

**PLUS:** 

Holiday Market Recap • Pearls and Prohibition – A Sneak Peek of Denim and Diamonds



, Class of 2017

# RIVERFIELD Vay

### Learn

A seven to one student to faculty ratio makes personalized learning possible.

## Grow

Students can attend Riverfield starting at 8 weeks of age through their Senior year.

## Innovate

Multi-age interactions, cross-discipline investigations and a wireless campus prepare our students for success.

Explore

Students develop a kinship with nature on the many trails that span our 120-acre campus.



## from the editor...

For whatever reason, writing the introduction to this Winter issue of *gusher* is a tough task for me. (In fact, if you're reading these words right now, then this is version eight of my "Letter from the Editor".)

Maybe I'm a perfectionist, or maybe the topic of the League's "reality" just simply overwhelms me.

In this issue of *gusher*, we focus in on the "reality" of the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) and present a portrait of five Members, creating our own version of the Real Housewives series. I hope that you find their stories to be as inspiring as I did. (I still can't comprehend how a Mom of SIX BOYS finds time to make a cup of coffee, let alone volunteer her precious time to help others!)

But you know what's really neat? These ladies offer only a small glimpse into who JLT Members really are.

The reality is that JLT Members are go-getters. No matter our ages, our occupations or any other factors that make us different – we are all united as a group of women who understand that we can make a difference. We change lives. We change our city.

See what I mean when I talk about being overwhelmed by reality?!?!

I hope you enjoy reading this reality-themed issue as much as the committee enjoyed putting it together. Speaking of the *gusher* committee, I have to give a special shout-out to this hard-working group of women. So many times, I've heard other JLT members say, "I could never be on *gusher*." But the truth of *gusher* is that it is more than just writing – these ladies come up with fabulous ideas, donate their time to take pictures and make all sorts of cold-calls to sell advertising space. They do an amazing job!

Well, it looks like version eight of this letter is the winner! Hooray! Now, it's time for you to go enjoy the rest of this issue and always remember that you are an important part of the reality of JLT and you make a difference in Tulsa!

Happy reading,

Bridget Treadwell Editor 2012-2013



In keeping with the reality-theme, the *gusher* committee, poses in their "Dirty Jobs" role (for those that don't know - Dirty Jobs also happens to be a reality TV show). Pictured left to right: (first row) Laura Swan, Laura McClain, Gina Smith; (second row) Christina Fravel, Devon Miller. Not pictured: ReAnda Walker, Melissa Snyder

## contents

Features:

- 3 Pearls & Prohibition Preview
- 6 That's a Wrap: Celebrating Holiday Market's Success
- 8 2011-2012 Annual Report
- **IO** Board Members: They're Just Like Us!
- **12** Real Housewives of JLT
- 18 Speak Out Recap

Departments:

- **2** Letter from the President
- 4 Transitions
- 5 A Look Ahead
- 6 Sustainers' Spotlight
- 19 Spotlight on Community Advisory Board
- 20 ReMember Form

**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 2012-2013**

Bridget Treadwell, Editor

Devon Miller, Vice Chair

Gina Smith, Vice Chair

Christina Fravel

Laura McClain

Melissa Snyder

Laura Long Swan

ReAnda Walker

## Letter from the President

Each Winter, I get so excited about all the wonderful things that come with this magical season. As I think about all the festivities and family events, I can't help but feel very thankful for my loved ones during this special time of the year. More than ever, I realize that without the love, support and understanding of my this special time of the year. More than ever, I realize that without the love, support and understanding of my friends and family, volunteering for the Junior League of Tulsa would not be possible.

Throughout this issue, you will see fantastic pictures and read impressive articles, all about the amazing work of our Members and Community Partners. I am so proud of the work that our Members do to make Tulsa a better place. But, I think we owe a good portion of our success to our loved ones. From to make Tulsa a better place. But, I think we owe a good portion of our success to our loved ones. From friends, who attend event after event; siblings, who have learned to ask "why" when we call and ask if they are busy; husbands, who understand Wednesday nights are bad nights to plan anything, and that the League are busy; husbands, who understand Wednesday nights are bad nights to plan anything, and that the League are busy; husbands, who understand Wednesday nights are bad nights to plan anything, and that the League are busy; husbands, who understand Wednesday nights are bad nights to plan anything, and that the League are busy; husbands, who understand Wednesday nights are bad nights to plan anything, and that the League are busy; husbands, who understand Wednesday nights are bad nights to plan anything, and that the League are busy; husbands, who understand Wednesday nights are bad nights to plan anything, and that the League are busy; husbands, who understand Wednesday nights are bad nights to plan anything, and that the League are busy; husbands, who understand Wednesday nights are bad nights to plan anything, and that the League are busy; husbands, who understand Wednesday nights are bad nights to plan anything, and that the League are busy; husbands, who understand Wednesday nights are bad nights to plan anything, and that the League are busy; husbands, who understand Wednesday nights are bad nights to plan anything, and that the League are busy; husbands are bad nights to plan anything.

For many of us, volunteering might not be possible without the support of our loved ones. For most of us, it would not be worth it. I am so thankful for the opportunity to be a member of such an amazing organization. I am proud of the example that we set for our children and loved ones, and recognize that they get to share in the credit for the difference we make in this wonderful city.

This winter, I hope you have many merry times with your friends and family and I hope that you do

This winter, I nope you have many merry times with your management with them for granted. I hope you enjoy this amazing issue and that you share the pictures and stories with those you love. When you do, make sure they know that without them... none of it would be possible.

With many thanks to you and those you love,

Heather Duncan 2012-2013 President

P.S. I have to give a special shout to my loved ones, especially J, J & H. Love you.

Heather Duncan
President
2012-2013



## Pearls and Prohibition

The Junior League of Tulsa's (JLT's) annual fundraising gala is "Pearls and Prohibition". In honor of the League's ninetieth anniversary, all are invited to a 1920s speakeasy at the historic Southern Hills Country Club ballroom. The event will take place from 6:30-10:30 p.m., on Saturday, Mar. 9, 2013.

