

THE MAGAZINE OF
THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TULSA

Volume 6, Issue 3
SUMMER 2009


gusher

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**Global
Gardens**
Sowing Seeds for the Future

PLUS:
Strategic Plan • Introducing Our 2009-2010 President • Year-End Awards

A close-up photograph of a young child with light brown hair, wearing a light blue shirt, blowing on a dandelion seed head. The child's face is in profile, and their lips are pursed together. The dandelion seed head is in the foreground, with several seeds already blown away, floating in the air. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green field.

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from the editor...

Every now and then you have the opportunity to be part of something truly worthwhile and larger than yourself. That is how it's felt to me the last two years as Editor of Gusher. I have genuinely loved this placement within the Junior League of Tulsa.

It's been an honor to have been part of the amazing women who came before me. Gusher was published by the Junior League of Tulsa from 1950 until 1992 and was brought back in 2003. Nancy Cantrell, now a member of the Junior League of Dallas, stepped up that year to start from scratch, bringing Gusher back. Abigail Prescott, Emily Dunaway, Susan Kenny and I then followed. Each of us and our committees added another dimension to our growing publication.

In 2003 Gusher had a color cover and 12 internal black and white pages. Today, five editors later, Gusher is a full color publication with 20 internal pages. The groundwork of each editor has paved the way for the next, so any successes achieved by one are truly shared by all and, having played our part, we look forward to the future success of Gusher.

Recognizing this growth, Abigail Prescott, Communications Council VP, envisioned a new organizational plan for Gusher. Next year a team of three will ensure Gusher has a bright future. Jennifer Roberson will take my place as Editor and Production chair, making sure all the pieces come together, that things stay on track and then provide distribution. Katherine Haskell as Strategic Marketing chair will exercise her writing skills to see that the mission and message of JLT is communicated. Cyndi Kernan, Media Relations chair, will head the ad sales effort, keeping Gusher on the path of being a viable self sustaining enterprise. These ladies have been well chosen and are perfectly suited for their tasks.

For Nancy, Abigail, Emily, Susan and I, having the opportunity to communicate the worthwhile message and the volunteer service of the Junior League of Tulsa has been a true privilege. With the new team in place, the future looks bright. Take it away, ladies!

Happy Summer,



Mary Anne Thoman
Editor 2008-2009

Past editors Emily Dunaway and Susan Kenny, current editor Mary Anne Thoman, unavailable for photo Nancy Cantrell and Abigail Prescott



On the cover: JLT Global Gardens Committee Chair Shea Eby in the garden with Global Gardens proud participants from Rosa Parks Elementary School. Photograph by Leslie Hoyt, www.lesliehoyt.com.

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gusher is a quarterly publication of The Junior League of Tulsa, Inc., 3633 South Yale Ave., Tulsa, OK 74135, and is devoted to informing the membership and the community of current League projects, events and issues. For information on advertising in *Gusher* please go to www.jltulsa.org and click on *Gusher* or e-mail gusher@jltulsa.org.

Publications Committee 2008-2009

Mary Anne Thoman, Editor
Cathey Capozziello
Claire Johnson
Stephanie Leonard

Thank you to our Guest Contributors

Nikki Bell
Shea Eby
Katherine Haskell
Belinda Hedgecock
Robyn Hunsucker
Amy James
Stacy Rippy

Letter from the president

It is hard to believe a year has passed since I stood before the membership and shared my vision for the Junior League of Tulsa's future. A big piece of that vision was that we would each find that the time we spent volunteering this year would be time well spent. Well, this has been an incredibly successful year for us and I think we accomplished our goal!

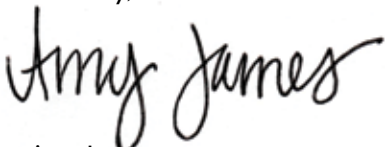
I tasked my Board of Directors with coming up with a list of ten things we accomplished this year. I'm happy to report that the hardest part was narrowing our list to only ten accomplishments! As we wrapped up another year of building a better Tulsa, we had many successes to reflect upon from our rich history, and many to add to the list. Just a few of the ways JLT assisted Tulsa this year include the following:

- 6000 visitors were served in the Family Resource Library at the Children's Hospital at Saint Francis, our signature project
- 15 area non-profit agencies benefited from Junior League volunteer assistance
- Two graduating seniors committed to voluntarism received college assistance
- One woman in transition seeking a better future received educational assistance
- 30 at-risk students gained self-esteem in the garden at Rosa Parks Elementary
- Women leaving the criminal justice system received life skills training, interview clothing and job-related training
- Child Abuse Network implemented the Volunteer Recruitment Program we developed for them
- 300 women received volunteer training and leadership development skills while also donating more than 40,000 hours back to the community

Many of our accomplishments will lay the foundation for our future. A fantastic fundraising year, exceeding our fundraising budget by 27%, will help insure our financial stability. Our dynamic, new strategic plan examines the challenges our league faces and will guide us into the future and position us for continued success. The 2009-2010 Board of Directors has been working for several months strategizing, planning and gearing up to take the helm and continue moving our organization and our mission forward. And our trained volunteers--easily, our greatest asset--will continue to do great things not only in JLT but throughout the community, just as they have been doing for more than 85 years.

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as the Junior League president this year. I thank you, and my family, for allowing me this unforgettable experience. It really has been my all-time favorite JLT placement. I want to offer my sincere appreciation to each member for your commitment to the League and for what we have accomplished together this year. It was indeed time well spent, and we have made a difference.

Sincerely,



Amy James
2008-2009 President



Amy James
President
2008-2009

Junior League of Tulsa reaches out to women of all races, religions, & national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism.

