

THE MAGAZINE OF
THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TULSA

Volume 7, Issue 3
SUMMER 2010

gusher



Laura Dester
Committee
A Year in the Life

PLUS:
May Meeting Awards • Scholarship Recipients • Introducing Cassie Barkett



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from the editor...

What an amazing year I have experienced! It's hard to believe this is my fourth and final issue as the editor of Gusher. Part of Junior League's mission is to develop the potential of women. I can honestly say this placement has provided a year of growth for me personally. With no formal publication background, I have learned so much, all the while having a good time and making many great friendships. I have also relied heavily on the ladies around me. I would like to say thank you to several of them.

Mary Anne Thoman, you have been instrumental to me. As the former Gusher editor, you made sure I had the tools to succeed. You took my calls and emails day or night. You gave me advice and wisdom when I asked. You continued to contribute your thoughts, ideas and articles to Gusher this past year. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Katherine Haskell, I also owe you many thank yous. Your assistance with several cover stories and other articles helped the Gusher stay focused and better communicate the message of the Junior League of Tulsa. You were always ready to help edit when I needed an extra eye. Again, thank you.

To my leadership team, Emily Dunaway, Communications Council VP; Kim Smith, Gusher Board Liaison; and Rachael Hunsucker, JLT President, you ladies truly were a support team to me. Editing the proof before print with short deadlines and helping label Gusher for mailing. We have officially named Kim the "Label Queen". I appreciate your help and feedback.

Last but not least, my Gusher committee. It was an honor to have been part of such an amazing group of women. I have had a lot of fun with this committee and each lady has a sweet spirit. We were tasked this year with publication, ad sales and distribution. It proved to be a tough year for ad sales with the economy, but we kept our spirits up and continued to find a few new advertisers for Gusher.

Next year the task of communicating JLT's worthwhile message to the public and our membership will be under the steady hand of Lysa Little who has been perfectly selected to take on this role. I wish Lisa the best of luck and hope she enjoys her year as much as I did mine.



Many Regards,

Jennifer Roberson
Editor 2009-2010

On the cover: Junior League of Tulsa and TAPC (Tulsa Advocates for the Protection of Children) in partnership at the new Laura Dester Shelter. TAPC raises the necessary funding to build the safe new shelter and Junior League of Tulsa volunteers work to raise the hopes and spirits of the children within. Louise Marr, Executive Director of TAPC; Mary Anne Thoman 2009-10 JLT Laura Dester IMPACT Chair; Julie Gustafson, TAPC Board Member and co-chair of the new shelter campaign; Christy Gilliam 2010 JLT member joins the TAPC Board. 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; devoted to informing the membership and the community of current League projects, events and issues. For more information on advertising, please visit www.jltulsa.org and click on *Gusher* or e-mail gusher@jltulsa.org.

Publications Committee 2009-2010

Jennifer Roberson, Editor

Lauren Davis

Heather Luessenhop

Whitney Mathews

Katie Sylvester

Thank you to our Guest Contributors

Michael Barkett

Kathleen Jones

Ronda Lau

Paula Settoon

Mary Anne Thoman

Alison Wade

Meg Watkins

Letter from the president

As I sat down to write my final letter, I didn't know where to start. There were so many successes, stories, and fond memories this past year. The common thread in all of them however was you, the membership. Without you none of these accomplishments would have been possible. Please accept my sincerest appreciation. Thank you for putting your faith in me and taking this journey. Thank you for the early mornings, late nights, work, meetings, and support. It's been a great year.

The mission of the Junior League of Tulsa is to promote voluntarism, develop the potential of women and improve the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. We fulfilled that mission through our countless projects, events, training sessions and meetings.

This past year the Junior League of Tulsa continued serving the needs of families whose children were in the Children's Hospital at Saint Francis. Members worked with high-risk students at Rosa Park Elementary through Global Gardens, provided enrichment activities at the Laura Dester Children's Shelter, even helping fund a new playground. Events were planned throughout the year with Resonance providing support and encouragement for women re-entering the community from the state and federal criminal justice system and four scholarships were presented to high-school and non-traditional women determined to better themselves and their community. The Impact committee partnered with countless area agencies to put a smile on someone's face and give support however possible. The Community council capped off their busy year with Operation JLT. This League-wide community project was held at five different Community Schools providing family enrichment nights for children and their families. The community projects of the Junior League of Tulsa truly have an impact helping those that need an extra hand.

The Membership council provided support and training for members. They created a fun way for members to connect and interact through dinner clubs. Each month the Hospitality committee made members feel welcome at general meetings and the Provisional committee mentored incoming members as they started their League careers. Membership Matters supported those in need and provided over a dozen training opportunities during JLT-U. The Training committee developed us as volunteers and leaders while the Placement committee provided guidance.

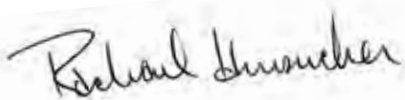
Ensuring the future financial stability of the Junior League of Tulsa can be a daunting task. The Financial council took it in stride. The annual Holiday Market shopping experience was an overwhelming success and continues to grow every year. The American Girl Fashion Show was held at Junior League headquarters and provided positive role models and character building for young girls. Sustainers, actives, and provisionals rocked out at Decadence which was bursting at the seams with all those wanting to participate. Building rentals not only generated income but also helped promote the Junior League of Tulsa and its community partners. The Finance committee monitored budgets and facilitated all the support needed for fundraising activities and Community Resources encouraged endowment participation and donor development.

The voice of the Junior League has always been the Communications council. The Strategic Marketing committee publicized the numerous fundraisers and community events in conjunction with eCommunications. Numerous updates, emails, and distributions were all successful getting out the League's message. Both committees continue to develop and change to keep up with the needs of our organization. The quarterly magazine Gusher kept not only the membership but also the public informed of the great activities of the League.

Two additional committees helped shape our direction. The Nominating committee placed incoming leaders starting with the 2010-2011 board of directors. Even after that task their job was not complete until all chairs had been placed. The Strategic Planning committee implemented a new plan by coordinating with the councils, committees, and the board to keep us on the right track. Our members have contributed so much in support of our mission.

I am so thankful for this wonderful experience. As I 'retire' and embrace my new role as a sustaining member, I am comforted and encouraged knowing there are incredible new leaders to take on the work and move the Junior League of Tulsa into the future.