Guests will enjoy casino-style gaming, raffle, and live and silent auctions with each package highlighting one of JLT's community partnerships or fundraising events from the past 90 years. The League will honor Mrs. Frances Chandler, past President and Sustainer of JLT, who hosted the first-ever dinner-dance in 1960 at none other than Southern Hills Country Club. The emcee for the evening will be Karen Larsen, KJRH TV anchor and JLT's Comforthe

munity Advisory Board member. Barron Ryan will set the stage with live piano music in the cocktail lounge while DJ Mike Durant switches things up once inside the exclusive Speakeasy. The event will surely be "puttin' on the ritz" with food stations and a dessert bar, along with unlimited beer, wine and, of course, Moonshine. A full cash bar will



Members of the Pearls and Prohibition Committee have the password for the party of the year, do you?

also be available. Cocktail or 1920s inspired attire is suggested...so get out that flapper dress or fedora and join us for a swanky night. It is sure to be the bees' knees!

Tickets to the event are available at jltulsa.org for \$90 per person and include 1,000 charity chips for the gaming tables or \$250 per couple at the "Bootlegger" Patron

Level which includes 1,500 in charity chips and recognition on printed materials. For more information, please contact Alex Paschal, Director of Development at apaschal@jltulsa.org. Proceeds from this event support the League's mission of promoting voluntarism and community projects.

Grab your friends and don't forget that you've got to have the password for the party of the year!







## Congratulations National Merit Students!

Seventeen percent of the senior class was recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for their performance on the qualifying exam.

- 13 Semifinalist Students
- 3 Commended Students
- 1 National Achievement Student

Cascia Hall is a Catholic, college-preparatory school for students of all faiths in grades 6-12; 100% of our students matriculate to a college or university following graduation. The Cascia Hall program prepares students for college and for life with challenging academics, extensive extracurricular activities, and community service opportunities.

2520 S. Yorktown Ave. | Tulsa, OK 74114-2803 918-746-2600 | casciahall.org

Truth • Unity • Love

Pransitions

Small Miracles

Carter Robert Wilson Born July 6, 2012 Son of Courtney (A) and Rich



### Congratulations

**Ashleigh Boedeker** (A) co-chaired Monte Cassino's Octoberfest fundraising event

**Rita Burke** (A) was promoted to Local Sales Manager for KTUL, Tulsa's Channel 8

**Stephanie Eckman** (A) was featured in River Living magazine

**Jean Ann Hankin** (S) is the new Executive Director of the Ronald McDonald House

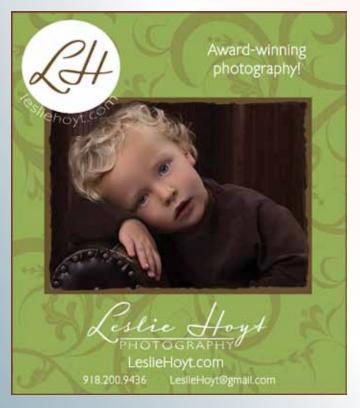
**Peggy Helmerich** (S) was honored by the University of Oklahoma for the Peggy Dow Helmerich School of Drama

**Lauren Landwerlin** (P) is the new Executive Director of Corporate Communications for Saint Francis Health Systems

Rania Nasreddine (A) became a partner at Gable Gotwals

**Maura Wilson** was featured in Tulsa Kids magazine and also accepted a new position as Executive Director for CASA

**Michelle Riddell** (S) accepted a new position as Vice President of Strategic Communications & Community Investment for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas.



The Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) family wants to know what is happening in your life. Please take a moment to let us know about your important events, including:

- Birth announcements
- Engagement or wedding announcements
- Condolences
- Special community or workplace recognition
- Career changes

Please email information to the *gusher* at gusher@jltulsa.org



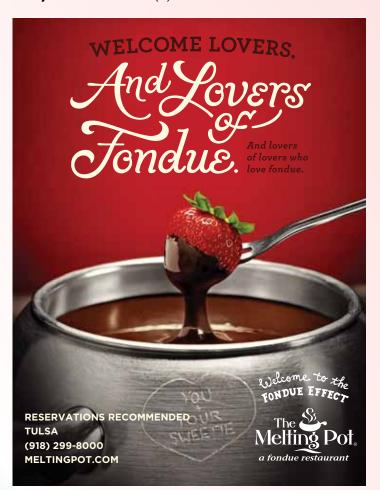
Laura Long (A) to Matt Swan on June 2, 2012



#### Condolences

Sutton Murray (A) on the loss of her father

Mary Anne Thoman (A) on the loss of her mother.





#### Women Building a Better Tulsa

#### Mission Statement

The Junior League of Tulsa, Inc., is an organization of women com-

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

#### 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

#### Community Advisory Board 2012-2013

Colleen Ayers-Griffin

Community Service Council

Victoria Bartlett First Lady of Tulsa

Ken Busby

Arts & Húmanities Council of Tulsa

Michelle Choquette

Community Action Project

Doug DeJarnette

F&M Bank

Debi\_Friggel

QuikTrip

Karen Larsen

KJRH, Channel 2

Mike Neal

Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce

Brian Paschal

Tulsa's Young Professionals

MaryQuinn Cooper

McAfee and Taft

Sarah Stephens

Persimmon Group

8 Hot Chocolate Chat
© Shades of Brown
20 JLTU

Mentorship Luncheon

9 Denim & Diamonds:
Pearls and Prohibition
13 General Membership
Meeting

League-wide Project with Youth at Heart

@ Andy B's Bowling Lanes Contact Molly Aspan maspan@hallestill.com or Beth Pielsticker Beth.Pielsticker@griffinnichemedia.com

Happy Hour @ Polo Grill

#### Board of Directors 2012-2013

President Heather Duncan
President-elect Liz Brolick
Treasurer Jenny Lizama
Treasurer-elect Rita Burke
Recording Secretary BJ Weintraub
Corresponding Secretary Courtney Wilson
Communications Council VP Toni Moseley
Community Council VP Carissa Cooper
Community Program VP Jennifer Roberson
Financial Council VP Ashley Farthing
Membership Council VP Ashleigh Boedeker
Nominating Chair Mary Anne Thoman
Strategic Planning Chair Paula Settoon
Sustainer Advisor Janna Roberson

For more information about the Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. or to find out more about how Junior Leagues build better communities, please contact:

The Association of Junior Leagues International Inc.