Mission Statement

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

Core Values

- Community:** It is the heart of all we do
- Diversity:** The synergy of different perspectives
- Voluntarism:** An essential component of our society
- Mentoring:** Essential growth for future generations
- Leadership:** The development of individual potential
- Respect:** For our members' time, energy and skills
- Collaboration:** Forming partnerships and strategic alliances
- Well-being:** Physical, mental, emotional and social

Board of Directors 2009-2010

President Rachael Hunsucker
 President-elect Cassie Barkett
 Treasurer Neil Dieterle
 Recording Secretary Kim Smith
 Corresponding Secretary Kate Howell
 Community Council VP Sarah Dougherty

Communications Council VP Emily Dunaway
 Community Program VP Shea Eby
 Financial Council VP Abigail Prescott
 Membership Council VP Alison Wade
 Nominating Chair Nicole Cameron
 Strategic Planning Chair Thayla Bohn



Clockwise from back left: Emily Dunaway, Alison Wade, Kim Smith, Sarah Dougherty, Neil Dieterle, Kate Howell, Shea Eby, Nicole Cameron, Rachael Hunsucker, Cassie Barkett, Abigail Prescott

Not pictured: Thayla Bohn

Transitions

JLT Hugs Committee celebrates and supports our members. Let us celebrate with you and share the exciting times that are taking place in your life. You are encouraged to share the following: birth announcements, engagement and wedding announcements, condolences, any community or business recognition, or announcement of a new job or promotion, etc. Please send all details to Heather Cowdery, heather.nichols@poloralphlauren.com. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Small Miracles



Harper Merdese White
Daughter of Jennifer (S) & Brad
Born March 20, 2009



London Catherine Ward
Daughter of Mary Catherine (A) & Jeremy
Born March 26, 2009



Leighton Jean Canada
Daughter of Andrea (S) & Deke
Born March 31, 2009



Emily Marie Amberg
Daughter of Robyn (A) and Landon
Born on April 11, 2009



Victoria Elizabeth Leake
Daughter of Regan (A) & James
Born April 13, 2009



Connor Graham Dunaway
Son of Emily (A) & Matt
Born April 15, 2009



Sophia Renée Bolden
Daughter of Michelle (A) & Stephen
Born May 9, 2009



Sadie Coleman Howell
Daughter of Kate (A) & Jason
Born May 12, 2009

Condolences

To **Sarah Senger** (S) on the death of her husband

To the family of **Virginia Woods** (SE)

To **Rachael Hunsucker** (A) on the death of her father-in-law

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Introducing

Our 2009-2010 President: Rachael Hunsucker

By Mary Anne Thoman



the involvement of her mother as well as her aunt, Margaret Cornell, she joined over ten years ago and loves to promote not only JLT but any type of volunteerism. "There are so many ways to be involved whether it's through your children's school, church, or one of the many Tulsa area agencies. It is an incredible feeling when you know you helped make a difference."

An accountant by trade, when Rachael joined JLT she was the quiet person in the background and never envisioned chairing a committee let alone becoming president. "While I was always compulsively organized, I was missing some people skills. I could be very direct. Being around a variety of chairs during my early years, I grew leaps and bounds as a person when I broadened my thinking and realized there was more than one answer to every question; there was more than one way to look at a problem; there was more than one way to be a leader." Rachael is a clear example of what JLT does beyond community service. The Junior League of Tulsa trains effective leaders and volunteers to serve and provide for the community long-term.

Rachael, her husband Ragen and their four dogs, Otis, Cledus, Blue and Maggie reside with their rescued horse Mama on their farm in Coweta. Her husband Ragen is a car enthusiast and they spend most vacations road-tripping across the country for the 'next great deal'. They also enjoy weekly movie dates and performances by Tulsa Opera as season ticketholders.

Rachael credits the Junior League's partnerships with other local agencies as a real strength and a great way to stay current with relevant issues. She also stated "My involvement with the Junior League has also provided me with marketable skills. When I interviewed for my current job my resume stood out due to the board positions, experience, and committee training provided by the Junior League."

"Back to Basics" is the theme Rachael chose for the upcoming year. JLT spent the past year modernizing its strategic plan, updating its structure, and refocusing on membership training. Rachael states "The final piece to this transformation is to circle back and evaluate how everything fits with our mission. How can we simplify to the basics of what we need to do? How can we make sure we are focused on the right things instead of distractions? How can we help simplify the process to be a volunteer?"

Community service was an important part of Rachael Hunsucker's life growing up. Her parents, Henry Will and the late Virginia Will, were involved in various Tulsa organizations and many times brought her along to help. "Volunteering was an everyday occurrence for me growing up in Tulsa. I thought it was normal to go with my mom to a community project or an arts fundraiser with my dad. I was raised understanding it was my responsibility to give of my time, money, and efforts for those who were not as fortunate and to improve the community around me. I am so grateful to my parents who instilled those values in me and every day I try to live up to the example they set."

Rachael never forgot the lessons learned and has made volunteering a priority as an adult. Familiar with the Junior League through

Hello, Sustainers!



Sue Curry
Sustaining President

**2009-2010
Sustaining Board**

- Mary Alice Ahlgren
- Laurie Brumbaugh
- Carol Bush
- Robyn Cannon
- Ann Foster
- Shari Graham
- Annabel Jones
- Brenda Jones
- Rachel Kopczynski
- Deborah Kurin

Summer is here and with it comes change. Shari Graham served us well the past three years as our Sustainer Board President; she announced earlier this year that it was time for a change, opening the door for a new President. Shari was wonderful, and I will do my best to follow her strong leadership. She has agreed to continue to serve on the Sustainer Board for the coming year.

Our spring Sustainer party, hosted at my home in April, was so much fun with lots of delicious food prepared and catered by Tuck Curren, Chef and Owner of the Local Table. Chef Tuck attended the event and demonstrated how to cook his lollipop lamb chops marinated in lemon juice, olive oil, salt and pepper, on the outdoor grill. They were outstanding, better than any lollipop I've ever tasted! Many other delicious delights covered the dining room table such as Bloody Mary Shrimp served single in delicate Chinese red lacquer spoons and simply divine chocolate brownies. It was also a perfect evening to stroll in the tiered, landscaped backyard and converse inside or out!

Book Club and Restaurant Club enjoyed many wonderful evenings throughout the spring and will continue in the summer months. Book club will be reviewing *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger in June at Connie Doverspike's home, *Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon and Lucia Graves in July at Debbie Luthey's home and *March* by Geraldine Brooks at my home (a swim party also, perfect for that new Maxi dress and/or swimsuit). Each month two book club members facilitate the meetings, one as hostess and one as reviewer.

Restaurant Club held TWO dinners in June, one at the new Olivetto's, plus a wine dinner at The Local Table. The special wine dinners at Biga and The Local Table have been enjoyed by all who attended. Upcoming dinners will be held at the new location of Rick's Café, as well as Villa Ravenna in the Farm. Visiting either or both clubs each month or whenever you can is a treat in mind, body and spirit! To inquire about the clubs contact Ann Foster, Restaurant Club, at 694-6118 or Annabel Jones, Book Club, at 629-7552. We encourage you to join us this summer and throughout the coming year.

