

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TULSA

MAGAZINE

gusher

A nighttime photograph of the Tulsa skyline, featuring several illuminated skyscrapers and buildings. The lights from the city are reflected in the calm water in the foreground, creating a mirror-like effect. The sky is a deep blue, and the overall scene is vibrant and modern.

BUILDING A BETTER TULSA

DISCOVER 12 IMPACTFUL WAYS JLT
IS IMPROVING THE CITY & FIGHTING
THE PERVASIVENESS OF POVERTY

2015-2016 LEAGUE YEAR IN REVIEW



SUSTAINER SCOOP | COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS | FUNDRAISER RECAPS | LOOKING BACK

SaintFrancis **HEALTH**Link **918-488-6688**

Connect to physicians and services 24/7.

With more than **1,000 providers** and **80 locations**, Saint Francis Health System provides the community's largest and most comprehensive network of healthcare services for adults and children. Whether you are looking for primary care or a physician specialist, imaging services or urgent care, Saint Francis Health Link is available 24/7 to help connect you with the care you need.

Healthcare *for* life.

saintfrancis.com



IN THIS ISSUE

FEATURE

14 FIGHTING POVERTY IN TULSA

Special Report:
Learn about the pervasiveness of poverty in our community and discover the impactful ways the Junior League of Tulsa is combating it to transform our city.



14

DEPARTMENTS

- 4 EDITOR'S LETTER
- 5 FROM THE PRESIDENT
- 7 ABOUT JLT
- 8 SUSTAINER SCOOP
- 10 AROUND THE LEAGUE
- 22 FINANCIAL FOCUS
- 32 LOOKING BACK



10



22



32

FROM THE EDITOR

When I set out to chair the *gusher* committee, I viewed my role as a job. I'd manage the creation of the magazine, assign and edit articles for Gusher Online, and then move on to my next placement. But during the past League year, my *gusher* placement became much more. It became an opportunity to learn more about the League. Through the work, I've developed a deeper appreciation for the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT), not only for the volunteer work it does, but also for the people who are in it—for their varied talents and hearts for service.

Prior to my tenure, I knew the League made a difference, but I didn't realize the extent of its reach. For example, last year's members volunteered nearly 50,000 hours, donating approximately \$1.2 million worth of service to the community. During that time, they helped hundreds of women and children and worked with more than a dozen organizations in the community. With skill sets ranging from teaching to writing and from balancing budgets to coordinating events, JLT women led and served in numerous facets throughout Tulsa.

In addition to making positive changes in the community, members also worked on the organization itself, helping ensure it continues to serve Tulsa for decades to come. To reduce printing costs and infuse more money back into the community, this past year we reduced the number of *gusher* issues from four to one. With the launch of Gusher Online—a frequently updated collection of articles on JLT's newly designed website, www.jltulsa.org—we embraced technology and the way many people prefer to read. Gusher Online not only allows us to keep members informed at a lower cost, but it also enables us to reach the world to share the importance of the League's work.

I'd like to thank this year's *gusher* committee members—Jennifer, Emily, LeAnne, Melanie, and Cali—for the effort and hours they devoted to our work. They each had a passion for spreading the message about the League's service and training. They fully embraced the challenge of transitioning a quarterly magazine to an annual publication. And they rose to the occasion when we needed to conceptualize and carry out Gusher Online and populate it with content. They brought new ideas to the table, wrote exceptional articles, and took terrific photos. They took on more work than they likely expected when they signed up for the committee, but they tackled it with enthusiasm and heaps of talent. In order to teach others about JLT, they epitomized the year's theme to "be your best," and I'm incredibly proud of the work we created.

We hope you enjoy perusing this recap of the past League year as much as we enjoyed creating it!

Happy reading,

Camille Torres

Camille Torres,
gusher Chair, 2015–2016

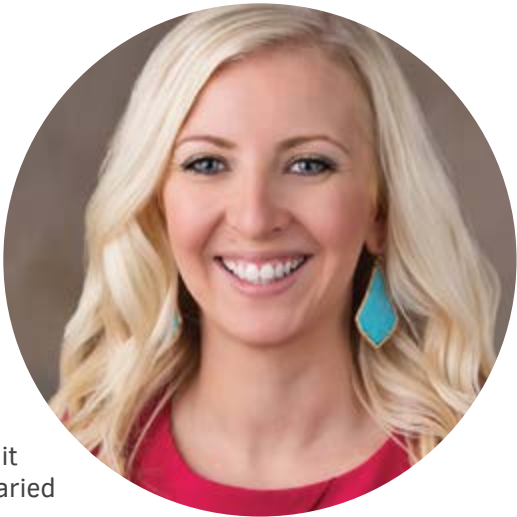


Photo courtesy of Leslie Hoyt,
www.lesliehoyt.com.

"I'VE DEVELOPED
A DEEPER
APPRECIATION
FOR THE JUNIOR
LEAGUE OF TULSA."

2015–2016
gusher Committee

Camille Torres – Chair
Jennifer Doverspike – Vice-Chair
Emily Davis
LeAnne Eakin
Melanie Henry
Cali McMickle

gusher is a publication of the Junior League of Tulsa, Inc., 3633 South Yale Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135. It is devoted to informing the membership and the community of current League projects, events, and issues. For more information on advertising, please email gusher@jltulsa.org.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the beginning of the 2015–2016 League year, the Board of Directors and I gathered to set goals for the Junior League of Tulsa. We identified many overarching objectives, each one centering on three main tenants—developing the potential of women, improving the community, and promoting voluntarism. Though they were all poignant, there was one goal that especially stuck with me. It was simple in nature, just three short words, yet complex in meaning and specific to each League member. Be Your Best. Wrapped in those 10 letters is the fact that each of our 600-plus members brings unique qualities and talents to the table. And by fulfilling this goal individually, we can collectively achieve our common goal of working to improve the Tulsa community.

In this print edition of *gusher*, I am pleased for you to read

lives of others, but also transform yourself in the process. Membership in the League offers each of us the ability to reach outside our comfort zones, try something new, and ignite a passion we might not have known existed otherwise. It affords us the opportunity to try new things and succeed (and sometimes fail) in a safe place. It is this experience that leads members to accomplish great things personally and professionally, whether continuing to serve the community in different capacities or gaining the skills needed to embark on fundraising journeys.

The end goal for being in League is a well-trained



Photo courtesy of Leslie Hoyt,
www.lesliehoyt.com.