Sincerely,



Rachael Hunsucker
2009-2010 President



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 2010-2011

President Cassie Barkett
 President-elect Sarah Dougherty
 Treasurer Liz Brolick
 Treasurer-elect Jennifer Roberson
 Recording Secretary Jennie Wolek
 Corresponding Secretary Ronda Lau

Communications Council VP Heather Duncan
 Community Council VP Kathleen Jones
 Community Program VP Mary Anne Thoman
 Financial Council VP Leslie Frazier
 Membership Council VP Neil Dieterle
 Nominating Chair Meg Watkins
 Strategic Planning Chair Kim Smith

Left to Right: **Ronda Lau, Jennie Wolek, Mary Anne Thoman, Kathleen Jones, Sarah Dougherty, Kim Smith, Neil Dieterle, Heather Duncan, Cassie Barkett, Liz Brolick, Meg Watkins, and Jennifer Roberson. Not Pictured: Leslie Frazier.**



Transitions

Small Miracles

Owen Patrick Robertson
Son of Allison (A) & Adam
Born January 12, 2010



Violet Lee Lanier Fravel
Daughter of Christina (A) & Dustin
February 22, 2010

Amelia Isabella Rea
Daughter of Shellie (A) & Mike
February 25, 2010



Graham Bentley Rainbolt
Son of Spring (A) & Curt
Born March 3, 2010

Parrish Swanson
Son of Jackie (A) & Jarmin
Born March 25, 2010



Anderson Frank Eby
Son of Shea (A) & Richard
Born April 9, 2010

Catherine Elizabeth Green
Daughter of Emily (A) & Adam
Born April 28, 2010

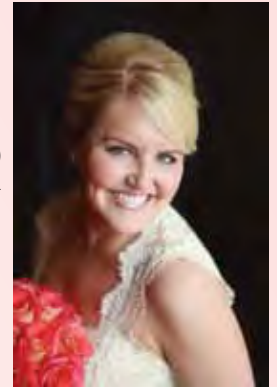


Lisette Angelina Lizama
Daughter of Jenny (A) & Marvin
Born May 19, 2010

JLT Hugs Committee celebrates and supports our members. Let us share the times that are taking place in your life. You are encouraged to share the following announcements: births, engagements, weddings, condolences, community and business recognitions, new jobs, and/or new job promotions. Please send all details to Sarah Stewart, sstewart73@sbcglobal.net

Weddings

Ashley Rose Rausch (A)
to John Robert Rausch
on March 6, 2010
in Fort Smith, AR



Abby Schroeder (A)
to Jacob Reid
on April 17, 2010
in Tulsa, OK

Achievements

Laurie Focchi Brumbaugh (S), Chi Omega, was installed as the 95th President of the Tulsa Area Alumnae Panhellenic on May 3, 2010.

Katherine Castleberry (S), Pi Beta Phi, was elected to serve as the Tulsa Area Alumnae Panhellenic Director of Recruitment 2010-2011.

Kathy Knight (A), **Frances Chandler (S)**, **Peggy Helmerich (S)**, and **Pebble Moss (S)** were each selected as Tulsa Panhellenic Women of the Year by their respective sororities.

Award-winning photography!

Leslie Hoyt
PHOTOGRAPHY
lesliehoyt.com
918.200.9436 LeslieHoyt@gmail.com

CASSIE BARKETT:

A Bright Leader for a Bright Future

By Michael Barkett

I am honored to be the one to introduce you to your incoming Junior League of Tulsa President, Cassie Barkett. I feel fairly qualified to introduce you to Cassie because I have been married to her for almost nine years. We have had three beautiful daughters in that time – Zoe age 6, Edee age 4, and Sunny age 3. Before marriage, Cassie and I worked together as associate lawyers in the same law firm. I think I know Cassie pretty well. I know this for certain: the Future is truly Bright for the Junior League of Tulsa with Cassie Barkett as your next President.

I can attest to Cassie's personal dedication and devotion to the Junior League because I have witnessed every step. In the beginning, I kidded Cassie about joining "The League" because like a lot of husbands and boyfriends, I didn't really know anything about what the Junior League was or did. I

quickly found out it was far more than a ladies' "social club." In her first year, I watched a committee of which Cassie was a member put together an enormously successful fundraiser featuring appearances by celebrities Steve and Coki Roberts. Seeing first-hand how the League put together a first-rate fundraising production like that really opened my eyes to what the Junior League had to offer the community. It also became obvious what Cassie had to offer the Junior League.

From that point, I watched over the next 9 years as Cassie continued to serve Junior League in various capacities. I saw her plan and produce an Oklahoma gubernatorial candidate debate that was broadcast live on KJRH Channel 2. I watched her recruit substitute teachers for Tulsa Public Schools in a time of crisis. I've seen Cassie provide volunteer hours for or spearhead the organization of more retreats, functions, fundraisers, and fashion shows than I can count. The one constant I always see, however, is that Cassie does it all with the enthusiasm, spirit and positivity that I first saw in her when we met back in the summer of 1999. It is the same way I see her take on her multiple roles everyday as a mother, wife, sister, daughter, friend, Christian, lawyer, taxi-driver, alarm-clock, chef, homemaker, entertainer, comedian, beauty queen, golfer, tennis player, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. Cassie



does it all with a bright smile and a happy heart.

Personally, I have far too many wonderful accounts of Cassie to relate in this short introduction. Suffice it to say, Cassie is my best friend, partner, and love of my life. She is beside me at my best and my worst, through triumphs and failures. To borrow a line from Jack Nicholson: She makes me want to be a better person. One of my favorite memories, and one that I think perfectly illustrates Cassie as person, happens to be intertwined with one of my most bitter-sweet. In 2007, after a long and difficult illness, my father was at the end of his life. Cassie had actually known my father for many years as he and her father were friends. In fact, our dads introduced Cassie and me in 1999. On February 7, 2007, in literally the last few minutes of my father's time in this world, and as I held him in my arms and wept, Cassie leaned down and softly thanked my dad for giving her ... me. She told my father that I was a wonderful man. At that instant, everything changed. My despair

suddenly turned to joy and thankfulness for everything my father was and had given me - especially my marriage to Cassie and our wonderful daughters. I felt like "one" with my dad like I had never before. Cassie had not simply paid me a compliment. Rather, her words bonded us all together, created peace, and turned a moment of darkness into one of light and happiness. I am forever grateful to her for that gift.