The fall issue of Gusher will highlight our events for 2009-10. Also, if any of you need to reach me, Sue Curry, by phone, my number is 298.4651. Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,
Sue Curry



Beverly Torr, Barbara Ford



Caroline Crain, Kay Holmes, Jocie Love



Sally Stewart, Erma Hensen



Dru Johnson

Jennie Wolek
Broker Associate, CRS, GRI
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918-712-2311 Fax
jwolek@kw.com
www.jenniesellstulsa.com
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Anne Nunnelee, Genie Shannon, Chef Tuck Curran, Lynette Danskin, Ann Crouch

Sue Curry, Laurie Brumbaugh, Mary Alice Ahlgren, Ann Foster



Ann Lagere, Judy Wright



Natalie Brundred, Frances Chandler



Carol Bush, Shari Graham, Brenda Jones, Cindy Morrison

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Going Forward - A New Plan

By Nikki Bell

This time last year the Strategic Planning committee was tasked with rewriting the Strategic Plan. At that point, the word became change. Not change for the sake of change, but change for the sake of progress. The time had come to chart a new course for our great organization.

Bruce Jeffrey was brought in to guide us through the process. A native of Kansas City, Mr. Jeffrey has worked with multiple clients in the Tulsa area. With a background in Strategic Planning, Mr. Jeffrey provided the format for the Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats analysis, (or S.W.O.T) used for "Speak Outs" and facilitated us through the process of creating a new plan.

The plan is exciting for many reasons. First, all members had a voice in the new plan. In the fall, members participated in an online survey and "Speak Outs". The survey asked a range of questions from educational backgrounds to favorite community project. At "Speak Outs" members were asked to provide their ideas for the Strengths and Weaknesses of our organization and then for the Opportunities and Threats facing our organization. For each topic they listed three ideas on a card. Then they took turns going around the room reading from their list while the recorder documented the ideas on a flipchart. At the end, everyone voted on their top ten favorite suggestions. The three items with the most votes were compiled into a master list.

In February, the current and incoming Boards met with Bruce and

reviewed all the feedback to develop the strategies for the new plan. Based on these strategies, the councils identified the measurements that would indicate progress, or the metrics. At the end of May, Bruce facilitated a session at the Leadership Retreat. Incoming chairs identified the priorities for their committee and wrote their action plans; all of which are directly tied to a specific strategy.

Second, we now have a simple way to measure our progress. For example, the Community Council will track the lives touched through projects. As the Financial Council strives to increase revenue, one number they will be following is the quantity of tickets sold to non-League members.

Throughout the process, the committee was actively engaged. Appointed for their variety and length of service, they each served as a liaison to a specific council, provided valuable insights and helped fine tune the final document. The group included Cassie Barkett, Kathy Henry, Shelli Holland-Handy, and Ronda Lau.

The world around us is rapidly evolving and in particular the community we serve. It is crucial that we look for ways to improve and adapt our processes without losing hold of our roots. These efforts will allow us to move forward with a sharper focus.

Mission

The Junior League of Tulsa, Inc., 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.

Focus

Women and Children in transition

Objectives

- 100% Client satisfaction
- 15% Increase in revenue (over three year period)
- Increase membership satisfaction

Strategies

Communications: Improve internal and external communications by maximizing available technology, utilizing a clear, consistent path of communication, and creating an Annual Marketing Plan.

Community: Improve the community through select 'hands on' projects, collaborative partnerships, and by maintaining long term relationships with projects/organizations.

Financial: Generate new funding by cultivating donor relationships, obtaining grants, and pursuing multiple sources of income.

Membership: Recruit, develop, and retain diverse and dedicated volunteers by providing rewarding placements, beneficial training, and a lifelong connection.

Structure and Systems: Maximize organizational effectiveness and efficiency by putting the right people in the right places and by utilizing the Board/council/committee structure.

Values

Community... It is the heart of all we do.

Voluntarism... An essential component of our society.

Leadership... The development of individual potential.

Collaboration... Forming partnerships and strategic alliances.

Diversity... The synergy of different perspectives.

Mentoring... Essential growth for future generations.

Respect... For our members' time, energy, and skills.

Well-being... Physical, mental, emotional and social.

“The Junior League: Women around the world as catalysts for lasting community change”

By JLT President – Amy James

Over 650 delegates from 293 Junior Leagues gathered at this year’s Association of Junior Leagues Annual Conference themed “Create the Future.”

League Presidents, Incoming Presidents, Incoming Presidents-Elect and other League Leaders spent three exciting days attending workshops designed to maximize their community impact; voted on a new mission; listened to keynote speaker, Erin Gruwell, Founder of the Freedom Writers Foundation; and shared in the honors awarded to Leagues and League members for outstanding community contributions. The Junior Leagues even welcomed a new League to the Association: the Junior League of San Joaquin Valley, California.

Representing the Junior League of Tulsa was President Amy James, as our voting delegate, Rachael Hunsucker and Cassie Barkett.

The AJLI Board welcomed a lively conversation during this year’s Association Dialogue and is proud to announce the adoption of our new Vision Statement: “The Junior League: Women around the world as catalysts for lasting community change.” The AJLI Board looks forward to realizing this vision with the development of a bold new strategic plan that will be designed to ensure that The Junior League movement thrives for decades to come. The new Vision Statement reflects our hopes for the future...our vision for the next 20-plus years... yet works in tandem with our existing Mission and Reaching Out Statements,” said Debbie Brown Robinson, AJLI Board President. The new Vision Statement represents both a call to action to prospective members and an inspired invitation to existing members to re-engage. In the true spirit of Mary Harriman, JLT Founder, it encourages us to seize new opportunities to address issues critical to members at a local level, as well as matters of global concern. And, finally, it positions us to refocus our Association’s purpose to generate lasting community change and move forward in the 21st century through the leadership of trained volunteers.



JLT President Amy James casts our vote, back row third from left.

One of the conference highlights was keynote speaker, Erin Gruwell, Founder of the Freedom Writers Foundation, who shared her story as a teacher of “unteachable” teenagers in a racially divided urban community. The impact of her work and perseverance was an inspiration to all who attended.

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Global Gardens

Sowing Seeds for the Future

By Stephanie Leonard, Shea Eby, Katherine Haskell

It started as a concept of peace and education. An aspiration to reach children most affected by troubles in our society and our economy. A dream to work with students and the community to change lives, one season at a time. Heather Oakley, Global Gardens' founder, knew she'd have to get her hands dirty – up to her elbows in topsoil dirty – to turn these goals into reality. But now, Global Gardens, in partnership with The Junior League of Tulsa, has planted seeds that will grow rooms full of students and gardens bursting with blooms.

Global Gardens helps over 1,100 elementary school students create community gardens in low-income districts where over 99% of the students qualify for free or reduced-fee meals. It provides hands-on science education, incorporating aspects of literacy, history and art education, among other subjects. As a strong community partner, The Junior League provides volunteers and other resources to help Global Gardens spread its outreach to other elementary schools and the greater Tulsa community.