"MY HOPE IS THAT YOU FIND YOUR
PASSION IN THE LEAGUE AND EMBRACE IT."

this wrap-up about the exciting efforts put forth by our community projects, along with our outstanding fundraisers and their banner year. We have embarked upon new, noteworthy volunteer and leadership opportunities as well! Our volunteers truly lead the way to improving the Tulsa community. If you are like me, you will learn many interesting facts about our League and will develop a much deeper appreciation for our rich legacy.

There are very few organizations in which you can not only transform your community and make a significant impact in the

volunteer and the added perk is that of friendship. I am pleased to pass the torch to Rita and Molly as the incoming president and president-elect and am more pleased to call them friends. I have no doubt they will lead the League to continued success in serving our community.

I would like to thank my husband, Brad, for his time and, ultimately, his patience. I could not be more appreciative of his continued support and being a great dad to our Kennedy, Millie, and Hank.

As president, my job has been to support and guide the League in service and provide a climate

in which members feel valued and connected. I am honored to have had this opportunity. I truly believe that by giving 110% to your years in League, you find personal fulfillment, form lasting relationships, and develop invaluable life skills. My hope is that you find your passion in the League and embrace it—that you continue to "Be Your Best," allowing us to continue this successful journey for another 93 years.

Warmest regards for a new
League season!

Carissa Cooper

Carissa Cooper
Junior League of Tulsa President,
2015–2016



MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

Williams believes in supporting the communities where we live and work. That's why we're proud to support the Junior League of Tulsa.

Williams

© 2016 The Williams Companies, Inc. (800) WILLIAMS | www.williams.com



PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE GEM GALA

What's Your Dream?
What's Your Plan?

Everyone has a dream. Let us help you make a plan to get there.

800.234.6181 | www.bok.com

BANK OF OKLAHOMA
LONG LIVE YOUR MONEY.™

© 2016 Bank of Oklahoma, a division of BOKF, NA. Member FDIC.



WOMEN BUILDING A BETTER TULSA

OUR MISSION

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. The Junior League of Tulsa reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism. The Junior League of Tulsa is committed to ending the cycle of poverty through hands-on education and community-based programs.

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

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: 202.481.7196
info@ajli.org • www.ajli.org

2015-2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Carissa Cooper – President*
- Rita Burke – President-Elect*
- Mary Beth Nesser – Treasurer*
- Tara Proctor – Recording Secretary*
- Courtney Wilson – Communications Council VP*
- Kate Morelli – Community Program VP*
- BJ Weintraub – Community Council VP*
- Shelby Stauffer Bennett – Financial Council VP*
- Anna Smith – Membership Council VP*
- Marti Levinson – Membership Program VP*
- Whitney Mathews – Leadership Development VP*
- Molly Aspan – Strategic Planning and Research Chair*
- Margaret King – Nominating Chair*
- Jaime Cooper – Treasurer-Elect*
- Brooxie Keary – Sustaining Board Advisor*

2015-2016 COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

- Victoria Bartlett – City of Tulsa Appointee*
- Eileen Bradshaw – Community Food Bank, Executive Director*
- Ken Busby – Route 66 Alliance, Executive Director and CEO*
- Kristin Klein Daffern – Kleinco Construction Services, Inc., Owner and Manager*
- Lucky Lamons – Tulsa Public Schools Foundation, Executive Director*
- Karen Larsen – KJRH TV, News Anchor*
- Andy Levinson – IBC Bank, Senior Vice-President*
- Cindy Morrison – SocialVention, CEO*
- Rob Nigh – Tulsa County Chief Public Defender*
- Pam Richardson – Volunteers of America Oklahoma, President and CEO*
- Marnie Taylor – Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits, President and CEO*



HELLO, SUSTAINERS!

After wrapping up the 2015–2016 League year, I am happy to report that this was a banner year for the Junior League of Tulsa Sustainers. Highlights include

- Thriving interest groups! All four of our interest groups—Restaurant Club, Lunch Club, Catch Up Over Cocktails, and Book Club—continue to provide Sustainers with the opportunity to maintain their League friendships and support JLT’s mission. We have a record number of Sustainers on the mailing list for these groups.
- TWO fun parties hosted by Co Edwards and Mary Alice Ahlgren.
- Increased level of Sustainer participation and interest. Over one-third of our Sustainers are involved in one of our interest groups.
- The addition of a Sustainer Connections position to our Engagement Committee. Carla Gilbert has done a great job reaching out to Sustainers who have a special need or success in their lives.

Engaging Sustainers is a challenge. We range in age from mid 30s to 100! That is a wide span of interests and activity levels. As I look to the future, I would love to see the development of new interest groups, particularly ones that will engage younger Sustainers. Other Leagues have Sustainer interest groups focused on running, walking, cycling, tennis, cooking, movies, theater, and antiques. Really, the sky is the limit!

It has been an honor to chair the Sustainer Engagement Committee for the past two years. Our activities provide Sustainers with opportunities to nurture their League friendships, network, and support all JLT’s programming. I would like to extend a special thank you to all Sustainers who supported our efforts, particularly our Sustainer Engagement Committee, which was

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Mary Alice Ahlgren | Sue Curry |
| Laurie Brumbaugh | Ellen Fuller |
| Ashleigh Boedeker | Earlene Gathright |
| Julie Buxton | Carla Gilbert |
| Robyn Cannon | Denise Piland |

Sincerely,

Annabel Jones

Annabel Jones
Sustainer Engagement Committee Chair

MONTHLY
EVENTS

LUNCH CLUB

Meets the first Wednesday of each month.

RESTAURANT CLUB

Meets the second Monday of each month.

BOOK CLUB

Meets the third Tuesday of each month.

CATCH UP OVER
COCKTAILS

Will resume meeting in the fall.



Luxe

FURNITURE & DESIGN
LUXETULSA.COM

Free In-Home Design Services

Custom Designed Furnishings

Accessories to Fit Any Lifestyle and Budget

COMPLETELY
CUSTOM.
COMPLETELY
YOURS.

9922 Riverside Pkwy,
Tulsa, OK 74137
(918) 459-8950

HALL ESTILL

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

More than 20,000 Hours of Community Service and Volunteering Annually

It’s an honor to provide leadership on multiple boards and committees, as well as serve as legal counsel on pro bono cases, because we know donating our time and talent to local charities, worthwhile organizations and those in need is simply the right thing to do. It’s another reason we’re Oklahoma’s leading law firm.