80 Maiden Lane, Suite 305 New York, NY 10038 Tel: 212.951.8300 • Fax: 212.481.7196 E-mail: info@ajli.org www.ajli.org



by Laura McClain

Congratulations to the 2012 Holiday Market Committee and Holiday Market Chair, Whitney Mathews, on another year of shopping festivities that dazzled Tulsa and the surrounding area. The Market's beautiful decorations and atmosphere gave the warm feeling of Christmas, putting everyone in the holiday shopping spirit.

TO DAZZLE

This year's Market hosted around 100 vendors. Customers had an opportunity to vote on their favorite booth. The most popular booths were Shawls by Barrett, Amaranth and Gloryhaus. Over the course of the weekend, the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) greeted 4,300 customers – an impressive 33 percent increase in traffic over 2011.

There were many special events this year that contributed to the success of Holiday Market. The Tinsel and 'Tinis Party provided a special preview night on Thursday night, complete with a fashion show from featured merchants, as well as a designer raffle and wreath auction.

Special events continued Friday with the inaugural Christmas and Croissants Brunch, which brought together JLT's Sustaining, Active, and Provisional Members and guests. Kristin Dickerson from Tulsa's Channel 8 served as the morning's host and the ever-charming Peggy V. Helmerich delivered a thoughtful invocation. The presenting speaker, Maralyn Inhoff-

Tucker, spoke to the group about the art and architectural history of Tulsa while featuring images from her book, *Footsteps Through Tulsa*. Brunch guests sipped on mimosas and beat the lines that formed outside before the Market opened to the public. Later that day, JLT said thank you to the teaching community with free admission to the Market from 4 - 7 p.m. for area teachers, with the first 30 receiving thank you bags.

Even during his busiest time of the year, Santa made a special visit to make sure all of the families attending Holiday Market had a great time on Sunday. He checked his naughty and nice list, visited with shoppers, and took pictures with children of all ages. These adorable photos will create special memories for families for years to come.

Holiday Market 2012 left us dreaming of what Holiday Market 2013 will be! JLT thanks the Holiday Market Committee for all of their hard work and dedication to making this year a magical event!



Save the Date! Friday, March 8th, 2013

JLT's Inaugural Event: **A Mentorship Luncheon** 

Keynote speaker **Kathy Taylor**Ist Presbyterian Church,
Stephenson Hall II:30-I:00

Invitations will be mailed!

## 2012 Holiday Market Sponsors

The 2012 Holiday Market would not have been possible without the support of community partners and the donation of thousands of volunteer hours and gifts from members and friends of the Junior League of Tulsa.

BMW of Tulsa • First Oklahoma Bank • Hogan Assessments • Logos Staffing • McGraw Realtors • Stauffer & Nathan

Apache Corporation • Ashleigh and Daniel Boedeker • Capital Advisors, Inc. • Cyntergy AEC • Part-Time Pros • RCB Bank • Sam J. and Nona M. Rhoades Foundation • Spray Equipment of Oklahoma • West Construction • Weslock • Wolek Group - Keller Williams Realty

Heather and Jason Duncan • Heatherington & Fields • Denise Piland • Spearman Ranch • Pam Rosser •

Special thanks to: BeDubci Designs • Excellence Photo Booths • FCS Care Card • Jane Butts Events and Interiors • Mary Murray's Flowers • Melinda Stowers Divine Inspiration •

Petty's Fine Foods • QuikTrip • Southwood Nursery • Storehouse Printing and Design • This Land Press • TulsaPeople • Tulsa World • 2 Guys and a Truck •

#### **Holiday Market Committee:**

Whitney Mathews, Ashli Rogers, Margaret King, Jennifer Colerick, Mindee Ferland, Jennifer Wyckoff, Melissa Mackey, Kimberly Butts, Allison Fennell-Conch, Juell Homco, Lauren Bradley, Andrea Martin, Janine Fadner, Lauren Pierce, Stephanie Putzke, Sarah Schultz, Shelby Stauffer, Kate Vahlberg, Jessica Engelbrecht, Brittany Guest, Katherine Anderson, Kara Fleege, Chelsey Gobbo, Jolina Hetrick, Kelly Jensen, Maureen Johnson, Laura Landwerlin, Laura Law, Kathryn Martin, Amber Moden, Holly Payne, Samantha Peale, Amanda Reid, Missy Torgerson, Audrey Wallace, Jaime Zwiener

#### Style Show and Designer Raffle:

Posh, Little Black Dress, Blue Jean Baby, Liv a Little, Pavilion, Tag, Tawnini, Raw Elements, Tapestry of Faith, Pavilion, Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, McGill's, Meig's Jewelry, The Dolphin Bed and Bath, Blue Jean Baby, Grene Vision Group, Destry Davis, Tulsa Zoo, Kathleen's Kids, Little Crane, Southern Agriculture, Dog Dish, Don C. Harris Photography, Box Works, Inviting Place, Starbucks, E&J Gallow Winery, Neiman Marcus, Stems, Purse-A-Nality, Andolini's, In the Raw, Mi Cocina, Anthropology, European Wax Studio, The Hyatt Place, The French Hen, Marilynn Ihloff Salon, HQ Salon, Boston Avenue Salon, R Bar, Downtown Eye Care, Marshall's Brewery, Leon's, Battle Creek Golf Course, Accent, Fat Guy Burgers, Doubletree Hotel, Warren Duck Club, Loops, V'Las Salon, 918manipedi, Rumors Salon, Yankee Candle, The Apple Tree, Mazzio's, Ondrea Holland with Bath and Body Works, and Pei Wei, Keith Stowers

#### Wreath Auction

Designs by Jamie, Euphoria, Turn Tulsa Pink, Pinot's Palette, Bella Vita Spa, PC Dance Company, Wink, PaperGirl, Los Cabos, Waterfront Grill, Primrose Accessory, Abuelos, StoneMill BBQ and Steak House, Johnnie Carino's, Charlie's Chicken, Applebee's, Secret Garden Candle, Sushi Hana, Louie's, Purple Glaze, Mrs. Fields Cookies, Element 360 Design, Mahogany Steakhouse, Wink Eyelash Salon, Pinot's Palette, Checkmark Concierge, Wing Run, Godiva Chocolates, Lowe's, and Trophy Plaque and Plus.