Establishing Roots

Incorporating philosophies of peace education and conflict resolution into school projects is something Ms. Oakley learned while teaching in challenging places like Uganda and Harlem. Masters degrees in Urban Science Education and International Educational Development/Peace Education from Columbia University have given her the tools to formalize her natural inclinations. Returning to her home town of Tulsa, she started Global Gardens in 2006, with an initial pilot program at Eugene Fields Elementary School in 2007. In the spring of 2008, the program expanded to Rosa Parks Elementary School, and The Junior League stepped in to help.

“The committee helped everyday at the after school program by supporting the students, providing encouragement, building bonds with the children and helping in their gardens,” explains Shea Eby, Global Gardens chair when it first moved to Rosa Parks. Ms. Oakley says, “The support and encouragement that Junior League has given our students and our entire program has been so incredible. Each volunteer makes our students feel so special. They have helped our children, and of course our garden, grow in many ways. Shea Eby has done an incredible job in her role and has become a part of the Global Gardens family. I am so grateful for our relationship with Junior League!”

Currently 23 classes, Pre-K through 5th Grade, participate weekly in Global Gardens during the school year. Curricula include in-class education facilitated by Global Gardens Educators, as well as a free daily after school component, assisted by Junior League volunteers.

All-Season Growing

Fall and winter are the times to research what type of garden each student wants to create in the spring. Students at Rosa Parks have their own gardens, each with a different theme, which they sometimes develop with one or two other students. During spring students plant their gardens, then nurture and gather their flowers. Throughout the summer, they watch their fruits, vegetables, and herbs grow with anticipation. Themed gardens include a Girl's Garden, a Sports Garden, and a Night Garden, for everything that grows when it's dark. This last one is the brainchild of student Bianca Pineda, who also founded their self-published Global Gardens Times newspaper, distributed to the entire Rosa Parks Elementary School.

The Art Garden, planted by Emma Rehn, is a personal passion for this grade-schooler. “Each day she paints the bricks that weave through her garden. Art is in her soul and her garden provides the perfect outlet for her talents,” describes Annie Ferris, a Global Gardens teacher. Her chosen plantings even have an art connection. Her ‘Painted Lady’ blooms beautifully; ornamental corn will become corn husk dolls; and gourds will be turned in to bird-houses to decorate the garden.

Connor Prag's medicinal garden was chosen because he wants to be a doctor when he grows up. He chose ‘Bachelor Buttons,’ as he knows you must have a bachelor's degree to become a doctor. His aloe vera was used on a fellow classmates' sunburn this spring. For David Pineda, Mexico is literally “in his roots,” as his parents emigrated from there. Tomatoes, cilantro, sweet peppers and jalapeños will make his family's salsa and enchiladas delicious. Classmates are excited to learn about an Oaxacan celebration, “The Night of the Radishes,” when his root vegetables will be carved into images of people, instruments and animals.





Karen Vance, Principal of Rosa Parks Elementary, elaborates, “Global Gardens has been a life changing resource for our children. Children begin the program without an understanding of how they contribute to our community and develop into citizens who have a deep understanding of how each of us can powerfully affect the fate of the natural world. The Global Gardens staff, and the support and interest from volunteers in Junior League, have allowed us to create new possibilities for our children at Rosa Parks.”

To Market, to Market

It was always an idea the students and teachers at Global Gardens had...to sell produce and herbs at a local farmers market. Last fall, JLT was able to help the students get this project off the ground. Volunteers helped bundle their herbs and flowers for sale at the Cherry Street Farmers Market, then managed the booth behind the scenes. Students proved to be natural pitchmen as they also sold t-shirts and postcards they designed. “Watching the students gain confidence throughout the morning of the market was so great to see...Describing their items to buyers, counting money, even bartering flowers for fresh baked bread from other vendors. By the end of the morning, they were pros,” describes Kim Smith, Cherry Street Farmers Market’s manager, and a Junior League member. Students from both Eugene Fields and Rosa Parks Elementary plan to sell items at the farmers market this year, with assistance from the Junior League.

JLT Tending the Garden

Global Gardens has been very popular within the League. “Global Gardens is a fantastic program! It’s amazing to see these children so passionate about their gardens and bringing new life to the world. It is so much more than just a garden to these kids – it’s a way for them to channel their feelings into something beautiful. I truly enjoyed spending time with them and watching their faces light up!” enthuses Mary Leake, Global Gardens committee member.

This past spring, the Global Gardens committee was awarded the “Spirit of the League Award” by the JLT for its outstanding commitment to this new community partner. During the fall of 2008, Shea Eby was awarded Global Gardens Volunteer of the Season. “It was the help of my committee that led to the honor. We all looked forward to helping the students at Rosa Parks. We built genuine relationships with the students and they were always sure to let us know how much they appreciated us.” The Junior League community is looking forward to fertilizing this rich relationship further this year.

Peace Lilies in Winter

During the winter, the curriculum includes learning about peace philosophies, different cultures, and new art projects for the garden. Students learn different ways to prepare the foods they’ve grown, then share dishes with classmates. These new ideas and healthy eating habits are community-enriching skills they bring home to share with their families. On Fridays students are encouraged to bring family, friends and neighbors to class. It’s a time for the students to share what they have learned and done.