*Hall Estill is proud to support
the Junior League of Tulsa.*

TULSA • OKLAHOMA CITY • NORTHWEST ARKANSAS • DENVER | HallEstill.com



PROUD TO
SERVE
THE
TULSA
COMMUNITY

NABHOLZ

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIAL CIVIL ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALTY SERVICES

1.887.NABHOLZ
Visit the all-new www.nabholz.com to learn more



League activities included a much-enjoyed Youth at Heart bowling event.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

MEMBERS ARE IMPROVING THE COMMUNITY, EXPANDING THEIR TRAINING, AND ADVANCING THE LEAGUE.

In 2015–2016, the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) members fully embraced the year’s “Be Your Best” theme. During the past 12 months, members implemented new initiatives and devised future strategies. They exceeded goals and strengthened friendships, received on-the-job and formal training, and served throughout the community. Read on to learn about the

organization’s accomplishments.

COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL

The Communications Council served as the central hub and approval center for all League communications. It was also home to JLT’s inaugural Little Black Dress Initiative fundraiser and awareness campaign.

During this League year, the council also launched a new mobile-friendly website with a cleaner, more modern look. “I’m so proud of the new look and functionality of our website!” says Courtney Wilson, Communications Council Vice President.

The site update enabled the council to bring *gusher* into the digital age through the launch of

Gusher Online. Located on JLT’s main site, Gusher Online includes several new articles each month and allows the League’s content to reach the world at no cost. “It’s a huge accomplishment that helps us spread the word about JLT and make an even more significant impact throughout the community,” Wilson says.

The marketing committee furthered JLT’s reach by achieving

were disrupted during the headquarters remodel last year.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Community Council’s 11 committees worked with eight community partners. This was the first year for the council’s Tulsa City-County Library (TCCL) Social Venture Committee. The committee was created to work with TCCL to

programs.

Furthering the Community Council’s reach, the Impact Committee completed 23 projects with 15 different agencies. “Our Scholarship committee also did a wonderful job of independently raising \$8,500 in funds,” says Kate Morelli, Community Program Vice President.

FINANCIAL COUNCIL

“The Financial Council had a stellar year! We surpassed all of our financial goals and made lasting partnerships in the community,” says Shelby Stauffer Bennett, Financial Council Vice President.

Holiday Market raised approximately \$94,000 and maxed out the number of vendors the venue can hold. Mentorship Luncheon raised approximately \$20,000, and Gem Gala raised approximately \$139,700.

Stauffer Bennett adds: “The JLT building is open and thriving! Please make sure to keep us and our outstanding rental team in mind when you are planning your next event.”

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

This year, the Membership Council successfully brought together and engaged members. It implemented the new Transfer Program, and the Placement Committee revamped the placement guide to make it more user friendly. The Social Committee’s Christmas lights tour and Thunder game trip to Oklahoma City were especially popular. In addition, Food and Beverage put together fun themes for meeting refreshments.



Holiday Market committee members raised approximately \$94,000.

print and television coverage for all JLT’s fundraisers, and the social media committee increased our online following from members and those outside the League. In addition, the Archives Committee was able to finish organizing the photo archives after the documents

develop a business plan for a retail store that will have a fun, unique theme to appeal to children. The store will operate near one of the TCCL homework tutoring sites. It will help fund and raise awareness for the TCCL after-school tutoring programs, as well as other library

"I'M SO PROUD OF THE NEW LOOK AND FUNCTIONALITY OF OUR WEBSITE."



Members served as positive role models at a League-wide Youth at Heart bowling event.

This year we also welcomed 74 Provisional members. “The Provisional Committee had an awesome group of women come in who are future leaders of the League for sure,” adds Anna Smith, Membership Council Vice President. This council also assisted with the launch of the League year’s extensive online membership survey.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

During the inaugural year of the Leadership Development Council, JLT members earned more than 600 hours of training. “The women on this council

framed the structure and goals for a brand new council, as well as ensuring members had a variety of opportunities to meet the required training credit,” says Whitney Mathews, Leadership Development Council Vice President.

In addition to creating an online resource library of materials for members, the Training and Education Committee organized and executed the following 11 sessions:

- History of JLT
- Digital Cheetah Training
- Meeting Facilitation
- Business Etiquette and Networking
- *Miss Representation* (a film that looks at the under-representation of women in

MEMBERS VOLUNTEERED MORE THAN 49,000 HOURS

JLT MEMBERS EARNED MORE THAN 600 HOURS OF TRAINING FROM 11 SESSIONS.

"THE PLAN SERVES AS A GUIDE TO KEEP THE MEMBERSHIP ON TASK, FOCUSED, AND WORKING TOWARD THE SAME GOALS."

- influential positions and at the media’s portrayal of women)
- How to Ask for Donations
 - Art of Transparent Communication
 - Diversity in Volunteerism
 - DiSC Profile Training
 - Presenting Your Best Self Through Social Media
 - Conflict Management

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND RESEARCH

The Strategic Planning and Research Committee developed and implemented a new four-year rolling strategic plan for JLT during the past League year. “The plan serves as a guide to keep the membership on task, focused, and working toward the same goals. This continuity is invaluable, particularly in an organization with new leadership and new members annually,” says Molly Aspan, Strategic Planning and Research Chair.

The committee followed an extensive process that included gathering information from all levels of League members, sustainers, and external sources to examine JLT’s goals and the community’s needs. It also brought in Louisiana-based strategic planning consultant, Emily DiStefano (president of



The Training and Education Committee hosted 11 training events for members.

DiStefano & Associates and a past president of the Junior League of Baton Rouge). DiStefano worked with League leadership for three days facilitating research, planning meetings, and providing training for speak-out meeting facilitation.

Utilizing their research, the committee wrote a strategic plan that enunciates the League’s

priorities, which are to promote voluntarism, develop the potential of women, and improve communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. The plan went through substantial reviews and revisions before it was unanimously adopted by the Board of Directors and rolled out to the membership. ♦



LOCAL ACCOLADES

This year, Domestic Violence Intervention Services (DVIS) celebrated 40 years of assisting women and children in Tulsa. At its annual Monarch Ball in April, DVIS honored 40 individuals and organizations that have made an important impact in assisting victims of domestic violence. The Junior League of Tulsa was honored to be recognized among those 40.

FIGHTING POVERTY IN TULSA

Armed with intelligent, well-trained female volunteers, the Junior League of Tulsa strives to end the cycle of poverty in our community.