### 2011-2012 Annual Report

### Message from Sarah Dougherty, 2011-2012 President

Celebrating our eighty-ninth year of service to our community, the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) had a successful 2011-2012 year that can be summed up in three words – Love, Serve, Lead. This year's JLT theme centered on our mission and how instrumental it is to our organization as the common thread of our membership; developing the potential of women, improving our community, and promoting voluntarism.

Our Board of Directors recognized that an engaged membership will produce more women leaders and increase our impact and effectiveness in our community. I am a firm believer that membership in this organization can be a transformational experience for women. We engaged on this topic at multiple levels throughout the year with our membership and concluded these efforts by adopting a Member Engagement Plan that will guide JLT for many years to come.

JLTs diverse membership of more than 781 women gave 38,097 cumulative hours to JLT's mission and impacted more than countless lives through our six community projects. This investment, coupled with JLT's budget spent funding its mission, equated to an economic impact of more than \$1 million.

At the Annual Conference of the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) in April, we were honored with a Kashi Foods award for our work with Harvest Market which will allow us to continue our incredible work, serving the families in the Eugene Field Elementary School community.

The achievements of JLT's Members were countless and their work worthwhile – strengthening and empowering not only our own organization, but also our community.

Thank you to all of our Members, community partners, sponsors and friends who invested in our organization to help JLT continue to achieve our mission of developing women, improving our community, and promoting voluntarism. I am proud of JLT's impact and commitment to Love, Serve and Lead in the Tulsa community.

Sarah Dougherty 2011-2012 President Junior League of Tulsa, Inc.

#### 2011-2012 Board of Directors

Sarah Dougherty President

Heather Duncan President Elect

Jennifer Roberson Treasurer

**Jenny Lizama** Treasurer Elect

Jordan Coffman Recording Secretary

Amy Greene Corresponding Secretary

Paula Settoon Communications Council VP

Kim Smith Community Council VP

Sutton Murray Community Program VP

Ashleigh Boedeker Financial Council VP

**Rita Burke** Membership Council VP

Alison Wade Nominating Chair

Abigail Prescott Strategic Planning Chair

#### 2011-2012 Community Advisory Board

**Debi Friggel**QuikTrip Corporation

Ken Busby

Art & Humanities Council of Tulsa

Mike Neal Tulsa Regional Chamber

Carolyn Blair Gilcrease Museum/University of Tulsa

Ann Fields, CPA Heatherington & Fields

Doug DeJarnette F&M Bank

Gary Percefull
TPS Rep/Scissortail Group

Tim Harris, District Attorney Tulsa County

Michelle Hardesty Hardesty Foundation

Jan Creveling Community Schools

Lee Clark Johns Strategic Communication, Inc.

#### **Sponsors**

Atlas Pipeline

Linda & Ken Baldwin, Tool Center, Inc.

Bank of Oklahoma

Lisa Berry

Ashleigh Boedeker

Elizabeth Brolick

Chinoweth & Cohen, LLC

Citizens Security Bank

Neil Dieterle

Dodson & Associates, Inc.

Barbara Drotar

Heather Duncan

F&M Bank & Trust Company

Melissa Fabian

Miss Jackson's

Kara Fleege

Leslie Frazier

Leslie Greenfield

High Plains Services, LLC

Stephanie Horne

Bob Howard Auto Group

Rachael Hunsucker

Kelly Karlovich Amanda Kilian

Luanne Lyman - Muirfield Resources Co.

McGraw Davisson Stewart Realtors

Midfirst Bank

Tamara Noel

Randy Olmstead, Mid-Con Energy Partners

Patriot Bank

Suzanne Phillips

Shannon Richards

Janna Roberson

Saint Francis Hospital

The Williams Companies, Inc.

University of Tulsa

Alison Wade

Jennie Wolek

WPX Energy, Inc.

Shannon Wright

#### **In Kind Donations**

The Junior League of Tulsa is grateful to receive many in-kind donations from businesses and individuals who make our work possible. Thank you to all of our partners who give their gifts to help build a better Tulsa.

## Volunteer Hours Community Programs Training and Education Fundraising Supporting Services

#### **Volunteer Hours by Community Project**

Community Programs = 10,246 Training and Education = 11,545 Fundraising = 13,140 Supporting Services = 3,166

Total = 38,097



## Message from Margaret Johnson , Chair, Endowment Funds Management Board

The Endowment Fund was created in 1994 with the objective of providing the revenue for the operational expenses of the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) which would then allow 100 percent of our fundraising dollars to be returned to the community in the form of grants and community programs. At the conclusion of the 2011-2012 League year, the Endowment corpus totaled \$622,462. Upon the approval of the JLT Board, the annual earnings are returned to the endowment as we work toward our goal of a \$3,000,000 corpus. We are grateful to our generous donors whose contributions are a perpetual investment that enable JLT to continue to positively impact our community.

#### Junior League of Tulsa, Inc. Annual Report Information June 1, 2011 - May 31, 2012

2011 - 2012 Endowment Fund Balance\$574,650
2011 - 2012 Financial Position\$491,305Investments\$479,205Property and Equipment\$923,394Tulsa Community Foundation Funds\$47,8122011 - 2012 Fundraising Amount\$105,058

#### **Endowment Fund Donors**

Barbara Allen Jennifer Andrade Tricia Arend Deborah Baker Virginia Barbour Lisa & Robert Berry Katty Beyhan Ashleigh Boedeker Donna Bost Mrs. Vol L. Bowell Denice Brice Claudia Brierre Elizabeth Brolick Patsy Brown Lynda Brownson Laurie Brumbaugh Rita Burke Carol Burnett Meg Cardoni Revelle Clausing Cookie Coffey Sharon Coffman Kathy Collins The Fulton & Susie Collins Foundation Stephanie Coon Valerie Craig

Sue Curry

Mary Danz

Kate Davis

Michelle Dickason Nan Dickerson Kay Dixon Sarah Dougherty Connie Doverspike Dawn Duca Heather Duncan Elizabeth Edwards Betsy Endicott Ashley Epperly Pam Eslicker Allison Fennell-Conch Susan Flynn Ann Foster Sarah Franzen Leslie Frazier Kristina Gaulf Donnell Green Amy Greene Debora Grillot Helen Jo Hardwick Shirley Hawkins Health Care Service Corporation Ianell Helmerich Walter Helmerich Brianna Hibdon Shelli Holland-Handy Polly Holway Kay Humphrey