You see, that is what Cassie does. She brings people together, makes peace, and sheds light. Cassie is the gleam in her daughters' eyes. She is their role model, teacher, and guide. To her brothers, she is a pillar of strength and wisdom. To her parents she is a boundless source of pride and admiration. To her friends, she is a loyal and trusted confidant. To her community she is a devoted servant. To the Junior League of Tulsa, Cassie will be a leader and representative of everything the League is about. Plain and simple, Cassie cares about others and lives her life so that others' lives are more livable. In the last 10 years I have come to learn that is exactly what the Junior League does too.

I am proud to say Cassie chose me to be her husband forever. I am extremely proud that the Junior League of Tulsa chose Cassie Barkett to be its next President. I like to think both are a perfect match.

Hello, Sustainers!



Sue Curry
Sustaining President

**2010-2011
Sustaining Board**

- Mary Alice Ahlgren
- Laurie Brumbaugh
- Robyn Cannon
- Ann Foster
- Amy James
- Dru Johnson
- Annabel Jones
- Deborah Kurin
- Denise Piland
- Pam Rosser

Sustainers celebrated spring at several special events. Following the Sustainer Luncheon on March 2nd at headquarters, sustainers participated in the "Operation JLT" service project the evening of April 21st at Eugene Field Elementary, the "Sustainers' School" of the five community schools. Three of the many sustainers who served, Connie Doverspike, Teresa Flushee and Deborah Kurin, conveyed to others at the party that it was a meaningful, engaging and worthwhile project. They enjoyed sharing pizza and playing games with the families and would like doing it again! Thank you to all of the sustainers who helped and to JLT Community Vice-President Sarah Dougherty and Community Program Vice-President Shea Eby for including sustainers in this service project.

The Sustainers' Spring Party was held the evening of April 22nd at the home of Helen Jo Hardwick. The lovely spring evening was delightful in Helen Jo's beautiful home and adjoining garden patio. Guests enjoyed Mexican treats catered by Mexicali Border Café, touring her home and sharing in active and merry conversations throughout the party. Helen Jo was presented with a hostess gift that included a JLT cookbook *Oil and Vinegar* apron, which she enjoyed modeling for the group. She loves her JLT cookbooks and mentioned that she was on the committee that created Cooks Collage. Helen Jo was a warm and gracious hostess and we appreciate her hospitality!

Book Club continued in March with the read of *Olive Kitterage* by Elizabeth Stout at the home of Lynette Bennett, and in April with *Last Child* by John Hart at the home of Annabel Jones. In May, at the home of Debbie Luthey, many revisited *The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton, the Tulsa author who wrote the book at age 16 while a high school student. More summer reading and discussions are in store beginning in June with *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson, at the home of Earlene Gathright; in July with *My First 5 Husbands* by Rue McClanahan, at the home of Terry Waller; and in August with *Son of Hamas* by Mosab Hassan Yousef, at the home of Sue Curry. Fall will begin with *The Known World* by Edward P. Jones, at the home of Deidre Kirtley. Book Club meets the third Tuesday evening of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Throughout Spring, Lunch Club enjoyed meeting at various locations in Tulsa. Sustainers met at Lucky's on Cherry Street in March, at Rick's Café Americain in April and Cosmo's in May. Lunch Club will now be meeting on the third Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. Robyn Cannon is the new Lunch Club Coordinator in place of Amy James who left the position in April. Thank you Amy for a great start to our newest club!

Restaurant Club continued in the evenings with McGill's on Yale in March, Bodean's in April, and Trula's in May. Trula's is a new art-deco inspired restaurant at the Mayo Hotel and serves a diverse menu. A note of interest is that Restaurant Club Coordinator Ann Foster could not order her usual selection of salmon (not on the menu) but ventured to the sea bass. Congratulations Ann for stepping out of the box! A special treat arranged by Ann Foster and her friend, Lori Schock, who lives at the Mayo, was a tour of the building and her "oh-so-cool" urban loft apartment! What a fun evening we had! Restaurant Club meets the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

All clubs are continuing in the summer months. We hope you'll join one of our gatherings. For information, please contact Annabel Jones, Book Club Coordinator, at 629-7553 or AJONES@samson.com; Robyn Cannon, Lunch Club Coordinator, at 298-7753 or Robyn.Cannon@DTAG.com; and/or Ann Foster, Restaurant Club Coordinator, at 694-6118 or Ann.Foster@hilti.com.

Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,
Sue Curry

**Caroline Wall
and Pam Rosser**



**Mary Alice Ahlgren, Connie Doverspike
and Susan Walker**



**Anne Cleveland and
Freda Huckin**



Sustainer Lunch



Deborah Kurin, Sue Curry, Annabel Jones, Mary Alice Ahlgren, Ann Foster, Robyn Cannon, and Laurie Brumbaugh

Spring Party



Janet Swafford, Karen Mildren, and Beverly Dieterlen



Helen Jo Hardwick, and Sue Curry

Mayo Hotel



Mimi Bashaw, Sue Curry, Tucky Hazen, Carla Gilbert, Dale Roberson, Beverly Torr, and Nancy Daniel



Left: Denise Piland, Connie Doverspike, Dru Johnson; Right: Fritzi Prather, Margaret Cornell, Carla Gilbert, and Pam Rosser

Robyn Cannon and Beth Rainey



Cosmo's Cafe

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—Millie Brown,
Resident, Assisted Living

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In every color and circumstance, may the eyes be open for what comes.

-Ghalib

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BROKER ASSOCIATE, CRS, GRI

918-706-9845

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TULSA OK. 74114

JWOLEK@KW.COM
WWW.JENNIESELLSTULSA.COM

KELLER WILLIAMS

2010 Scholarship Recipients

For the past ten years, the Junior League of Tulsa has given out more than \$25,000 in scholarships to outstanding high school women in the Tulsa community who have demonstrated a commitment to voluntarism. In recent years, we have identified an additional need for scholarships for non-traditional students; women who do not proceed straight from high school to college. The Sharon Bartlett Scholarship was created for such women and was named after one of the League's outstanding sustainers, Sharon Bartlett. This scholarship is based primarily on financial need and a commitment from the recipient to complete her college education. After applications are submitted, they are narrowed down to a group of finalists, who interview with a group of Junior League sustainers for final consideration.

This year, we were able to award four \$1500 scholarships, two to traditional students through the Albert G. Cook Founders Scholarship and two to non-traditional students through the Sharon Bartlett Scholarship.