In February 2006, Paul Harris writing for The Guardian highlighted Tulsa as representative of poverty in the United States. “Oklahoma is in America’s heartland,” he says. “Tulsa looks like picture-book Middle America. Yet there is hunger here. When it comes to the most malnourished poor in America, Oklahoma is ahead of any other state. It should be impossible to go hungry here. But it is not.” It’s sobering to see our city used to epitomize poverty.

However, by understanding the extent of the problem, we can better recognize the need to find solutions. The Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) is committed to ending the cycle of poverty through hands-on education and community-based training. From our Impact committee’s done-in-a-day projects to our two committees partnering with the Resonance Center for Women, we have multiple projects confronting poverty head-on with our community partners.

Economic recovery and job creation in the United States has been on the upswing since the 2008 recession. However, even with Oklahoma boasting an unemployment rate below the national average, its citizens are suffering increasingly from food insecurity and homelessness.

Oklahoma ranks worse than national numbers in overall poverty rates and child poverty rates, according to 2013 census data. Tulsa County’s

profile matches that of the state as a whole, with 16.1% of the overall population living below the poverty line and 24.3% of children living in poverty. Our city’s numbers are even more sobering. The 2013 poverty rate in the city of Tulsa was 19.7%, meaning approximately one in five residents were living below the poverty line.

THE POVERTY SPIRAL

We asked Sandra Lewis, executive director of Tulsa’s Day Center for the Homeless, why poverty in Tulsa is so prevalent and, more specifically, why people go homeless.

It takes one thing, she says, to send someone down the spiral of homelessness. A person loses a job, gets sick, gets a car repossessed, and does not have the safety net or support network other people may have. “Someone who lives paycheck to paycheck has no savings, no resources to maintain stability while looking for a job,” she explains.

Lewis points to the lack of living wages and a dearth of safe, affordable housing in the area. “A third of a paycheck goes to rent,” she points out, “then utilities, and then very little is left over.”

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Oklahoma has the nation’s third-highest rate of people working at or below the minimum wage. A single parent who works full-time at minimum wage and has one or more dependents

THERE ARE 24 POVERTY BELTS IN TULSA COUNTY, UP FROM 9 IN 2000.

would still be below the poverty line. The 2015 Department of Health and Human Services poverty line is \$24,250 for a family of four, but research has indicated that families need a minimum of twice the federal poverty level to cover basic needs such as housing, food, and childcare.

Even finding a job is difficult for Tulsa’s disadvantaged population. Many employers require online applications and a permanent address, and new job requirements such as appropriate clothing and bus fare are difficult to fulfill before the individual starts earning an income.

Lewis indicates the lack of a robust and efficient transportation system in Tulsa poses a significant barrier to earning an income. She recalls a couple who began working at a restaurant located in Utica Square, but who, due to their shift work, had to walk home from Utica Square to the Day Center for the Homeless downtown. A single female—who would have to make that trek alone—likely would not accept that job.

THROUGH 11 COMMUNITY-FOCUSED COMMITTEES, JLT WORKS WITH EIGHT PARTNERS TO FURTHER ITS MISSION TO END THE CYCLE OF POVERTY.

CHILD POVERTY IN OUR COMMUNITY

As part of its commitment to improve Tulsa, JLT focuses on improving the lives of women and children in transition, a need that's evident in the following statistics:

- **One in four Oklahoman children live in poverty**, according to the 2014 edition of the KIDS COUNT Data Book, an annual publication compiled by the Annie E. Casey Foundation of Baltimore.
- **Nine out of 10** Tulsa Public School (TPS) students are eligible for and participate in free and reduced lunch programs, according to Community Service Council Tulsa.
- There are approximately **2,000 homeless students** in TPS, and the number is rising. The number of homeless students in Oklahoma grew 43% from 2011 to 2013, and TPS has approximately 600 more homeless students than it did three years ago, as reported by Morgan Phillips in Tulsa People in August 2015.



A woman and her child at Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless

Those with prior convictions on record also face significant barriers to housing and job attainment. Deidra Kirtley, a JLT sustainer and executive director of The Resonance Center for Women, says, "Finding a job and housing is very complicated when you have a felony record. Many employers and apartment managers have longstanding policies against hiring or renting to those with convictions. If a woman cannot start off with these things in place, chances are high she'll return to prison."

BREAKING THE CYCLE

So how to eradicate the cycle of poverty? Focusing on women and children is one key strategy. Low family income puts children at risk, and the risks start before birth. For example, pregnant women with health problems are in jeopardy

of delivering babies with low birth weights, which in turn leads to infant mortality or health and developmental problems.

Children of female convicts also face a significant disadvantage and are prone to poverty. As Time Magazine reported in 2011, Oklahoma has a higher rate of female incarceration than any other state, almost double the national average. Three percent of Oklahoma children have at least one parent in prison, and children with at least one incarcerated parent are five times more likely to go to prison at some point in their lives.

Poverty also impacts a child's education. Hunger impedes his or her ability to learn at school, and he is less likely to be exposed to a rich language environment or have access to a high-quality preschool. In Tulsa, both the Community Action Project (CAP) and Educare

administer the local Head Start programs and are nationally recognized. CAP Tulsa approaches the poverty problem via education and by looking at multigenerational poverty, focusing on "Promise Neighborhoods" such as Kendall-Whittier.

These Promise Neighborhoods address the problem of so-called poverty belts—areas in which more than 40 percent of the population is below the federal poverty level. Breaking the cycle of poverty is even harder as concentrated areas of poverty grow both nationwide and in Tulsa. For example, here the ZIP codes with the highest rates of unemployment are primarily concentrated in north and west Tulsa. There are 24 poverty belts in Tulsa County, up from 9 in 2000. In areas of concentrated poverty, local residents find "the educational, health, and crime cards are stacked

against them ever getting to a better station," according to a 2014 report released by the Brookings Institution.

LEADING THE WAY

JLT's focus on women and children in transition is a step toward evening the odds. Through 11 community-focused committees, JLT works with eight partners to further its mission to end the cycle of poverty.

Kirtley describes the impact of JLT: "I am so thankful the Junior League of Tulsa is committed to partnering with Resonance. The respect, compassion, and camaraderie the members have shared with our clients at Turley practically brings tears to my eyes—especially when I see JLT members raising these women up, without judgment or pity, and creating a relationship based on mutual trust and respect."

FURTHERING SECOND CHANCES

JLT has two committees devoted to working with the women in the Resonance program. The Choosing to Change Committee works with women at the Turley Residential Center, a halfway house for female offenders. League members teach a

curriculum focused on developing soft skills, learning healthy hobbies, and promoting self-esteem.