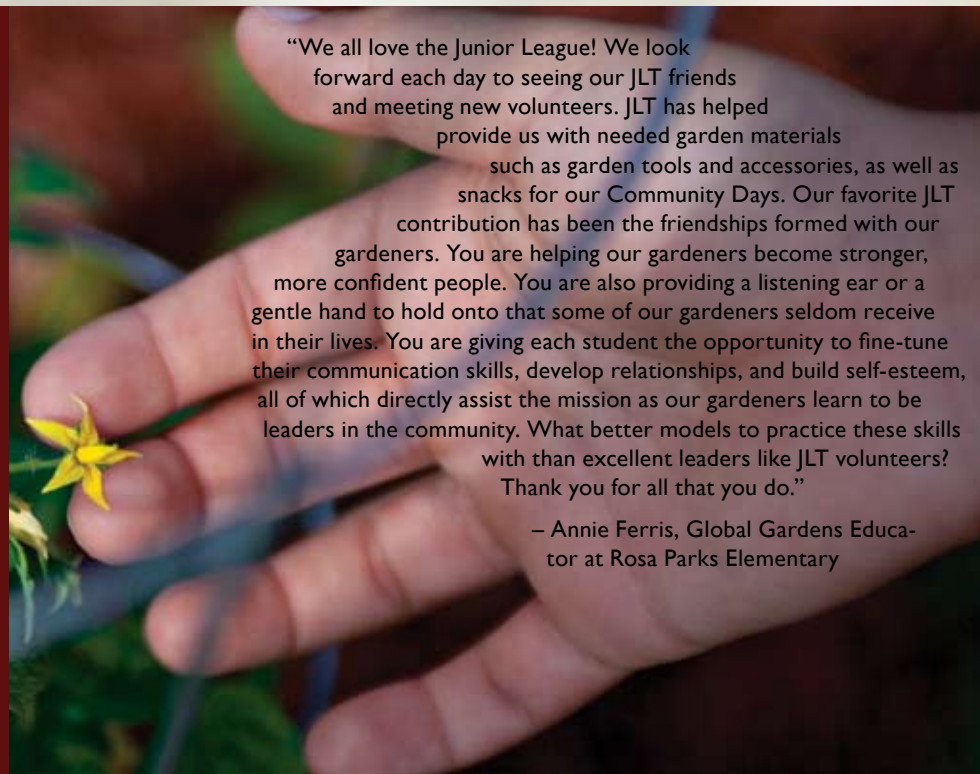
As part of the peace education curriculum, the after-school program starts with a “community circle.” Students talk about tasks for the day and do a breathing exercise that helps them clear their minds. Class ends with an “appreciation circle”. This is a time for the students to stop and thank another student for helping them that day, or a visitor for coming. “They would make sure to appreciate ‘Ms. Shea’ for the things I had helped with that day. At first I thought planting two bulbs wasn’t significant. After being thanked, I quickly realized it was more than the bulbs. It was me just being there,” describes Shea Eby. Students end each day by clasping hands and cheering “Global Gardens rocks!”

This past winter, Junior League volunteers helped the students throw a “New You” party to celebrate the New Year. Students researched how different countries celebrate the holiday, bringing music and traditional foods to share. Third-grader Brady hosted the American booth. “The party was really cool because when you’re like 50 years old you’ll look back and say that party was the best thing that ever happened to me.”

Global gardens is a non-profit organization funded solely through donations and grants. Donations really help out the organizations, but they also have some other tangible needs that they would love to have donated:

- Watering cans
- Garden gloves
- 40 Plastic Water Bottles
- Tool Set
- Laminator
- Laser Printer

Contact Heather Oakley at gardenheaterh@gmail.com if you can assist with these needs.



“We all love the Junior League! We look forward each day to seeing our JLT friends and meeting new volunteers. JLT has helped provide us with needed garden materials such as garden tools and accessories, as well as snacks for our Community Days. Our favorite JLT contribution has been the friendships formed with our gardeners. You are helping our gardeners become stronger, more confident people. You are also providing a listening ear or a gentle hand to hold onto that some of our gardeners seldom receive in their lives. You are giving each student the opportunity to fine-tune their communication skills, develop relationships, and build self-esteem, all of which directly assist the mission as our gardeners learn to be leaders in the community. What better models to practice these skills with than excellent leaders like JLT volunteers? Thank you for all that you do.”

– Annie Ferris, Global Gardens Educator at Rosa Parks Elementary

A Fresh Start with the 2008-2009 Provisional Class!

By Belinda Hedgecock

The 2008-2009 Provisional Class got off to a fresh start by welcoming a class of 54 women with a heart for the community to the August retreat. During the retreat, the Provisionals socialized with their liaison groups, learned the history of the League and had an overview of how the Junior League of Tulsa operates. The fabulous speakers touched on topics including how to “go green,” decluttering their lives and homes, the basics of professionalism and personal presentation, and networking know-how. The Provisional leadership team gave them a first-hand tour of JLT’s legacy in Tulsa with a bus tour of some current and past projects, including CAN, DVIS-Sojourners Inn, The St. Francis Resource Library, The Day Center for the Homeless and the Global Garden site at Eugene Field Elementary.

The key focus of the provisional program is training and this year’s committee found ways to incorporate JLT education in fun and diverse ways throughout the year at socials and meetings alike. The first Provisional meeting provided insight into JLT’s heritage with a panel of past Presidents who shared what they had gained from the League. Hands-on training continued throughout the year with Impact projects such as Heart Walk, Project 12 and the Kids in the Kitchen Iron Chef Challenge. The Provisional members also got their first experience with fundraisers and many had so much fun they volunteered for extra shifts with both Holiday Market and American Girl.

The Provisional project theme was to help

alleviate childhood obesity. As a part of the project, Provisionals assisted Global Gardens, staffed the prep and planning and then worked the Garden booth at the Farmer’s Market with the Global Gardens students. They also gathered food items for the homeless and, finally, assisted the Get Fit Challenge group by supporting the children running in the race as well as the *Kids in the Kitchen* food demonstrations.

The best way this year can be summed up is from a Provisional, of course. Andrea Martin states, “Being a Provisional this year has been a great experience. I’ve had the pleasure of getting to know so many great women while learning about League and have been graciously welcomed by the active members. It’s made such a positive impact in my life that I’ve encouraged some of my close friends to get involved next year. I’m eager to get started on a committee and hopefully touch others lives in the community as I’ve seen take place this year. Thank you to all the Provisional leaders and Belinda for making this a fun and rewarding experience!”

Many thanks to the Provisional Committee members Jennifer Bennett, Michelle Bishop, Jordan Coffman, Catherine Costanza, Julie Hopper, Kathleen Jones, Jennie Wolek and Lindsay Zanovich for their hard work on making this a successful year for the Provisionals. Congratulations to the Provisionals, listed below, who were made active members at the Annual Meeting in May.

Some of the Provisional Class and Liason’s at the May General Meeting; bottom right: Chair—Belinda Hedgecock

NEW ACTIVE MEMBERS

Jessica Adams
Tai Allen
Lauren Baker
Meredith Bass
Krista Bendana
Rebecca Britsch
Libby Brown
Callie Brumble
Selby Bush
Amanda Chalmers
Kalan Chapman
Melanie Clouse
Susanna Conaway
Jaime Cooper
Lauren Davis
Jessica George
Lisa Graves
Kimberly Hall
Ashly Hensley
Tina Holden
Kelly Karlovich
Christie Kendrick
Jennifer Kimbrel
Jenny Lizama
Heather Luessenhop
Katie Mabrey
Andrea Martin
Giselle Martinez
Whitney Mathews
Tishey Miller
Rita Moschovidis
Mary Beth Nesser
Summer Owen
Kami Painter
Beth Pielsticker
Erin Remington
Christina Rinaldi
Allison Robertson
Kristal Sack
Abby Schroeder
Sarah Shepherd
Gina Smith
Brooke Smith
Ashley Smithee
Wendy Taylor
Brandi Thomas
Courtnie Tidwell
Brooke Weaver
Chana Wilson



2009 Founders' Scholarship Recipients

Something no one knows better than Junior League members, is that good works are, indeed, their own reward. However, it is also rewarding to recognize the 2009 Founders' Scholarship Recipients. Each year, the Junior League awards \$1,500 scholarships to two graduating high school seniors who demonstrate outstanding commitment to volunteerism and to academics. This year's two recipients have already contributed to our community, and remain dedicated to volunteerism as they plan their college careers.