This year's recipients for the Founders Scholarship were Brittany Brown and Kateri Burns. Brittany, a graduate of Union High School, was her Senior Class President. She distinguished herself from her peers by organizing multiple events, under the name "Kenya Do It," to raise awareness and money to build a well for a Kenyan village. Through these events, Brittany raised over \$10,000 to drill a well that will serve an entire community. Brittany plans on continuing the water project while attending college at Colorado Christian University.

Kateri Burns, graduated from Broken Arrow High School. For over eight years, she has used her sewing skills for charitable causes. Her charitable sewing activities include planning a hearing-impaired Christmas party for the Deaf Children's Organization, leading blanket workshops for Early Head Start, and creating slings for pregnant woman at DVIS. She has distinguished herself by creating Hats of Hope, a service-learning project that provides turbans to chemotherapy patients suffering from post-treatment hair loss who cannot afford headwear. Kateri was inspired to create Hats of Hope after her friend's mom went through treatment, and her turbans have received local and national recognition. She has also led numerous workshops and

Pictured left to right: Debi Sowards, JLT Scholarship Committee member; Ronda Lau, JLT Scholarship Chair; Kateri Burns, Founders Scholarship recipient; and Brittany Brown, Founders Scholarship recipient. Not pictured: Dyzetta Brown and Catherine Vanessa Carr



talks to build awareness and involve others in this effort. In 2009, she donated over one hundred turbans. Kateri will attend Oklahoma State University in the fall.

This year's recipients for the Sharon Bartlett Scholarship are Dyzetta Brown and Catherine Vanessa Carr. Dyzetta was raised in foster care and has been on her own since the age of fifteen, but she does not let that stop her. Although many questioned her ability to succeed, Dyzetta graduated from Platt college as a medical assistant. While no one in her family pursued education after high school, Dyzetta has set herself apart by choosing a different path. She would like to train for her LPN and build a life for herself that she is determined to accomplish.

Finally, in 2006, Catherine Vanessa Carr was newly divorced with a four-year old son and working as a manager for a business in town. This job demanded many hours and offered no future or job security, so Vanessa decided to go back to college at Oklahoma State University. While attending college, Catherine has juggled many jobs so that she could spend time with her son and have food to eat. Her nine-year old son has been her motivation for finishing her degree this year in Sociology.

We wish all of our recipients luck as they continue to improve themselves and their communities.

Oil & Vinegar

An emulsion of recipes from the Junior League of Tulsa, Inc.



Support the Junior League of Tulsa's
Community Projects through the purchase
of our cookbook "Oil & Vinegar"

Cookbooks can be ordered by
visiting www.jltulsa.org or by calling 663-6100



2009-2010 Sustainer of the Year Connie Doverspike

By Paula Settoon and Mary Anne Thoman

Sit next to Connie Doverspike at virtually any function and inevitably you will hear her steer the conversation towards the Junior League of Tulsa. Part ambassador, part cheerleader, Connie knows the history, past and present, of the Junior League in the Tulsa community and readily shares it with anyone who will listen.

Connie began her JLT career during the 1996-97 year. During her tenure at JLT she served in all four councils and was a Board member twice. Because she always brings so much to any project she is part of, Connie was selected for numerous appointed positions. In addition, Connie created an archives position and committee which assembled and cataloged JLT history for the future. During her active time in the League, she also achieved three Applause Awards and was a member of the committee that received the first Spirit of the League Award. In 1998-99, Connie was named Volunteer of the Year. After a decade of devoted service, Connie decided to become a sustainer.

Currently, as a sustaining member of JLT, Connie remains passionate about JLT. Her passion is evident every time she communicates JLT's history and its vision for the future: to provide trained volunteers and leaders to serve the community not only today but for years to come. As a sustainer, Connie actively

volunteers at JLT's Family Resource Library at the Children's Hospital at Saint Francis and has encouraged other sustainers to support this project. She organized a donation from the sustainer book club and has bought and collected books, games, and movies for the library. In addition to her regular volunteering with the Family Resource Library, Connie is always willing to help when needed. She has also been a part of the Scholarship interview committee the past two years and has volunteered her time at major fundraisers such as American Girl and Holiday Market. Connie has taken advantage of trainings held at JLT including "Teach for the Stars", TPS Volunteer Teacher volunteer program and Social Media. She enjoys meeting new actives by attending some general meetings and as the only sustainer in her dinner group. Decadence and the "Operation JLT" family dinner / game night at Eugene Fields were opportunities to meet socially with actives and sustainers.

A founding member of the JLT Sustainers Book Club, Connie participates regularly in other sustainer functions. She is a fountain of knowledge – not just about the League but also about the community. It is thanks in large part to Connie that current JLT news and updates are shared with fellow sustainers. In many ways, Connie is the League's unofficial historian and one of JLT's greatest resources. For example, she is a 'go to' person for active League members, always happy to help in any capacity from identifying people in pre-production Gusher pictures to providing historical info on projects.

Connie's devotion to her community does not begin and end with the Junior

League of Tulsa.

A native Tulsan, Connie loves her city and shows her passion by being involved with more organizations and causes than most can imagine. Currently she serves RSVP Tulsa as a board director serving as patron chair for RSVP's Denim to Diamonds and the resource development committee. She has been a dedicated volunteer with the Tulsa Area Panhellenic from 1975 to present. Connie has been a volunteer for the Foundation for Tulsa Schools' Designer Showcase since 2004, serving as Volunteer Coordinator from 2008-10. She has been recognized for her spirit of voluntarism by other organizations as well; for example, the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits named her Volunteer of the Year in 2006, Alpha Phi honored her at their 2004 Convention for her outstanding loyalty and continuous devotion at the local level and again in 2009 as their Tulsa Panhellenic Woman of the Year.

Many of us volunteer our time, our energy, and our resources to make our communities the best they can be, but it is rare to meet someone who has devoted so much time and so much energy to organizations and causes she loves. It is rarer still to know someone who can inspire others to become the kind of volunteer Connie inspires us to become. Winston Churchill once said, "You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give." Connie has shown us how to make a life that makes a difference. For her dedication and devotion, not to mention her thousands of hours of service, the Junior League of Tulsa is honored to grant Connie Doverspike the 2010 Sustainer of the Year Award.