In 2013, to supplement its work with Resonance, JLT created a taskforce charged with researching and developing a proposal for a possible business project that would help transition women from the justice system back into the community. This developed into JLT's Resonance Social Venture Committee, which researched and developed a self-sustaining business as a means to provide job readiness skills and employment options for the women in the Resonance program.

Resonance took the Social Venture Committee's recommendations and decided to open Take 2, a café that opened in March of this year in downtown Tulsa. Some Choosing to Change graduates will work there, and a few will have the opportunity to live in a loft above the café.

With the opening of the café, the Social Venture Committee, comprised of nine JLT members, evolved into a soft skills training and mentorship program to help prepare the women who will work either at the café or elsewhere. Ann Tran, JLT's Resonance Social Venture Committee Chair, estimates the committee reached approximately 240 women during



League members connected with women at the Resonance Center.

9 OUT OF 10
TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS
ARE ELIGIBLE FOR AND
PARTICIPATE IN FREE AND
REDUCED LUNCH PROGRAMS.

the 2015–2016 League year. "We have received great feedback from the women," Tran continues. "One client made a comment that in all the years she's been incarcerated, she's never had anyone teach her these basic life skills that often come as second nature to many of us, and she feels that if she had these skills so many years ago, she would not be sitting where she was today."

FOSTERING EDUCATION AND CREATIVITY

To reach at-risk individuals earlier, our focus on children in the community includes partnerships to foster education and creativity with such partners as the Tulsa City-Council Library (TCCL) and Philbrook Museum.

The TCCL Social Venture Committee is assisting the Tulsa Library with developing and strategically planning a combined retail store and tutoring facility that's designed to help students with their homework and inspire creativity. And the TCCL After-School Homework Club Committee works with the library to provide help with individual and small group tutoring for students in third through eighth grades.

Through the Hawthorne Second Grade Art Committee, JLT volunteers teach bimonthly art classes to second graders at Hawthorne Elementary, a



THIS YEAR,
THE IMPACT COMMITTEE'S
34 MEMBERS COMPLETED
23 PROJECTS WITH
15 DIFFERENT
AGENCIES.

Provisional members volunteered at The Pencil Box to aid teachers and students at underprivileged schools.

“The respect, compassion, and camaraderie the members have shared with our clients at Turley practically brings tears to my eyes— especially when I see JLT members raising these women up, without judgment or pity, and creating a relationship based on mutual trust and respect.”

**DEIDRA KIRTLEY,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE RESONANCE CENTER FOR WOMEN**

low-income public school in north Tulsa. Due to lack of funding, the students would not have the opportunity to participate in art classes otherwise. Using an art education curriculum we developed, JLT members provide individual attention to the students. The classes promote creativity, increase self-esteem, and allow the children to practice their fine motor skills. League members also extend

art education to patients at The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis. Through the Philbrook MyMuseum Mobile Committee, JLT partners with Philbrook Museum of Art and the hospital to bring Philbrook's Second Saturday children's program to patients ages 4 to 12. The committee assembles free kits with educational materials, art supplies, and museum passes, and then members deliver the kits to patients at the children's hospital.

The committee's 16 members reached approximately 200 patients and clocked an estimated 182 volunteer hours for the 2015–2016 Junior League year. To aid students and teachers at underprivileged schools, this year's 65 provisional members worked with the nonprofit The Pencil Box—a free store for kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers to receive school supplies and enrichment items for their

LEARNING TO LEAD

Implementing a new council and committee in the 2015–2016 year, the League furthered its mission to provide hands-on education and community-based training.

This was the inaugural year for the Junior League of Tulsa's Leadership Development Council (LDC) and its Training and Education Committee. The two are charged with creating an effective core of volunteers who can continue service even after their JLT careers.

Together, the council and committee have been reviewing and analyzing members' short- and long-term training needs, along with coordinating sessions. Training ranges from basic skills to leadership development. Eventually, the committee plans to have different levels of training (for example, an advanced course focusing on donor development). Topics for his year's 11 sessions included networking, effective communication, conflict management, and more.

LDC Vice President Whitney



Jenny Barrett, Allison Kager, Susan Lentz, Katie Spadoro, and Mary Brenneman at The Assistance League of Tulsa.

Matthews envisions as people leave the League, they will be involved in the leadership of JLT's community partners to continually improve Tulsa.

classrooms. Lead teachers at Tulsa public schools with at least 70% of students qualifying for the USDA's National School Lunch Program are eligible to shop at The Pencil Box for a nominal annual fee. As part of the provisional service project, members each completed five work shifts processing donated items, stocking shelves, and working the store's shopping nights.

"Teachers typically spend \$500 to \$1,000 a school year buying supplies for their students," says Natalie Sullivan, Provisional Committee Chair. "The Pencil Box allows all kids to have new school supplies, regardless of where they go to school and without relying on teachers spending their own money."

PROMOTING HEALTH AND NUTRITION

A critical element of JLT's ongoing commitment is teaching kids and their parents about the importance of eating healthy foods and involving them in the fight against childhood obesity.

JLT is a community partner with the Westside Harvest Market, a

nonprofit grocery store located in the low-income Eugene Field Elementary neighborhood of west Tulsa. Harvest Market addresses a key problem associated with poverty belts: "food deserts," which are urban neighborhoods or rural towns without ready access to fresh, healthy, affordable food. The Harvest Market serves approximately 1,000 low-income families and includes a grocery store, art studio, classroom, and teaching kitchen. Here, JLT's Kids in the Kitchen (KITK) and Harvest Market Committee holds free workshops.

"The goal of the KITK workshop is to expose children and families to healthy, fresh, inexpensive recipes and empower them through hands-on learning to recreate them at home," Casey Palmateer, the committee chair, says. At the conclusion of each workshop, participants go home with the ingredients, so they can recreate the recipe they made.

The League's Street School Culinary Club Committee shares a similar mission, though their focus is on high school students. In partnership with Street School, Oklahoma's longest-running

alternative high school, members teach nutrition-based cooking classes twice a month at the school. Of the two monthly sessions, one is a food education lesson in a Street School classroom, and the other is a cooking class at Tulsa's Harvest Market classroom.

Each class includes a discussion about what constitutes a healthy lifestyle and what foods are key components of a nutritious diet. Additionally, the students are provided with a price breakdown illustrating how much it costs to prepare the dish they made. At the end of each class, students receive the ingredients to remake the recipe at home.