Judy Ingraham Susie Jackson Amy James Margaret Johnson Margaret King Deidra Kirtley Stephanie Kotarski Ivy Lark Sarah Beth Leedy Jenny Lizama Kristine Lovely Ashlee Lowry Debbie Luthey Evelyn Manion Whitney Mathews Lacey Matney Jean McGill Marge Meyer Karen Mildren Tishey Miller Jean Millwee Nancy Moore Virginia Morehead Sutton Murray Marion Neblett Andrea Nielsen Lindsay Patterson, PhD Denise Piland Kathy Pixley Mary Prather Elizabeth Rainey

Joyce Randolph Eleanor Reed Stephanie Riddle Margaret Rosene Robinson Pam Rosser Sharon Sawyer Beverly Schafer Kay Schermerhorn Myrna Seale Paula Settoon Nancy Sevenoaks Kathy Shaffer Charlotte Shillingford Kim Smith Georgia Snoke Belynda Spitzer Stacey Sutherland Betty Swindle Mary Anne Thoman Beverly Tolson Juliette Updike Alison Wade Mary Catherine Ward Meg Watkins Gaylyn Wattman BJ Weintraub Barbara West David White Treva Wiruth Jeanette Wolfe Hayley Wood





## The Reality of the Junior League

by Laura Long Swan & Bridget Treadwell

It began in 1901 when Mary Harriman, a 19-year old New Yorker, formed the Junior League for the promotion of Settlement Movements. Together with 80 other women, the New York City League worked to improve child health, nutrition and literacy among immigrants living on the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

Today, Junior League groups across the world continue to work tirelessly to impact social, health and educational issues for the community at large. What began as a group of less than one hundred women, has grown to more than 160,000 members serving in the 293 Junior Leagues of Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States.

As the Junior League of Tulsa celebrates its ninetieth year, we are reminded of the long list of women who paved the way for today's League members to make their own change — no matter their background. From homemakers to high powered lawyers, grandmothers to recent college graduates — the reality of the Junior League of Tulsa is simple — women building a better Tulsa.

The *gusher* visited with five of the Junior League of Tulsa's Members to talk about their lives and how they represent the true reality of what the League is about.

#### **Ruth Addison**

Ruth Addison loves the law, and it's a good thing she does, because she spends an inordinate amount of time practicing it. On average, Addison works a minimum of 60 hours per week as an attorney for McAfee and Taft. Those hours rose dramatically last summer when Addison earned a life-altering opportunity to defend her first murder case against the District Attorney in Wagoner County. Although the case took up a significant amount of her time, more work than she ever thought possible, Addison is grateful for the experience. "I felt like I learned what it really means to defend someone's rights. It gives me a renewed passion for the law in general. With this case, it wasn't about this person being innocent or guilty, it was about a person's rights, and those rights being represented competently."

Life outside of work for Addison is slightly less stressful, although not by much. She juggles a fulltime legal career with a part-time teaching job at ITT in the Paralegal Studies department, serves on the board of Palmer Continuum of Care and works with the North Tulsa Development Council through Leadership Tulsa. With all of these activities on her plate, Addison still manages to serve as the Junior League of Tulsa's (JLT's) Vice Chair of the Finance Committee.



In her role on the Finance Committee, Addison helps to manage the JLT budget, workings every fundraising event where money is exchanged and attends all Financial Council Meetings. She was inspired to join JLT three years ago after two Sustainers and active Member, Rania Nasreddine, shared JLT's mission of voluntarism. "I'm passionate about women's rights and helping children, and I wanted to join and see what different community service opportunities were available," said Addison.

Addison's message on the impact of the League is simple: "Women who are



involved in Junior League make a difference. We are doing so much work with great projects like the Laura Dester Shelter and the IMPACT

Committee. We are all sincere about giving and we want to help our community. How can you doubt an organization whose purpose is to give?"

#### Carla Gilbert

Some might consider Carla Gilbert a Legacy member of JLT and for this grandmother of six, the League offers a special connection between three generations of family members – her mother, herself and now her daughter, Kelly Karlovich (Active).

Gilbert's Junior League experience began in 1965 as a Provisional for the Junior League of Fort Worth. By 1970, she transferred her membership to the Tulsa League and today, serves as a Sustainer.

Over the years, Gilbert has seen many changes in the League. When comparing her experience as an Active Member to the

Junior League of today, Gilbert refers back to the old saying, "the only thing constant in life, is change."

"Certainly the League has changed since my active days! To be a member of the Junior League, we had to have sponsors and be 'proposed' by an Active and Sustainer. The (Provisional) classes were small – 25 or so girls... today a girl can register online and pay her dues and become a Provisional," said Gilbert.

Yet, even through all the change, this Sustainer Member sees one important constant - the core values of JLT. "It (the League) has not lost its original purpose, to train and educate volunteers to serve in the community," she said. "The projects they undertake these days are different, but current and relevant to the needs of our growing and changing community, just as they were when I was active."

Between lunches and dinners with friends, social and volunteer activities and babysitting for her six grandchildren, Gilbert's life remains full – and the League's influence remains strong. "My Sustainer friends and I laugh as we take on new placements on our own and end up in leadership roles – that's all because of our Junior League training. While we laugh, that is one the realities of membership in the League. We are well trained and committed. We continue caring about Tulsa," she said. "As I watch Active (Members) now, I see their commitment to these same principles and I know the League is in safe hands."

#### **Heather Lussenhop**

One....two, three...four, five, SIX!

When it comes to finding a JLT Member with a full schedule, look no further than Heather Lussenhop, who, together with her husband Christian, juggles the schedules of Cash, Brice and Blair (twins), Ford, Hudson and Lake (triplets).

From Cub Scout meetings to lacrosse, basketball, soccer and swimming practices, she juggles the lives of six active boys with

amazing grace and a whole lot of structure. "Our household is very structured," said Lussenhop, "we run on a schedule in order to conquer the day. Some days are rodeos and others flow effortlessly...I prefer the effortless ones, it makes me feel young again."