The Volunteers of the

A Year in the Life

The Experience

It is impossible to come away from volunteering at the Laura Dester Shelter and be unaffected. Everyone on our committee experienced deep satisfaction in volunteering with the children, had fun evenings and challenging evenings, and virtually everyone went home in tears at least once. In the same evening we listened to one child telling of her hopes and aspirations for college while another, 13 years old, said she was pregnant, and unsure of whom the father was. We listened to three and four year old children discussing their fathers being in jail saying "that's not fair."

Forrest Carpenter, Volunteer Coordinator, Laura Dester Shelter, gave us a clear and succinct mission "just love these children."

The children that pass through the Laura Dester Shelter have been removed from their home due to an immediate and present danger. Danger can be wide ranging from physical or sexual abuse, to drugs in the home, to severe neglect. Some children are so happy to be at the shelter, they feel safe, or for the first time in their lives they have three meals a day and clean clothing to wear to school. Others are upset, angry or embarrassed about their circumstance. For some it's their first visit, some are returning and a few, usually teenagers, are there for months at a time. They come from all walks of life, disadvantaged families and affluent families; educated and non-educated; stereotypes blur at the shelter.

Among all the variables there is one constant that everyone on the Laura Dester IMPACT committee noticed: the concern and dedication of the shelter staff. They care for these children in difficult circumstances, the scared, the angry, the desperate for attention, those that act out and those that are withdrawn. They watch over these children 24/7 with a compassionate, intuitive nature, managing to balance encouragement with instilling appropriate behavior and boundaries. We admire the staff of the Laura Dester Shelter, we respect them and we are so thankful they are there to care for the endangered children of our community.

Results aren't always quantifiable

Most committees within the League have near term, quantifiable results, not so with Laura Dester Shelter. Our impact there is quantifiable only in the moment a child looks into your eyes and knows they are safe; that for a little while they can let their guard down and just be a child. Or when a teenager seemingly hardened and defensive, finally warms up over a simple manicure and talks her heart out. We will never know if our actions will have a direct impact on these children's futures, however we do know that sometimes the smallest act of kindness can turn a life around and truly make a difference.

Committee members invested their hearts and went beyond regular meeting commitments spending day and night shifts with hospitalized shelter children; helping with afternoon homework; participating in the shelters big Halloween carnival; collecting,

Laura Dester IMPACT committee

By Mary Anne Thoman

purchasing and providing needed clothing, diapers, toiletries, toys and more. Amanda Chalmers even drove to Bartlesville to provide support with a hospitalized child.

What we took away

We learned many things this year, some as deep as our capacity to care wholly and completely for someone we have never met before and some as simple as learning that paint is not the best craft choice for the high energy middle house age group. We learned that endangered children come from all walks of life, to quote Vice-chair Margaret King “yes, cheerleaders and baseball players sometimes end up at the shelter too.” And we learned that in one evening you can go between light hearted fun and emotional devastation at some of the children’s stories. It’s the heartbreaking stories that make us want to return, we will, in some way, provide a sense of normalcy, safety and fun for these children, even if it’s just for a little while. Even if it’s just listening and really hearing.

One of the most important things the Junior League of Tulsa provides its members is the opportunity to step outside our comfort zones. Our first activity date at the shelter most everyone felt they could work with the younger kids but were a little uneasy about the teenagers. Vice-chair Margaret King and I chose to go to the teenage house precisely because of that, we were uneasy and wanted to confront that fear. At first we were awkward at making small talk or connecting with the girls. Jacqueline Vann however sat down and simply started talking and making lanyards with the girls. It was as though she had years of experience dealing with teenage girls who have been through a lot. Not only did Jacqueline put the girls at ease, but she put Margaret and me at ease. In JLT we all mentor each other.

We also learned some lessons on perspective. At the Halloween Carnival a little girl was digging through a prize bucket filled with miscellaneous items. She pulled out a flat foil pack sample and said, slowly and cautiously, “What’s this?” I remarked “shampoo” and bent over to help her find something “better.” Before I could she stood up, stared at it as though it was gold and said in a quiet, reverent tone, “that’s REAL shampoo.” She immediately turned, ran to her mother exclaiming “look what I got!” Perspective can be humbling.

Some of the Laura Dester IMPACT committee members chose to share memories from our year that impacted them, some heartwarming, some gut wrenching, all are things we will remember and reflect upon for a long time to come. (pages 12-13)

What we provide for the future

The children of the Laura Dester Shelter will sleep in a safer, closed campus, modern shelter this fall. Junior League of Tulsa believes in TAPC’s (Tulsa Advocates for the Protection of Children) mission to provide this new shelter. In keeping with the given mission to “simply love these children” JLT secured \$5,000 in donations and matched from within, donating \$10,000 toward the playground at the new shelter. In addition, committee member Christy Gilliam is taking JLT’s efforts a step further serving in an outside placement role on the TAPC board.



Laura Dester Impact committee top left Ashley Farthing, Stephanie Currington, middle left Mary Catherine Ward, Amanda Chalmers, Kim Eshelman, bottom left Chair Mary Anne Thoman, Laura Dester Shelter Volunteer Coordinator Forrest Carpenter. Not available for picture: Vice-Chair Margaret King, Caren Gerkin, Christy Gilliam, Amy Lawrence and Jacqueline Vann.



"These wonderful children, with so much potential, unfortunately caught up in harmful situations. Thankfully the shelter and its dedicated staff are there to take the children under their wings and give them a safe and loving environment. It's been a pleasure spending time with these children as they transition to a better place in their lives.

"I will remember for a long time going to visit and take a volunteer shifts with a premature baby in Bartlesville. His foster family was there as much as they could be with multiple children but volunteer assistance was needed to come to hold him and love him while in the hospital.

"It was such a treat for me to be able to just sit and cuddle with a baby for an afternoon and it was also a quiet time for me to think about how this could actually happen in our world today. How could someone not want and love this precious baby? Thankfully, through volunteer opportunities through the Junior League of Tulsa, we can help babies and children and make their transition as comfortable and smooth as possible. I love being able to be a part of the Laura Dester IMPACT Committee and look forward to all the possibilities and experiences it will bring next year as well!"

~ Amanda Chalmers, 2010-11 Vice-chair

"I enjoyed working with the Laura Dester Shelter so much this year that I have recently joined their board. I wanted to stay actively involved with the shelter and try to help to make things even better for the children. I was so impressed with how much compassion and kindness the staff had toward the children. You know they don't get paid enough, yet they were always so kind and upbeat toward everyone. I felt like the kids had someone nice looking out for them and putting them to bed at night. I was so appreciative of this because often these children really have no positive adults in their lives.