MAKING AN IMPACT

To further serve Tulsa, JLT's Impact Committee provides assistance to hundreds of women, children, and families by partnering with local nonprofits to assist with done-in-a-day projects. This year, the committee's 34 members completed 23 projects with 15 different agencies. "We engage in a variety of volunteer services," Impact Committee Chair Jenny Barrett says. "Sometimes it's

“For over 93 years, we have transformed Tulsa with a dedicated force of intelligent, trained volunteers to truly help build a better Tulsa.”

CARISSA COOPER, PRESIDENT OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TULSA



Provisional members toured The Pencil Box during their retreat.

providing volunteers to complete simple tasks like serving food or sorting donations. Other times it's planning and facilitating entire events.”

Additionally, Impact allows JLT the opportunity to identify needs in the community that could turn into long-term projects. “It's so rewarding to work hands-on with all of these organizations and to really see where the money that JLT raises is going and see the positive impact we have on the Tulsa community,” Barrett adds.

THE LEAGUE'S LEGACY

JLT's commitment to improving the community, combined with its ability to train women to be philanthropic leaders, is why the organization has been in existence for nearly a century. “Junior League of Tulsa's impact in the Tulsa community is

paramount. For over 93 years, we have transformed Tulsa with a dedicated force of intelligent, well-trained volunteers to truly help build a better Tulsa,” says Carissa Cooper, president of JLT. “Presently, we tackle everything from bowling with children from Youth At Heart to assisting with Resonance's newly appointed restaurant, Take 2. We have a rich history in the Tulsa community, and you can easily see the enormous impact made by the Junior League. Envision Tulsa without Mayfest, Ronald McDonald House, Oxley Nature Center, the Gilcrease docent program, Child Abuse Network—all of which the Junior League helped to found and fund.” JLT has created a lasting footprint in the community and will continue to do so as it identifies and addresses critical and emerging needs in Tulsa. ♦

JLT'S FINANCIAL POSITION

June 1, 2014–May 31, 2015³

ASSETS

\$ 205,813 Total Current Assets

\$ 782,987 Investments and Certificates of Deposit

\$ 1,879,058 Property & Equipment (less accumulated depreciation of \$862,471)

\$ 1,016,587 Net PP&E

\$ 56,678 Tulsa Community Foundation Funds

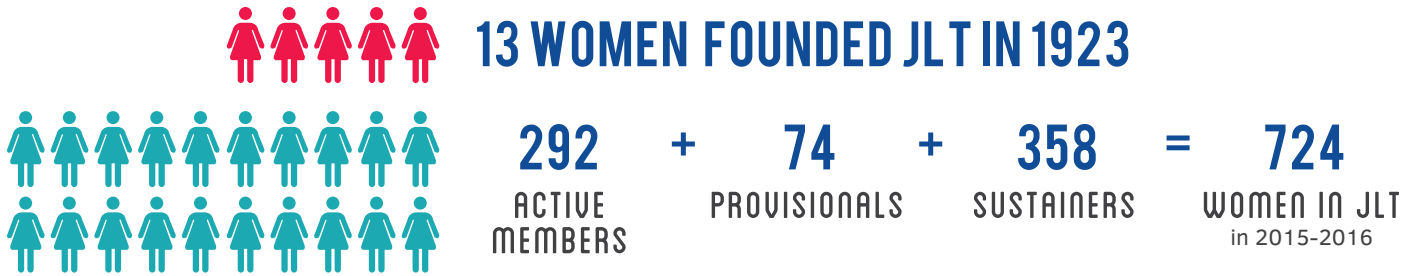
TOTAL ASSETS
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

\$ 94,714 Total Current Liabilities

\$ 1,967,351 Total Net Assets

\$ 2,062,065 Total Liabilities & Net Asset

BY THE NUMBERS A NUMERICAL LOOK AT THE LEAGUE AND ITS CONTRIBUTIONS



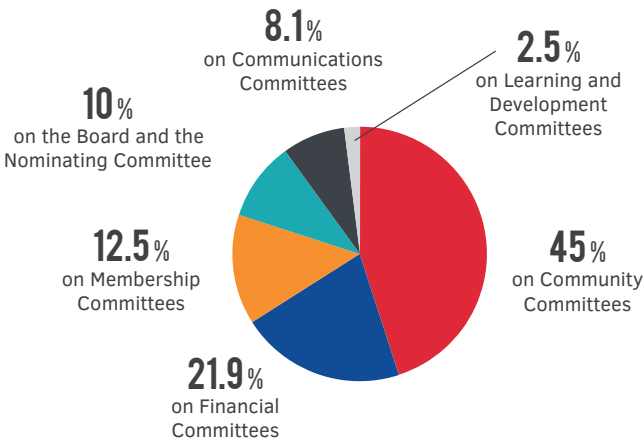
165 THE APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PROJECTS JLT HAS HELPED WITH IN TULSA SINCE 1923

ACTIVE AND PROVISIONAL MEMBERS VOLUNTEERED 49,449.53 HOURS IN 1 YEAR¹



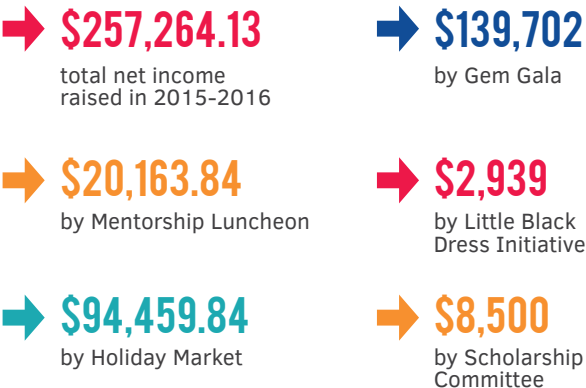
THAT'S A TOTAL OF \$1,165,030.93 WORTH OF VOLUNTEER HOURS INFUSED IN THE COMMUNITY²

MEMBERSHIP BREAKDOWN BY COUNCILS

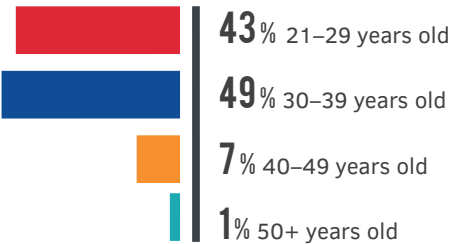


- ➔ 3 OUT OF 5 members have lived in the Tulsa area for 10 or fewer years
- ➔ 95% of our membership has a Bachelor's degree or higher
- ➔ 84% of members work outside the home
- ➔ 93% of our membership feels that the League provides services that are not otherwise available in our community

FUNDRAISING TOTALS



MEMBERSHIP BREAKDOWN BY AGE



¹ Based on member estimations for the 2014-2015 year
² Calculated with \$23.56, the value of one hour of volunteer time according to independentsector.org²
³ Numbers based on anticipated final audit report of 2014-2015

FUNDRAISER WRAP-UP



Myka Meier, Mentorship Luncheon's keynote speaker; photo by The Sarah Image Photography

WITH A NET INCOME OF \$257,264.13, 2015-2016 WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL YEAR FOR LEAGUE FUNDRAISERS.

