLC has initiated a staff appreciation program at Reid Park. Past services have included a staff teacher-workday luncheon, goodie bag giveaways and staff thank-you valentines with donut gift cards included. A meeting is being scheduled with the school PTO leaders to discuss how both groups can work together for future staff appreciation events, including a spring Teacher Appreciation Week, tentatively scheduled for mid-April. 🌱

## Want more?

Look for Volunteer Opportunities at Reid Park Academy through JLC publications such as The Happenings, The JLC Blog, special service day announcements and the JLC Placement Brochure.



Dr. Jason Sperati gets a high five from his young patient. PHOTO BY MARCIE JONES-WILSON

# Improving Smiles All Over Town

Give Kids a Smile benefits local kids by providing free dental care.

By Kari Kessell

**G**ive Kids a Smile honored National Dental Health month during the month of February by facilitating a day for Charlotte children in desperate need to receive free dental care. The Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. (JLC) partners with Charlotte Dental Association, Communities in Schools, and Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools to make this day a success. The Give Kids a Smile event is part of the American Dental Association's Give Kids a Smile program and is traditionally held on the first Friday in February. This year's event took place on February 1 and served a total of \*\*\* kids who received a total of \$\$\$ in free dental care. Students are bused from their various schools to local dentists to receive this service. The Charlotte event has the benefit of a grant from Delta Dental that assists with transportation needs. The JLC's Family Healthlink is

another huge part of making this day a success. Aside from Give Kids a Smile, this group works all year to improve the dental health of underserved kids in Charlotte.

The members of the Family Healthlink Committee are active in the community throughout the year providing training in local elementary schools. Kids in these communities are treated to three lessons over three weeks that help them understand the importance of their dental health. Each lesson takes about a half an hour and helps to make dental health fun. The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention notes that one in four children have cavities in their baby teeth, a problem that is made worse by the lack of dental care offered for Medicaid patients. According to the Family Healthlink Vice-Chair, Liz Nutter, the students are excited to see the JLC committee coming back week after week and teaching them hands on lessons to improve their dental health. The focus is not only on brushing but also on the importance of

healthy eating and helping them to feel comfortable with visiting the dentist. This becomes important as they visit the dentist in February, especially as many children are visiting a dentist for the first time. In the past this placement has served students at Billingsville Elementary School and Hickory Grove Elementary School.

For this year's event, 14 local dentists participated and provided the necessary dental care each child requires. Many of the children will benefit from treatment beyond the one day event. The Give Kids a Smile program attempts to place the children with dentists in their area so that once a relationship is formed the child will be more likely to go back for future visits. The JLC places a member of their committee at each provider's office. The students' nerves are eased as they are greeted with a friendly face from the JLC. This event benefits approximately 450,000 children each year with more than 1,500 events across the country made possible through efforts of 40,000 volunteers. 



THE JUNIOR LEAGUE  
OF CHARLOTTE, INC.

*Making A Difference Since 1926*

The Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. would like to thank all of those who made the 2014 Give Kids A Smile event a success. Together we provided free dental services to children from underserved families throughout the Charlotte area.

Thanks to our partners The Charlotte Dental Association, Communities in Schools, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, The Mecklenburg County Health Department, Delta Dental Foundation and everyone that helped make this event possible:

Bateman Family Dentistry  
Bird Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics  
Carolina Dental Arts of Ballantyne Village  
Carolina Kids Dentistry  
CMC Dentistry  
Eastover Pediatric Dentistry  
Ghorshi Family Dentistry  
Hume Family Dentistry  
Laxer, Long and Savage  
Layton Dentistry  
Pediatric Dentistry of Matthews  
Phillippi and Kwon Family Dentistry  
Webber Dentistry  
Young and Polite Children's Dentistry