"I remember a two year old that was a little angel from God, he clung to me and wouldn't let me put him down; the comment was made "if you love him you should go see his little brother." I went down the hall and saw the most adorable little four month old and noticed he had a hospital

wrist band on. When I asked why they simply stated that he had to have hernia surgery that morning and was brought back to the shelter after lunch. The staff was busy figuring out a schedule to help him around the clock that night, to take care of his physical and emotional needs. I also had the privilege of spending the night at the hospital with a six month old whose parents were both in jail. There are so many kids that need help and encouragement and I'm so proud that I was able to be a part of helping because of the Junior League of Tulsa!"

~ Christy Gilliam, TAPC Board Member

There are so many kids that need encouragement and help and I'm so proud that I was able to be a part of helping because of the Junior League of Tulsa!

"Writing about the Laura Dester Shelter can't begin to impart the impact that serving there has had on me. Knowing that the Shelter exists is both fantastic and horrific. Fantastic that there is a safe place where kids can go to work through whatever took them down that path—horrific knowing that something dreadful likely determined that path. Being at the shelter was usually both the high and low of any particular day.

"The staff—I can't say enough good things about them. I had a preconception that they were likely hardened by what they'd seen over the years, but was I wrong. They truly care about those kids. The staffers are surrogate parents to the children and give them love and support (and sometimes some boundaries and correction). They were smiling and appreciative for what JLT does for the kids.

"One of the more astonishing experiences was in the Little House when a group of two to five year olds exchanged a very adult conversation about their parents being incarcerated. "My Mommy's in jail" or "My Daddy's in jail" as if they'd shared their experience from school that day. I was reminded how very blessed my family and friends truly are.

"Bed time is probably the worst part of the day for the kids, when the reality sets in that they're not going home. The shelter takes such good care of them—getting them to and from their individual schools, activities (yes, cheerleaders and baseball players sometimes end up at the shelter too), doing homework, seeing their entourage of case workers, doctors, advocates, etc.

"Some kids realize that the shelter is a better place than home. Three siblings, victims of severe neglect, shared "...this place is really safe". I'm proud that JLT provides support for the Laura Dester Shelter. I've gotten more from the Shelter than I've given; the hugs, smiles and appreciation for positive feedback and praise were worth every moment there."

~ Margaret King

"Having a two year old little girl, my heart is in the little house. I still remember visiting the little house on my provisional tour and tearing up seeing the babies in the cribs. Although that was several years ago the image is burned in my mind.

"During my training session, there was a little girl who had a broken leg in the little house. I did not know this at that time, but soon the police would find the other three siblings that the parents were hiding and bring them to the shelter. That night volunteering I would fall in love with the sister of the baby with the broken leg. She was the same age

as my child and I could tell this baby didn't understand what was going on and was scared. She was screaming and as I started rocking her and she instantly calmed down. It touched my heart in ways I can't even explain. I just hoped the little girl could feel the love I had for her. She fell asleep in my arms and I put her to bed that evening. I cried the whole way home. I prayed that night that God would protect those children and find a family that could love them and protect them. I also thanked God for my child who I love and am thankful to have.

"Volunteering at the shelter makes me thankful for the way I was raised. Many children do not have the same opportunities in life, but I can make a difference. I can love them and I can play with them and color with them and hopefully make a bright spot in their day. They may not remember me in a month, but maybe I can impact their life in a positive way and they can take that memory or feeling with them. I look forward to chairing the committee it next year."

~ Stephanie Currington, 2010-11 Chair

"I truly enjoyed the hands on volunteer experience yet every time I was there I had such a heavy heart thinking these kids didn't have healthy parents and homes to go to. On my last visit there were three kids in the little house, two sisters and one brother, and the staff told us they had three older siblings there as well. What truly affected me was the four year old little girl knew how to take care of her six month old sister. The staff surmised she was the main caretaker of the baby at home. It broke my heart that a four year old wasn't getting to do what four year olds should be doing: playing, laughing, etc. Instead she has having to take care of her sister's basic needs. The staff was very careful to make sure she knew her sister was being taken care of so she could run and play with her brother and be her age. The shelter workers truly have a gift with these kids. They are very intuitive to pick up quickly what the kids are going-through/experiencing and do their best to give them a safe and happy place to be at the shelter."

~ Mary Catherine Ward

I will never forget my time there.

I have been very blessed to have a small part in helping these kids.

"Wow...where to I even begin? Having the opportunity to volunteer at the Laura Dester Shelter has made a "forever" impact on my life. I remember visiting the shelter for the very first time and volunteering in the "little house." Those precious little kids were so innocent and full of life. Just sitting down and reading a book or playing with building blocks was enough to put a smile on their faces. I am so appreciative that through Junior League of Tulsa, I was able to play a small role in making these children's future a little brighter.

I also enjoyed the sense of unity and special bond that our committee had. Everyone was there to serve, everyone had a true compassion for the kids and everyone wanted to make a difference. Serving on a committee of true leaders and go-getters was such an awesome experience!!

~ Ashley Farthing

"People have asked me "How can you go do that? Isn't it so hard to see those kids?" My answer to them is yes, at times it is hard, but the Laura Dester Shelter is an absolute blessing to these children. This is their chance to see what life can be like outside a neglectful, abusive, or dangerous home situation. At the very least they get 3 meals a day, a bed, boundaries, but they also get love.

"My first year at the shelter there was a set of siblings about 6, 4, and 3 years of age; who had been at the shelter before Christmas. In May I saw the younger two siblings and I asked them "Where is your brother?" They said, "Our dad came to get him, but he left us here," but then they ran on off and continued blowing bubbles and eating ice cream. I was devastated! How can a parent do that? But the kids just kept going...how do the kids do that?

"The hardest thing to see was a little girl about 18 months who kept crying and could not settle down. A couple of the Laura Dester staff kept passing her back and forth in a very careful manner. We asked "What happened?" They told us she had terrible grease burns on her backside. She had been to the hospital, but there was nothing more they could do. There are truly no words to explain how I felt at that moment. How helpless, sad, angry...our committee was in absolute shock. The staff sat and comforted her as best they could. They were AMAZING with her!

"In three years serving on the Laura Dester IMPACT committee two things in particular stand out to me. One is the resiliency of the kids; they are so respectful and appreciate our willingness to come do crafts, do manicures, talk, but most importantly listen. The second is the dedication of the staff; they are very good with the kids. Though it's a state run institution the staff makes it much more than that. It has been a privilege to serve on this committee and I have been very blessed to have a small part in helping these kids. I will never forget my time there."