Throughout the year, the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) holds fundraisers to support our community projects and initiatives. Members' time and talents join forces with sponsors and attendees' donations to financially fuel the work we do in the city. This year's events were successful both in terms of spreading the word about JLT and raising funds to aid us in our mission of ending the cycle of poverty in Tulsa. Read on to learn more and see highlights of our fundraising success.

THE LITTLE BLACK DRESS INITIATIVE

In late September, JLT introduced the Little Black Dress Initiative (LBDI)—a new social media-fueled fundraiser. Forty-seven members participated in the weeklong event, which raised \$2,939. Each participant wore one black dress for five days to illustrate the effects poverty can have on a woman's access to resources, confidence, and opportunities. Each participant

received an LBDI button to wear throughout the week, and she spread the word about the campaign through social media.

Event Chair Tara Proctor deemed this inaugural event a success. The campaign increased public awareness "not only about poverty, but also the work JLT does to help eliminate poverty and its effects in Tulsa," Proctor says. The event, which was added to the calendar in late summer, achieved its three goals to

- Start conversations about the

"WE COULD NOT HAVE HAD SUCH AN INSPIRING EVENT WITHOUT THE GENEROUS SPONSORSHIPS AND DONATIONS FROM SO MANY COMMUNITY PARTNERS."

- number of people living in poverty in our community.
- Bring awareness to the work JLT does to end the cycle of poverty in the community.
- Fundraise specifically for JLT community projects focused on ending the cycle of poverty.

Sturdivant states, "This year was record breaking, but more than anything, we had a blast planning, organizing, and putting on this event for such worthy community programs!"

MENTORSHIP LUNCHEON

HOLIDAY MARKET

Held on November 6–8, the 2015 Holiday Market at the Exchange Center at Expo Square boasted 122 merchants. JLT sold a total of 4,450 tickets throughout the weekend, with more than 200 teachers and military personnel taking advantage of free admission on November 7. More than 100 patrons attended Christmas & Croissants, and it was a record-breaking year for Cookies with the Clauses. In addition, approximately 200 children met Santa and had their picture taken with him. Net income for the three-day event was \$94,459.22.

Holiday Market Chair Brooke

On January 22, more than 200 women gathered at Southern Hills Country Club for the 2016 Mentorship Luncheon. Keynote speaker Myka Meier, founder and director of Manhattan, New York-based Beaumont Etiquette, shared practical tips and a fresh perspective on social, dining, and business etiquette.

The event's net income totaled \$20,163.84, which is an increase of more than 35% when compared to last year's luncheon. "Monies raised help fund next year's scholarship programs, so we can continue to support mentorship and scholarship in the Tulsa community, always developing the

potential of women," says 2016 Mentorship Luncheon Chair Harlan Ross.

At the luncheon we recognized the 2016 JLT scholarship recipients. Victoria Carney-Peters and Katrina Erickson received Founders' Scholarships, and Haeleigh Brown and Robin Hines received Mrs. W. Albert Cook Scholarships. Each of the four scholarships was \$3,000.

"We could not have had such an inspiring event without the generous sponsorships and donations from so many community partners," Ross says. "Thank you to all who were able to attend, and we look forward to seeing you again at the 2017 Mentorship Luncheon!"

GEM GALA

Our inaugural Gem Gala, benefitting all community projects led by JLT, took place April 15 under the stars at the beautiful Tulsa Historical Society. More than 375 guests enjoyed the dinner and after party. At the gala, we recognized JLT's 2016 gems—Suzanne Warren and The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis. The evening, which included a live auction, had a net income of \$139,702.07.

"The Gem Gala was an incredible success. We exceeded our goals in terms of fundraising. It was a beautiful evening at the Historical Society, and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time," says Lauren Avery, Co-Chair of the Gala Committee with Rania Nasreddine. "We were happy to have so many in attendance that were not already affiliated with Junior League, so we could show them who we are and what we do in the community." ♦



Provisionals crafted wreaths to raise additional funds at Holiday Market.

HOLIDAY MARKET

Children took photos with Santa, decorated sugar cookies, and listened to a Christmas story at Cookies with the Clauses.



Carissa Cooper, JLT President, with Brooke Sturdivant, Holiday Market Chair

Provisionals' hand-crafted wreaths contributed to the fundraiser.



A total of 122 merchants exhibited, maxing out the venue's space.



Booths included clothing, toys, houseware, beauty products, and more.



JLT sold 4,450 tickets for the three-day Holiday Market.



More than 100 patrons attended Christmas & Croissants.

MENTORSHIP LUNCHEON

*Photos courtesy of The Sarah Image Photography,
www.thesarahimage.com*

Annie Tran, Neil Dieterle, and Jennie Wolek



Shawna Burroughs, Megan Sellman, and Kendall Mordhorst

Tarynn Venable and Maggie Ellsworth



Ashleigh Boedeker, Heather Duncan, and Courtney Wilson



Harlan Ross, Mentorship Luncheon Chair; Carissa Cooper, JLT President; Katrina Erickson, scholarship recipient; Robin Hines, scholarship recipient; Shellie Rea, Scholarship Chair; and Victoria Carney-Peters, scholarship recipient

Members and guests enjoyed keynote speaker Myka Meier during the luncheon.



Tara Proctor, Carissa Cooper, Whitney Mathews, Molly Aspan, Mary Beth Nesser, and Courtney Wilson

GEM GALA

Photos courtesy of Ace Cuervo Photography, www.acecuervo.com

Rania Nasreddine, Gem Gala Co-Chair; Suzanne Warren, 2016 Gem; Lauren Avery, Gem Gala Co-Chair; and Carissa Cooper, JLT President



Matt McDonald, Lacey McDonald, Sarah Colpitts, and David Karimian

Sarah Byerly and Vaughn Rupnow



Barry Steichen, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Saint Francis Health System and representative of The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis, one of the two 2016 Gems; and Carissa Cooper, JLT President



Gala attendees gathered under the stars at the Tulsa Historical Society.