So how does a mother of six find the time – and the energy – to volunteer? For this JLT Member, the answer comes from her family. "My husband and sons support me in making time for myself. You make time for the things you hold closest



to your heart. I cannot do it all, but I can make a difference by choosing to be involved." she said.

Lussenhop entered the League in 2008. Since then, the League now serves as her favorite after school activity. She looks forward to each annual committee placement and the opportunity to reconnect with old friends – while meeting new friends along the way. "I'm grateful to be involved with an amazing group of ladies," she said. "It (the League) allows me to have the opportunity to meet ladies in Tulsa who want to do good

things in our community and make lifelong friends along the way."

In the end, Lussenhop sees her time spent volunteering as just another way to make Tulsa a better place for her six boys to enjoy – while setting a good example on the importance of lending a helping hand.

"My sons ask me about Junior League and what goes on. I explain to them that it's a lot like being in a big family such as ours. There is teamwork and responsibility to others and they





depend on you. I make them (my boys) aware that there are people in our city that need our help. We can't help all of them at once, but we can through one JLT project at a time!"

#### **Mary Beth Nesser**

Up until second grade Mary Beth Nesser dreamt of tap dancing her way through life, but the third grade was when she finally got serious, thanks to a single career day at Monte Cassino Elementary School – when an attorney was born. "I don't know exactly what it was that

it attracted me to being a lawyer in the first place," says Nesser, "but I never changed my mind after that day."

After attending the University of Oklahoma for her undergraduate and law degrees, Nesser made her way back to her hometown of Tulsa to begin her career as a civil litigator at the law firm, Richards and Connor. Today, her days are spent in the courtroom (her typical work week averages somewhere between 50-60 hours) and divides her free time amongst friends, family, volunteering with JLT and advising the University of Tulsa's chapter of Delta Gamma.

Nesser joined the League in 2008 primarily as a social outlet, "I had just moved back to town and most of my college friends stayed in Oklahoma City. I wanted a way to meet new people and get more involved in the community." Four years later, she has made as much of an impact on the League as it has on her; serving on the Nominating Committee this year, and appointed as Nominating Chair for 2013-2014. Nesser takes her upcoming board position very seriously. "The Nominating Committee is tasked with slating our future leadership and finding women who are going to progress our League's vision and continue our mission in the future. It's an exciting opportunity."

She credits her time in JLT as the inspiration to spend more time giving back to the community. "I think what most people don't realize when they join Junior League, myself included, is that it's a training organization. I've learned valuable skills, like how to run a meeting, and how to listen to everyone's opinion."

As a girl who decided her path at the young age of eight, Nesser's impact on JLT – and its impact on her - was not exactly in the plan, but sometimes life has a funny way of guiding a person to exactly where they need to be. "I wasn't entirely sure of what the League did when I joined, but it's become so much

more than I expected. It sounds cliché, but Junior League really is what you make of it. If you put in a little bit of effort, you get far more in return."

#### **Jennifer Wyckoff**

She may look like a "Real Housewife", but then again, you know what they say about looks being deceiving. Jennifer Wyckoff has two Masters degrees, works in an international sales position with the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, sits on the young professionals board for the Tulsa chapter of the American Red Cross, is an active member of the Special Libraries Association and the Society of Scholarly Publishers and is nominated as one of Tulsa's Outstanding New Leaders by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Didn't see that coming, did you?

In addition to an already packed work and extracurricular schedule, Wyckoff spent a great deal of time this fall creating buzz for the highly successful Holiday Market. As the Vice Chair of Public Relations and Marketing, Wyckoff helped to develop a new aggressive marketing strategy by creating and maintaining the first Holiday Market Facebook page, which highlighted the different merchants and wrote the copy for a *gusher* advertisement. Although it's a large time commitment, Wyckoff says her work for the League is a labor of love, "I just make time for the things that are important to me. I feel like if you're passionate about something, you just make it happen. You make time for the things that you love, and I wouldn't be a part of something if I didn't love it."

Wyckoff's affection for the League began at a relatively young age, while still an undergraduate at Mississippi College in Jackson. It was in Jackson that she attended the local League's version of Holiday Market, and from that moment she was hooked. "I've known I wanted to be in Junior League since I was 20, I just didn't want to commit to a particular League until I knew I was going to live in that city for a while. So when I came to Tulsa, I just thought, this is it. I'm joining the Junior League of Tulsa."

Wyckoff serves a large role in her first active year in JLT, but don't expect

this work ethic to end any time soon. In the future, she hopes to enhance the League's vision of voluntarism by chairing a committee someday. "My mom always said whatever you've been given, give more back."

If her previous track record is any indication of future success, we have a lot to look forward to with Jennifer Wyckoff.



## Reality "Stars" of Junior Leagues Across the Country

Check out a few of the League's famous members throughout the years.

Eleanor Roosevelt – First Lady, social reformer, humanitarian, author. As U.S. Delegate to the United Nations, she chaired the Human Rights Commission during the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

Sandra Day O'Conner – First female U.S. Supreme Court Justice, appointed in 1981

Barbara Bush – First Lady; literacy activist

Laura Bush – First Lady; literacy activist

Betty Ford – First Lady; substance abuse prevention activist

Julia McWilliams Child – chef, author of Mastering the Art of French Cooking

Shirley Temple Black – child actress; delegate to the United Nations; U.S. Ambassador to Ghana, Czech and Slovak Republic

Katherine Hepburn – actress; women's issues activist

Source: ajli.org



Mary Alice Ahlgren
Sustainer President

#### 2012-2013 Sustainer Board

Laurie Brumbaugh
Robyn Cannon
Sue Curry
Ann Foster
Dru Johnson
Annabel Jones
Deborah Kurin
Denise Piland
Pam Rosser

#### Want to get involved in Sustainer Activities?

Membership Dues/ Communications Sharmien Watkins at HQ (918) 663-6100 swatkins@jltulsa.org

Book Club Third Tuesday each month Annabel Jones (918) 629-7522 ajones@samson.com

Lunch Club Second Wed. each month Robyn Cannon (918) 298-7753 rlcannon@cox.net

Restaurant Club Second Monday each month Ann Foster (918) 694-6118 ann.foster@hilti.com

## Hello, Sustainers!

What does reality look like for a Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) Sustainer? Many of us are old enough to remember the days of tea rooms and "white gloves". However, we also know those ladies worked hard on projects that laid the groundwork for our success today. I have heard it said, "it's not your grandmother's Junior League anymore!" – this statement is even more true for Sustainers.