~ Kim Eschelman

"I wasn't sure what it was going to be like but I have to say that I think it was one of the best JLT placements I could have had. Like so many of us, I get so caught up in the day to day business with work, activities, work, yes, work again, that we forget to stop and really look around to see what effect we can truly have in our community.

"Going to the shelter really humbled me and made me realize that my "bad days" aren't really bad days, there are kids who deal with so much more. I was so impressed by the attitude of each of the children that I encountered. I never really saw the "poor me" attitude that I expected.

"The first night we volunteered the high school girls looked at us like we were foreign and didn't really want much to do with us. One, in particular, had such a hard shell up that I was initially intimidated. When I started talking to her and showing her attention, though, she opened up and began teaching me to make lanyards. To my surprise she gave me a hug at the end of the evening! Another girl was there on multiple occasions. She was 16 and pregnant and again had such a "tough demeanor" upon first glance. She was another, though, that I really bonded with through a simple manicure. We talked about school, boys, her family and American Idol. Not only did I paint her nails, she painted mine!"

~Jacqueline Vann



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Meet your Junior League of Tulsa Board Members:

Meg Watkins

Nominating Chair

Place of Birth: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Provisional year: 2005

Education: University Of Wisconsin — Madison; Business and Consumer Sciences

Family: Gary, Alex and Taylor



Meg and Gary Watkins

Employment: Murphy Industries — Information Technology Department

Hobby's / interests: Going to the lake, traveling, cooking, volunteering and spending time with family and friends.

Favorite Sport: When the boys were younger, little league baseball was my favorite. Now, I'm into football! (Go Green Bay Packers and UW - Bucky Badger!!)

Favorite Childhood Memory: Spending the summers on the beach with my Grandparents. These memories include silly sibling antics, the sun and sand, and being surrounded by my extended

family. All my childhood memories are filled with love, life lessons and wonderful people who I strive to "be like".

Goal yet to achieve: To be more like those whom have influenced me in positive ways.... It's still a work in progress!

Have you learned any skill in League that you have applied to other aspects of your life? Volunteering with this wonderful group of women has taught me to be open and approachable in all situations. I've learned to listen more than I speak; a smile can really make a difference in someone's day; and everyone brings a fresh perspective and value to the group. The community networking skills learned in League have positively impacted other aspects of my life.

If time and money were no object: I'd start a Foundation and work with non-profit organizations. I'd also (selfishly) spend more time on the lake, or watching Food Network and playing in the kitchen!

Favorite JLT placement/why? Blooming Deals — The Committee was OUTSTANDING! We laughed, cried and sweated while working to raise money for JLT. It was a wonderful experience largely due to the women I worked with! (Thank you!!)

My favorite volunteer activity: Listening to the kids at the activities and encouraging them!

Favorite place you have traveled: Cape Cod or Mexico

Benefits of membership in JLT: League gives us a balance of training opportunities, volunteer opportunities and leadership opportunities. It connects us to the community and networks us with energetic, creative and focused women. The friendships I've formed while in league are the best benefit in my opinion!

Advice to provisional's: Get to know as many JLT members as possible. Extend a smile and an introduction whenever possible — it means so much to the members of our organization! If you are walking in alone, introduce yourself to someone in the parking lot or the lobby and sit together. I know you'll be amazed by the phenomenal group of women you just joined!

Kathleen Jones

Community Council VP

Place of Birth: Stillwater, Oklahoma

Provisional year: 2006

Education: Texas Tech University and Pastry Arts School in Houston

Family: I have been married for 10 years to Curt and we have 2 children, Ryan (5) and Kate (4).

Employment: I worked in Human Resources at a PetroChemical company in Houston for several years before taking "early retirement" to go to Pastry School. I now stay home with Ryan & Kate.

Hobby's / Interests: Spending time with my family & friends, cooking, baking, reading & sudoku.

Favorite Sport: wii tennis with my husband. We are almost pro!

Have you learned any skill in League that you have applied to other aspects of your life? Absolutely. My first year in League I placed on the American Girl committee. My daughter was 3 months old at the time, so I had no clue what an American Girl fashion show was. With a lot of hard work, enthusiasm and a sense of humor, our committee worked together, learned a lot and had a great time. I am really looking forward to the upcoming year and working with the 2010-2011 Board. It is a group of intelligent, compassionate and talented women and I know I will learn a lot from them this year.

If time and money were no object: I would buy a Tuscan Villa on a vineyard in Italy and live happily ever after with Curt, Ryan & Kate ... and our family and friends would have an open invitation to visit us anytime!

Favorite JLT placement/why? Saint Francis. I started working in the library when it opened in 2008 because I had a light placement that year and they needed extra help. I double placed on it in 2009, was the Chair in 2010 and I plan to continue volunteering in the library during the 2010-2011 year. We have impacted many families by being there. When I work up there and see a mom and dad with their 2 young children, I stop to think that it could be me in their shoes. And I just feel really great about being there even if I'm are just helping them with a google search, copying a page from a reference book or giving them a couple hours to take their mind off of whatever they are going through by playing a game or watching a movie.

My favorite volunteer activity: Most recently, operation JLT was very fun and rewarding.

Favorite place you have traveled: Fiji and Alaska



**Kathleen and Curt Jones
with Kate and Ryan**

To the Laura Dester IMPACT Committee:

You truly did possess and represent the
"Spirit of the League."
Congratulations in earning this honor.

*Vice-chair Margaret King
Amanda Chalmers
Stephanie Currington
Kim Eselman
Ashley Farthing
Caren Gerkin
Christy Gilliam
Amy Lawrence
Jacqueline Vann
Mary Catherine Ward*

Ladies, it was my pleasure and privilege to
chair such dedicated and impassioned women.
A gift to the JLT Endowment has been made
in your honor.

Mary Anne Thoman
Chair 2009-2010

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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 \$1,500 scholarships to high school seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to voluntarism. Also, the committee will oversee the awarding of a \$1,500 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 also serves about 30 third-grade through fifth-grade students at Eugene Field Elementary School and with JLT's assistance, the project expanded to Rosa Parks.