Heather Crain will be graduating from Broken Arrow High School with a 3.55 grade point average. Heather has distinguished herself in connection with Camp Fire. In middle school she held leadership positions in the council-wide Discovery Program, where youth participate in program activities and service-learning projects. In the Horizon Program she was selected to the Youth Leadership Cabinet, where she worked as a liaison between the national organization and local councils. Recently she helped plan a National Youth Forum held in Monterey, CA. Heather has received the WoHeLo Medallion, the highest achievement in Camp Fire. Additionally, Heather volunteered at the Tulsa Count Conservation District to help monitor Haikey Creek; manned booths at the Down Syndrome

Association's Annual Buddy Walk, and helped teach intermediate clogging classes. Heather will be the first person on either side of her family to attend college. She will attend Rogers State College to study conservation.

Kristin Perrin is a senior graduating with honors from Union High School. Kristen's determination to excel is evident in her academics as she maintains a 3.94 grade point average, while being active in a wide variety of activities. She is vice-president of the Spanish Club; in the National Honor Society and Key Club; and has been a member of the Union Varsity Golf Team since her sophomore year. She mentors with First Tee of Tulsa, an organization teaching life skills to kids through the game of golf. She is an active member of Drug Free Youth, Redskin Academic Tutors, Animal Aid of Tulsa, and is currently helping create a multi-ethnic worship service at her church. Kristin will attend the University of Arkansas

in the Engineering program and hopes to graduate with a degree in biomedical engineering. She wants to use her Spanish language skills to work in developing countries in the biomedical field.

Both of these young ladies possess the natural and generous spirit of service. Kristin and Heather are both an influence and an example and we are proud that they will represent the Junior League of Tulsa as the 2009 Founders' Scholarship Recipients. We look forward to hearing about their continuing accomplishments.



Heather Crain, Kristin Perrin

UPCOMING EVENTS • SAVE THE DATES

Holiday Market
JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TULSA

October 8-11, 2009

at the Union Multipurpose Activity Center (UMAC)

PREVIEW PARTY | \$25
Thursday, 6-9 PM

3-DAY SHOPPING PASS | \$5
Friday / Saturday / Sunday

American Girl FASHION SHOW

November 6-8, 2009

at Junior League of Tulsa, Inc.
3633 South Yale Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74135

Multiple Shows on
Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Decadence GALA

February 6, 2010

Savor the sweet life at
our Third Annual Gala!

\$75 per person

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Meet your Junior League of Tulsa Board Members:

Alison Wade

Membership Council VP

PLACE OF BIRTH: Kansas City, Missouri

PROVISIONAL YEAR: 1999

EDUCATION: BA Degree in Psychology from Baylor University, MA Degree in Psychology from the University of Tulsa, JD Degree from the University of Tulsa

FAMILY: Husband Eric Wade



Alison and Eric Wade

EMPLOYMENT: Attorney

HOBBY'S / INTERESTS: Psychology. I teach part-time in the psychology departments at Tulsa Community College and Rogers State University.

FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY: Going to my grandma's house in Jefferson City, Missouri, and being spoiled rotten.

GOAL YET TO ACHIEVE: Attaining my PHD in Psychology

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT SO FAR: Passing the Bar Exam

IF TIME AND MONEY WERE NO OBJECT: I would open a boutique selling jewelry, shoes, purses, dishes and home accessories

FAVORITE JLT PLACEMENT/WHY? Provisional Liaison – I loved the opportunity to help navigate Provisionals through their first League experience. I liked it so much in fact that I served on the Provisional / Admissions committee three different times in various roles.

FAVORITE PLACE TO EAT IN TULSA: The Melting Pot

FAVORITE PLACE TO SHOP: Pottery Barn

FAVORITE THING TO SHOP FOR: dishes

FAVORITE TIME OF YEAR: The Fall because of the weather, my October bday & the Tulsa State Fair (I love the food and the rides)

ADVICE TO PROVISIONALS: Don't be shy about speaking up! If you have an idea or suggestion for improving our organization, we want to hear from you!

Thayla Bohn

Strategic Planning Chair

PLACE OF BIRTH: Fayetteville, Arkansas

PROVISIONAL YEAR: 2003

EDUCATION: University of Tulsa, B.A. Communication; University of Arkansas School of Law, J.D.

FAMILY: Husband, Brad; sons, Thad, 6, and Becks, 21 mos; and our Boston Terrier, Sarge

EMPLOYMENT: Feldman, Franden, Woodard & Farris

HOBBY'S / INTERESTS: spending time with my boys, travel (preferably in Europe), reading, exercise, scuba diving, watching anything on HGTV

FAVORITE SPORT: College Basketball

FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY: I got a Pekinese puppy in my Christmas stocking when I was 7.

GOAL YET TO ACHIEVE: Diving in Australia

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT SO FAR: My two handsome boys.

IF TIME AND MONEY WERE NO OBJECT: My life would be one long family vacation.

FAVORITE JLT PLACEMENT/WHY? All of my community placements have been rewarding. It's wonderful when you can see how your contributions of time and energy make a difference in the lives of others.

MY FAVORITE VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY: The time my committee spent with the clients at Resonance on their "Diva Day" was so much fun. The ladies picked out "new" clothes and received makeovers from stylists from Ihloff Salon. It was amazing how these little things boosted their self confidence.

FAVORITE FOOD OR RESTAURANT: Mexican food. Chips and salsa are my kryptonite.

FAVORITE PLACE YOU HAVE TRAVELED: Paris

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN JLT: Serving the community and building friendships.

Brad and Thayla Bohn



SAVE THE DATE

FOR TULSA'S
THIRD ANNUAL
RESTAURANT WEEK!



RESTAURANT WEEK SEPTEMBER 13-19

STEP UP TO THE PLATE TO FIGHT HUNGER

Restaurant Week is a wonderful
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and help fight hunger.