To best represent reality as a current JLT Sustainer, I want to highlight three exemplary women who serve on the Sustainer Advisory Board. Each of these Members have volunteered their time, energy and creative skill sets over the years to organize Sustainer Clubs. Their dedication to JLT is strong and deserves a shout out!

Following in her mother's footsteps (she was a member of the Junior League of Charlotte, North Carolina), Ann Foster exhibits longevity. She served as an Active for 18 years and is now in her thirteenth year as a Sustainer. Ann's mark on this organization is seen in many areas, including the coordination of the very first "Restaurant Club" in November 2005. During her Active years, Ann represented JLT on the Big Brothers Big Sisters Board and ended up serving as a Board Member for six years. Afterwards, she received the longest tenured Board Member award. She forms Bowl for Kid's Sake teams every year as the company continues to support the youth each Spring. In her professional career, Ann has worked at Hilti for 25 years and as a Pricing Analyst for more than nine years.

Robyn Cannon represents friendship and was in fact, sponsored by Ann, her friend since the 1980's. Robyn was an Active for over 10 years and has been a Sustainer for eight years. If you know Robyn, you will know just how friendly she is. If you don't know her, you are invited to join her at our monthly "Lunch Club", which she coordinates. Robyn is a Senior Internal Auditor at F&M Bank. Throughout her career, Robyn ties her JLT experience to her job by utilizing communication skills that she learned as an Active. In her time with JLT, she acquired organization techniques and learned how to run an efficient meeting. Robyn's continued service to JLT is appreciated by many of us in the organization.

Annabel Jones exemplifies leadership. Annabel spent over 10 years as an Active and now nine years as a Sustainer. She is the Assistant General Counsel at Samson Resources. Since 2005, Annabel has lead the Sustainer "Book Club" made up of women full of interesting, strong and creative opinions on monthly book selections. Annabel's experience chairing committee meetings for JLT helped her to lead work teams and gave her the skills she needed to be a manager in the business world.

I hope you see that reality as a Sustainer can look different in subtle ways, but there are common threads with all of us. Longevity, friendship and leadership are ingrained in our association to JLT and each other. Let's stay connected and continue our progress as successful, strong and present women in the City of Tulsa.

Many Alice Ahlgeen

Mary Alice Ahlgren Sustainer President



Judy Wright, Francine Bandy & Helen Jo Hardwick

Emily Dunaway & Ellen Fuller

Judy Cairl & Dru Johnson

What does YOUR reality as a JLT Sustainer look like? Find a Sustainer friend and see if it matches hers!



Kathy Collins & Lynda Brownson

## Here's what's coming up in Sustainer clubs

The Sustainer Book Club will read...

#### ebruary

Unbroken by Lauren Hillenbrand

#### March

Margaret Atwood book (Title TBA)

#### **April**

TBA

In Lunch Club, Sustainers will eat at...

#### **February**

Cosmos

#### March

Mondo's

#### April

Caz's Chow House

The Restaurant Club will dine at....

#### **February**

Gaucho Brazilian Steakhouse

#### March

El Rancho Grande

#### April

The Vault



Judy Cairl & Beth Duncan

Tucky Hazen, Joanna Potts & Patty Southmayd



It doesn't get anymore "real" than the Junior League of Tulsa's (JLT's) annual Speak Out sessions. Held in November, in place of the General Meeting, these sessions provided an opportunity to share opinions on short-term issues impacting JLT, while also helping to shape the future, long-term direction of the organization.

Based on feedback from 2011 Speak Outs, special targeted sessions were introduced for Provisionals and Sustainers. Said Paula Settoon, Strategic Planning Chair, "these targeted sessions allowed us to focus on the unique experiences – and opinions - within each stage of the JLT member cycle – whether they're just starting out with the organization, are an established Member or are now filling a Sustainer role, we presented questions that were unique to each group."

Also new for this year, Speak Outs were hosted at various JLT community partner locations including the Oxley Nature Center, Ronald McDonald House and the Henry Zarrow Center for Art and Education. A special Speak Out Social was hosted later at Rania

Nasreddine's home.

High-level lessons learned from the sessions included:

- The majority of Provisionals join JLT for the volunteer and social opportunities of the League.
- Eighty percent of Provisionals expect to achieve Sustainer-status.
- Active Members expressed interest in forming a mentorship program and had an interest in more day-time volunteer placements.
- Sustaining Members are seeking more opportunities to remain involved in the League.

Throughout the sessions, one point remained clear, Members agree with the League's focus on assisting women and children in transition. Information gathered during the 2012 Speak Out sessions, in addition to community research, will assist in developing JLT's three-year, strategic plan. A formal presentation on this plan is expected sometime in March.

## THE TROPICAL RESTAURANT & BAR

8125 E. 49th St., Tulsa, OK 74145 (49th and Memorial)

918.895.6433 • thetropicaltulsa.com





#### **LANNA THAI**

7227 South Memorial Drive, Tulsa, OK 74133 (71st and Memorial)

918.249.5262 • lannathaitulsa.com

Happy New Year!

## SPOTLIGHT ON: Community Advisory Board

#### What is the Community Advisory Board?

The Community Advisory Board plays an important role in the Junior League of Tulsa, serving as advisors to the Board on affairs that affect the community and the League. These Tulsa area leaders place particular emphasis on the status of the League's projects and properties.

#### Brian Paschal, Tulsa's Young Professionals

#### What is your role in the community.

I work for the Tulsa Regional Chamber and serve as Executive Director of Tulsa's Young Professionals (TYPros) and The Forge business incubator. The common mission between the two organizations is a focus on attracting and retaining young professionals to the Tulsa region and developing the next generation of business and community leaders. With the help of hundreds of passionate volunteers, TYPros hosts over 80 events each year focusing on networking, professional development and community engagement.

The Forge more specifically works to enhance the entrepreneurial community and help startup companies stay and grow in Tulsa. The shorter answer is that I have a fantastic job... I get to work with a great leadership team helping make Tulsa a better place to work and play.