May Meeting Awards

By Alison Wade

It has become an annual tradition for JLT to showcase members' outstanding accomplishments at the May General League Meeting which was held this year on May 12th at the Gilcrease Museum. Two members were recognized for outstanding individual contributions



Global Gardens committee member Nicole Randolph and Hospitality & Membership Chair Sarah Stewart

to their respective League committees with Applause Awards. Award recipients included Nicole Randolph, a Global Gardens committee member, and Sarah Stewart, Chair of the Hospitality Committee. Additionally, Kelly Feemster, Lacey Matney, Courtney Cain and Kristal Sack also received Applause Awards for serving as Team Captains for Operation JLT. These "captains" assisted in the planning and implementation of the event itself and ensured that our members were effectively utilized at each of the five local elementary schools.

Six League members were honored during the May meeting for attaining ten years of active service to the League. Each of the following ladies received engraved silver trays from Miss Jackson's: Carey Baker, Sarah Dougherty, Anne Gillingham, Abigail Prescott, Sarah Stewart, and Alison Wade. Another twenty League members were recognized for providing five years of active service to the League and they include: Robyn Amberg, Michelle Bishop, Carissa Cooper, Krystie Cupp, Betsy Endicott, Vicki Fairchild, Sarah Franzen, Robyn Hunsucker, Cyndi Kernan, Margaret King, Kelly Kirchhoff, Mary Leake, Lisa Marshall, Brandy O'Brian, Tara O'Mahony, Dawn Parton, Cassie Reese, Heather Smith, Cherami Thomas, and Ashwini Vaidya.

Ten JLT members will be moving from active status to sustaining status at the end of this League year. The following members were recognized during the meeting for providing at least seven active years of service to JLT: Carey Baker, Kathryn Burnett, Ellen Cordell, Christy Gilliam, Noel Groves, Rachael Hunsucker, Jan Jackson, Charlotte Shillingford, Debi Sowards and Paige Shelton. Although we will certainly miss their contributions to our organization, we wish all these new Sustainers much success as they move onto other personal and professional endeavors.

Connie Doverspike was announced as this year's recipient of the Sustainer of the Year Award during the May meeting festivities. This award was created to recognize an outstanding sustainer for achievement in the areas of League

**Sustainer of the Year
Connie Doverspike and
Corresponding Secretary
Kate Howell**



involvement and community service. During Connie's active years in the JLT, she served on all four Councils, served two years on the JLT Board of Directors, received three Applause Awards and was the 1998-99 JLT Volunteer of the Year. As a Sustaining member, Connie remains passionate about JLT. She regularly volunteers her time at our Family Resource Library at St. Francis and has encouraged other sustainers to support this important project. She has also served on the JLT Scholarship Interview Committee, and is the founding member of the Sustainer Book Club. Most recently she volunteered her time at Eugene Fields Elementary School for Operation JLT. Any active or sustainer member who has worked with Connie knows she is always happy to help in any capacity. Our organization is certainly fortunate to have her as a sustaining member. Congrats, Connie!

In addition to highlighting individual volunteers, one exceptional committee, Laura Dester Impact, was honored with the "Spirit of the League" award by this year's JLT Board of Directors. This committee not only provided exceptional volunteer assistance to the Laura Dester Children's Shelter on a regular basis, they went above and beyond filling day and night volunteer shifts at local hospitals and driving as far as Bartlesville to assist with a hospitalized child.



Laura Dester IMPACT committee member Amanda Chalmers, Vice-chair Margaret King, Chair Mary Anne Thoman, Community Council VP Sarah Dougherty, committee member Ashley Farthing.

They participated in shelter activities such as the annual Halloween Carnival, provided assistance with homework, gathered and provided much needed clothing and necessities, and worked within JLT to provide funding for a playground at the new Shelter. Committee members included Chair Mary Anne Thoman, Vice-chair Margaret King, Amanda Chalmers, Stephanie Currington, Kim Eshelman, Ashley Farthing, Caren Gerkin, Christy Gilliam, Amy Lawrence, Jacqueline Vann and Mary Catherine Ward.

The grand finale of the evening was the presentation of the Volunteer of the Year award to Stephanie Eckman. Serving as Holiday Market Merchants & Facilities Coordinator for two consecutive years (2008 and 2009), Stephanie proved herself a cornerstone of this successful fundraiser. Stephanie devoted countless hours of research to developing procedures and identifying merchants for Holiday Market, including visits to Junior League markets in surrounding states. She

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**Holiday Market
Merchants & Facilities
Coordinator Stephanie
Eckman and Financial
Council VP Abigail
Prescott**

also proved herself a conscientious committee member, delivering perfect attendance at Holiday Market 2009 committee meetings and hosting two committee socials in her home.

Stephanie devoted an enormous amount of time and energy to the success of Holiday Market throughout the year, at times spending 40 hours per week overseeing the many details of merchant management, contracts and bookkeeping. She was also present during the full length of Holiday Market hours — and many hours beyond. The success of Holiday Market owes much to Stephanie's dedication and enthusiasm and her passion for cultivating relationships with new and existing merchants has laid a firm foundation for Holiday Market's continuing success, allowing the Junior League of Tulsa to reap the fruits of her labor for many years to come.

As another League year comes to an end, it is appropriate to thank all of our members for their valuable time and effort in making this such a successful and memorable year.

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From the Caring Bridge page of Sicily Evelyn Zeka,
<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/sicilyevelynzeka>

It's with heavy hearts we report that brave little Sicily Evelyn Zeka, cover girl for the spring 2009 Gusher, lost her courageous and valiant battle with bi-lateral Wilm's tumor, cancer of both kidneys, just preceding her fifth birthday. The Junior League of Tulsa extends its sincere condolences to her mother Kerry Zeka who was at the photo shoot and of course all of Sicily's family. JLT has made a donation in Sicily's honor to the Sicily's Memorial Scholarship. If you would also like to donate please send to: Bank of Commerce, 201 West Harvey Ave., Wellington, KS 67152 "In honor of Sicily Evelyn Zeka".

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SAVE THE DATE!

July

4 Independence Day
 JLT office is closed.

27 Gusher Deadline
 Feature the League's latest events and happenings in the Fall issue. Submit your pictures and stories to gusher@jltulsa.org

August

4 JLT Board Meeting
 Board members meeting at 7:00 pm at JLT headquarters.

18 Sustainer Speak Outs
 Harwelden Mansion 6:30-8:30 pm

September

6 Labor Day
 JLT office is closed.

15 General Meeting
 League meeting at 6:30pm held in the Mabee room.

SAVE • THE • DATE

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