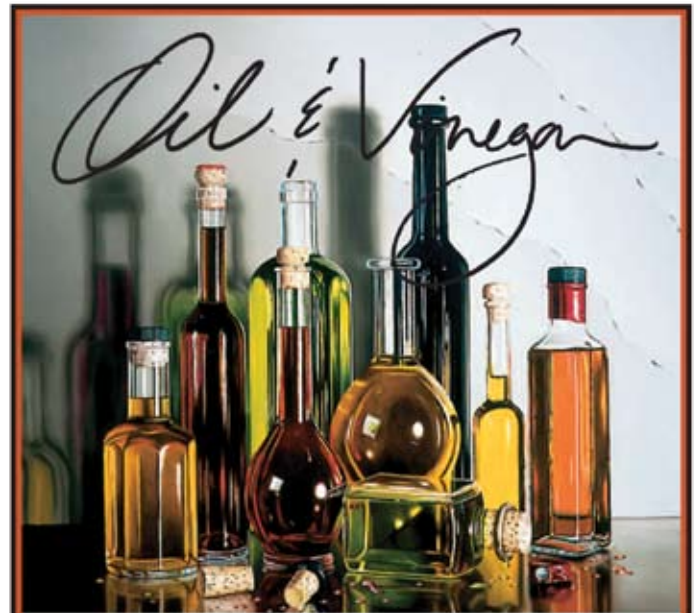
Restaurant Week presented by:

TulsaPeople
Tulsa's City Magazine

Visit
TulsaPeople.com

for a list of participating
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Restaurant Week benefits the
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MAY MEETING ANNUAL AWARDS

By Robyn Hunsucker – Membership VP 2008-2009

Another League year has come to an end or at least a quick pause for the many dedicated volunteers of Junior League of Tulsa. As an annual tradition we take time at the May general meeting to recognize members' contributions and achievements.



**15 Years of Service –
Patty Lawson**

Although active members can transition to Sustaining status after seven years, many members serve far beyond that. This year JLT had one exceptional volunteer that has remained an active member for 15 years. Patty Lawson is a past President of the League and devoted her time in the organization to improving lives of the people that surround her. Four women were recognized for 10 years of service: Shelli Holland-Handy, Toni Moseley, Lisa Muller and Stephanie Coates. Members

reaching five years of active service include: Thayla Bohn, Nicole Cameron, Heather Cowerdy, Kristen Crew, Kim Eshelman, Amy Greene, Belinda Hedgecock, Kathy Henry, Kate Howell, Jan Jackson, Susan Kenny, Vicki Lentz, Bonnie Polak, Libby Weatherholt, Jennie Wolek and Christina Fravel.



**10 Years of Service –
Shelli Holland-Handy,
Toni Moseley, Lisa Muller**

Members moving to Sustaining status include: Lisa Albers, Graham Anderson, Karen Darby, Stephanie Long, Nikki McGooden, Jennifer White, Amy James, Patty Lawson, Melissa Siemens, Regan Leake, Lisa Muller, Shelli Holland-Handy, Kristen Howell, Amy Paiva, Stephanie Coates, Sara Franden and Erin Butler.

In addition to the fabulous individual volunteers, JLT honored some exceptional committees that went above and beyond the expectations set before them. They truly stepped out of the box making a large impact with their service. The Board of Directors honored The Strategic

**Applause Award – Strategic Planning Committee:
Shelli Holland-Handy, Chair–Nikki Bell,
Cassie Barkett**



Planning committee with an *Applause Award* for a job well done in re-creating a functional "Road Map," for the League to follow and reach our full potential. Committee members included: Chair–Nikki Bell, Ronda Lau, Cassie Barkett, Shelli-Holland Handy and Kathy Henry.

The Holiday Market committee also received an *Applause Award* from the Board for their magnificent efforts in organizing and implementing a successful market that exceeded everyone's expectations and surpassed their financial goals. Committee members included: Chair–Kim Smith, Vice Chair–Paula Settoon, Leslie Croteau, Michelle Dickason, Stephanie Eckman, Ann Essman, Leslie Ferguson, Emily Niedermeyer Green, Vicki Lentz, Stephanie Milburn, Rania Nasreddine, Jennifer Prout, Somerset Sea, Gaylyn Wattman, Susan Kenny and Sarah Dougherty.

The *Spirit of the League* is a very special annual recognition, this year it was given to the Global Gardens committee for their outstanding performance and dedication to the newly founded project that takes place at Rosa Parks Elementary. Committee members went to the

**Spirit of the League – Global Gardens Committee: Community
Program VP–Lisa Muller, Chair–Shea Eby with President Amy James**



**Applause Award – Holiday Market Committee:
Sustaining Advisor Gaylyn Wattman, Chair Paula
Settoon, Sarah Dougherty, Vicki Lentz, Leslie Croteau**



school on a daily basis to teach the young students how to cultivate not only plants, vegetables, and fruit but also their spirits, minds and bodies. The women of this committee gave their heart and souls to this project and dedicated themselves this year to making a positive impact in the lives of many children in need of guidance, love and support. Committee members included: Chair–Shea Eby, Vice Chair–Vicki Rahme Fairchild, Ginny McCune, Mary Leake, Lisa Wakefield, Meredith Bass, Laci Mason, Debi Sowards and Sarah Stewart.

In light of their continued contributions, this year JLT honored, for the first time, a *Sustainer of the Year*. This award is intended to recognize a Junior League of Tulsa Sustainer for outstanding achievement in the area of community service and continued League involvement. Gaylyn Wattman,

a very worthy recipient, was given this honor. When it came time to roll up her sleeves, it was apparent this sustainer didn't mind a little dirt! She was as much a member of the Holiday Market committee as any of our active members. She not only attended committee meetings, she also participated on a subcommittee. She assisted with ticket sales, purchased a booth at the market for her shop, Mary Murray's flowers (which is also a

at Saint Francis Children's Hospital, JLT's signature project. Melissa devoted two years to this committee – from the planning of the library to all aspects of bringing it to fruition. This included seeking monetary assistance, putting the first books on the shelves and making sure there were comfortable chairs for the visitors allowing them a quiet moment to relax or educate themselves on illnesses. Melissa spent countless hours staffing the library, training other volunteers on how to assist patients and their families and soliciting other members and people of the community for books, movies, magazines and other donations to fill the walls and shelves. Junior League of Tulsa is thankful to have trained such a fantastic volunteer such as Melissa Siemens and is very proud to call her one of our own.

Thank you to all of the wonderful women of Junior League of Tulsa and remember, when you volunteer it means you give yourself without any regression, without condition, but with full devotion!