#### How do you see the Junior League impacting Tulsa?

JLT's model of creating lasting change within organizations and then handing off projects to the broader community is extremely impressive. The roots of the organization run deep in Tulsa and the impact is unquantifiable. My wife, Alex, was recently hired by JLT as development director and she is proud to work with such great women.

If a television station decided to make a reality show based on the Junior League of Tulsa, what would the name of the show be? And why would it be called that?

Extreme Tulsa Makeover. Less hammers and nails, but who needs Ty Pennington when you have the Junior League of Tulsa's creativity and manpower? I'd watch that show!



#### Sarah Stephens, The Persimmon Group

## What is your role in the community.

I work as a Human Resources
Management
and Leadership
Development
Consultant with
The Persimmon
Group, helping
organizations
and leaders
work more effectively and
efficiently. As
a fairly recent
transplant to



the Tulsa area I am still getting to know the community at-large. I am excited to be a part of the Community Advisory Board because it has introduced me to some amazing women in the Tulsa area.

#### How do you see the Junior League impacting Tulsa?

Voluntarism is something that is always close to my heart and I love the work that the Junior League does to meet the needs in Tulsa. The Junior League positively impacts Tulsa by providing a base of capable, caring women who are committed to improving our community.

If a television station decided to make a reality show based on the Junior League of Tulsa, what would the name of the show be? And why would it be called that?

I've never really watched reality TV, but I guess I would say The Real Women of Tulsa because it could highlight that the Junior League is comprised of women who are single, married, with kids, stay-at-home moms, working moms, and may other categories. The diversity within the group is what amazes me the most; regardless of the differences the members are committed to making Tulsa a great community.

## ReMember...

Thank you for ReMembering the Junior League of Tulsa by renewing your dues or making a gift.

Follow the steps below and simply return this form in the reply envelope included within *gusher*.

#### Step 1: Renew your membership or make a gift:

#### **Step 2: Stay in touch**

Stay in touch with JLT and provide updated contact information, including adding an email address. (While email correspondence might not always be the easiest way to stay informed, it is the least expensive and most timely.)

\_\_\_\_ Check here if your address is incorrect on the gusher.

If incorrect, advise us of changes here:

\_\_\_\_ Check here if you do not want to receive updates from JLT via email.

#### **Step 3: Stay connected**

Preferred email address:

directory:

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you are interested in getting involved with a committee or task force. A member will contact you for more information and your areas of interest.

Please share your preferred contact number for the JLT

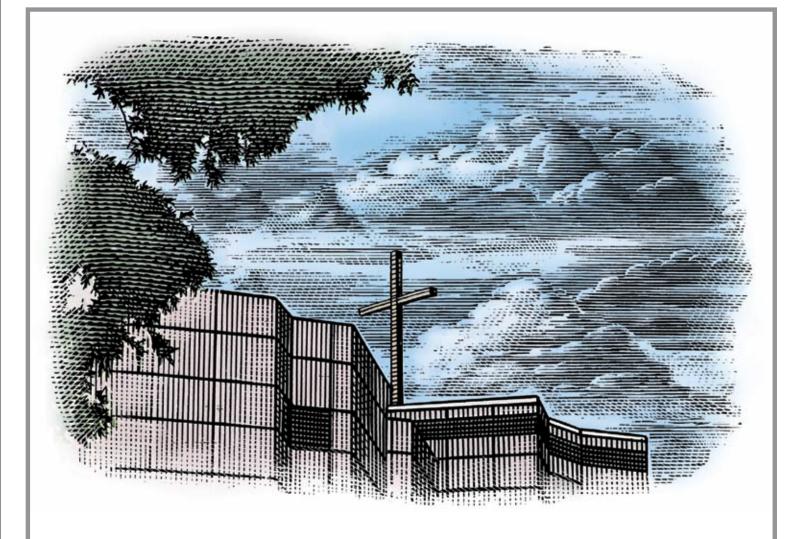
Thank you for supporting the Junior League of Tulsa.





#### Thank You to our Advertisers!

Please take a moment to carefully review each of our advertisers, without whom the publication of *gusher* would not be possible, and thank them on our behalf when patronizing their businesses.



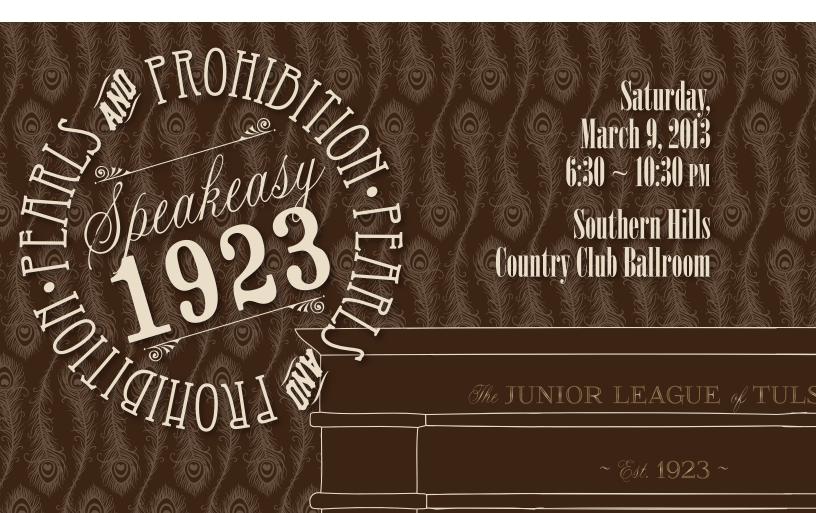
## Leadership to build a better future.

In 1960 Natalie and William K. Warren, Sr., envisioned a hospital that would forever change healthcare in eastern Oklahoma. Today, Saint Francis Health System realizes that vision through medical excellence, innovation, leadership and a strong Catholic heritage. With construction underway on the new 150-bed Trauma Emergency Center and patient tower, Saint Francis continues to expand healthcare services to meet the needs of the community. Saint Francis remains committed to meeting not only the healthcare demands of today, but also those of future generations.





Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Tulsa, Oklahoma Permit No. 725





JLTULSA.ORG