**Sustainer of the Year – Gaylyn Wattman,
Sarah Dougherty presenting the award**

regular Gusher advertiser), decorated the venue and participated in the special events. Gaylyn added another element to the committee – a different perspective based on experience from her nearly 25 years of JLT membership. Her generous and cheerful spirit make us realize that the connections we have with our sustainers are truly enriching and meaningful. It is women like Gaylyn that give meaning to the words leadership, devotion and voluntarism.

The grand finale of the awards every year is the *Volunteer of the Year*. This award is given to the individual that goes way beyond the limits of being just a volunteer and truly possesses the spirit of what being a volunteer really includes. She makes no mistake about her devotion to the community through her extended and selfless actions. The recipient for this year was Melissa Siemens, Chair of the Family Resource Library

**Volunteer of the Year –
Melissa Siemens**



DIVA DAY

A FUNdraiser where everyone won

As economic uncertainty dominates the news, members of the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) banded together to stay fabulous while being frugal and having fun at the same time. Diva Day, Junior League of Tulsa's newest fundraiser, was held on March 7, 2009. Billed as a Fashion Swap for over 100 JLT members and guests, the event combined fashion, philanthropy and fun into an all-inclusive day of pampering.

"We all have a responsibility to look to our community and recognize its needs. This year we have also had an additional responsibility to be better stewards with our own household spending," said Stacy Rippy, Chair of Diva Day. "[The Diva Day Committee] wanted to create an event that gave back to those attending as well as the [League's] Community programs."

JLT members and guests showed up for the event with a variety of items from their own closets, ranging from new and gently-used designer clothing to shoes to accessories of all kinds. Once attendees dropped off their swap items at check-in, they sampled a delicious brunch of coffee, quiche, yogurt parfaits and a five tier chocolate fountain to bathe everything from cookies to fresh strawberries. Attendees went on to receive an array of free spa treatments fit for a queen, enjoying pampering such as eyebrow waxing, eyelash extensions, skin consults, massages, jewelry cleanings and makeup application. The first 50 ticket holders also received Swag Bags full of coupons, samples and gifts valued at more than \$150. When the doors opened to admit guests to the Fashion Swap, ladies picked out items to take home that were new to them.

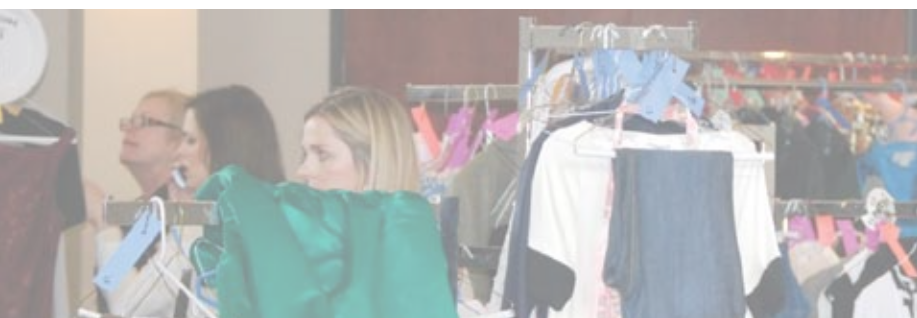
"We are still getting thank yous from vendors," said a Diva Day Committee member. "They volunteered two hours of their time but in return were able to showcase their services to many women."

Proceeds from Diva Day support JLT and its training and community programs. Committee members also arranged to donate clothing and accessories leftover from the swap to Domestic Violence Intervention Services (DVIS) and Resonance Center for Women. Donated clothing will be used to help outfit women fleeing abusive relationships or trying to reenter the workforce.

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Diva Day committee: Carey Baker, Chair—Stacy Rippy, Robin Warren, Sally Mathews, Polly Robinson and Jenny Belford.



2009-2010 Community Projects

Each year the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) conducts in-depth research to identify critical emerging needs within our community and respond by developing projects to address those needs. Through collaboration with sponsoring agencies, intensive training of our membership, and direct service through volunteer hours and fund development, JLT strives to establish each community project as self-supporting before it is returned to its sponsoring agency for long-term implementation, usually within three years. This unique leadership model has allowed JLT to serve a vital role in the success of Tulsa's most prominent community agencies, such as Ronald McDonald House, Youth Services of Tulsa, Mayfest and the Francis Willard Home for Girls, while providing essential training for Tulsa's next generation of community volunteers. Current community projects of the Junior League of Tulsa include:

The Children's Hospital at St. Francis Family Resource Library Signature Project

Chair: Kathleen Jones

JLT volunteers staff the Family Resource Library in the new Children's Hospital at Saint Francis to assist families in obtaining information about their child's medical condition and help them become informed participants in the health care process. In conjunction with this project, JLT also donated \$25,000 to the hospital to completely furnish the library.

Scholarship

Chair: Ronda Lau

This committee oversees all aspects of awarding two \$1500 scholarships to high school seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to volunteerism. Also, the committee will oversee the awarding of a \$1500 need-based scholarship to a woman in transition living in our community. The committee will also work to maintain contact with former recipients.

Laura Dester

Chair: Mary Anne Thoman

This committee provides volunteer assistance to the Laura Dester Children's Shelter. A variety of "Done in a Day" projects are chosen, planned, and implemented by the committee with direction from shelter staff.

Resonance Connecting Women with Careers- Career Services

Chair: Betsy Endicott

This project provides financial assistance and volunteers to support the Career Services Program at Resonance Center for Women Inc. The Career Services Program currently provides job readiness and life skills training for women re-entering the community from the state and federal criminal justice system.

Impact

Chair: Belinda Hedgecock

Impact provides short-term volunteer assistance to 501(c)(3) organizations in the Tulsa community. Organizations apply for assistance and short-term ("Done in a Day") projects are chosen, planned, and implemented by the committee. Also falling under this committee is *Kids in the Kitchen*, a national initiative designed to promote healthy eating and lifestyles among children. In addition, we also participate in the Tulsa Metro Chamber's Partners in Education through our activities at Project 12, an alternative learning environment in the Tulsa Public Schools.

Community Schools - Global Gardens

Chair: Elizabeth Edwards

JLT works with Community Schools to provide financial assistance and volunteers to expand the Global Gardens after-school program to establish garden spaces for high-risk students and their families at Rosa Parks Elementary School. Global Gardens currently serves about 30 third-grade through fifth-grade students at Eugene Field Elementary School and with JLT's assistance, the project is expanding to Rosa Parks.

Gilcrease Museum Hosts JLT Spring Event



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