Jennifer Wyckoff, Shellie Rea, Mary Beth Nesser, Courtney Wilson, Carissa Cooper, Rita Burke, Tara Proctor, Whitney Mathews, BJ Weintraub, and Heather Duncan



Gem Gala Committee Members
Back row: Sarah Gideon, Teresa Forehand, Stacy Schauvliege, Sarah Byerly, Lindsey Bull, Rachel Chinsethagid, Lacey Theobald, Carol Puckett, Sarah Abuali, and Alex Shipley
Front row: Amanda Brumby, Shelby Stauffer Bennett, Rania Nasreddine, Lauren Avery, Madelyn Tackett, Maggie Den Harder, Candace Wood, and Ginny Seeley

2015-2016 SPONSORS

THIS YEAR’S SUCCESS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THESE DONORS’ GENEROUS SUPPORT.

HOLIDAY MARKET

**Christmas & Croissants
Presenting Sponsor** (\$5,000)
Kendra Scott

**Cookies with the Clauses
Presenting Sponsor** (\$5,000)
Brian Raley, M.D. Pediatrics

Tinsel Sponsors (\$5,000)
Barbara and Jim Sturdivant
Barrow & Grimm, P.C.
D & L Oil Tools

Sleigh Ride Sponsor (\$1,500)
The Bank of Oklahoma, Private
Banking

Jingle Bell Sponsors (\$1,000)
Bruce and Shea Roach
Mr. Burt Holmes
Central National Bank
Dentsply Tulsa
Lou and Connie Miller Charitable
Foundation
Mrs. Peggy Helmerich
Dr. Robert Zoellner
Spray Equipment of Oklahoma, Inc.

Snowflake Sponsors (\$500)
Capital Advisors, Inc.
John Ragan, McGraw Realtors
Midwest Pest Control
Mrs. Ronda Norton

Holly Sponsors (\$250)
David L. Sobel
Drummond Law, PLLC
Greyson Construction
Jessica Ridens
Kelli and Mark Gebbia
Kim Smith
Liz Brolick
Oklahoma Interventional
Spine & Pain

Sagebrush Pipeline Equipment
Shelby and Hank Bennett
Tara and Brian O’Mahony
The Party Darling
Tulsa Braces

MENTORSHIP LUNCHEON

Presenting Sponsor (\$10,000)
Williams

Supporting Sponsors (\$1,500)
Explorer Pipeline
Hall Estill
Saint Francis Health System

Mentors’ Circle (\$850)
ONE Gas

Friends of the League (\$500)
Austin Bean Design Studio
The Beckman Company Insurance
Carissa and Brad Cooper
Kelli and Mark Gebbia

Helping Hands (\$250)
Shelby Bennett
Rania Nasreddine
Harlan Ross

GEM GALA

Presenting Sponsor (\$20,000)
The William K. Warren, Jr. family

Gemstone Sponsor (\$10,000)
The William K. Warren Foundation

Jewel Sponsors (\$5,000)
Bank of Oklahoma
Gable Gotwals
Luxe Furniture & Design

Rock Sponsors (\$2,500)
Ace Cuervo

Hall Estill
The Hammer Studio
Israel Diamond Supply
J.A. Mathis Company
JD Young
Magellan Midstream Partners
Mike and Cathey Barkley
Nabholz
ONEOK Inc.
PartyServe
Phil R. Richards, Attorney at Law

Bauble Sponsors (\$1,500)
Automated Mail Service
Boardwalk Distribution
Central National Bank
Frank and Bonnie Henke
HoganTaylor LLP
Jarboe Sales Company
Oklahoma Magazine
Response Solutions
The University of Tulsa
Monica Williford
WPX Energy

Bling Sponsors (\$1,000)
American Bank and Trust Co.
Candace Clark
Carissa and Brad Cooper
Crowe & Dunlevy
Cyntergy
Deb & Marty Thalken
Liz Brolick and Caitlin Boewe
Mabrey Bank
nJoy Vision
No Box Studios/Sean Lorton
Williams

Sparkle Sponsors (\$400)
Amber Garrett
Ashley Cockerham
Ashley Whitby/Blushprom.com
BJ and Jason Weintraub
Cannon Oral Surgery
Capital Advisors, Inc.
Cyndi and Mike Kernan

David Karimian
Deidra and Scott Kirtley
Dental Surgical Arts of Tulsa
Elizabeth Stidham
Harlan Ross
Dr. James Rodgers
Jason and Bea Aamdt
Jean Ann Hankins/Ronald McDonald House
Charities of Tulsa
Jenny Barrett
Lacey and Whit Roskam
Marianne Brett
Maureen Johnson
On the Cusp Pediatric Dentistry
Pius and Jessica Yoon
Route 66 Dental Implants & Periodontics
Sarah Byerly
Drs. Shannon and Shannon Orthodontics
Stephen and Jordan Brocks
Tara and Eric Proctor
True Smile Orthodontics
Whitney and Blake Mathews

PRESIDENT’S SOCIETY PATRONS

Cali McMickle
Carissa and Brad Cooper
Courtney and Rich Wilson
Elaina Osteen
Jessica and Jon Engelbrecht
Margaret and Casey Robinson
Meg and Gary Watkins
Marti and Andy Levinson
Molly and Brian Aspan
Rita and Taylor Burke
Shelby and Hank Bennett

PRESIDENT’S SOCIETY FRIENDS

Mary Beth Nesser
Toni Moseley

REMEMBER...

Thank you for ReMembering the Junior League of Tulsa by renewing your dues or making a gift.
Please complete the information below and mail this form to The Junior League of Tulsa, 3633 South Yale Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR MAKE A GIFT

Dues for the upcoming year are as follows:

Active Member:	\$175
Sustainer:	\$100
Sustainer over 65 years of age:	\$75
Sustainer over 80 years of age:	\$0

Please circle the appropriate member level above and include payment with this form.
If you would like to make a gift to the JLT endowment, make note of this generous gesture below.

I would like to donate \$_____ to the JLT endowment.
I would like to make this gift in honor or memory of_____
_____.

STAY IN TOUCH

Stay in touch with JLT and provide updated contact information, including 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 *gusher*.
If incorrect, advise us of changes here.

Preferred email address

Contact number for the JLT directory_____

STAY CONNECTED

___ Check here if you would like to subscribe to the Gusher Online e-newsletter, which includes the most recent articles published on www.jltulsa.org. Please include your email address in the field above.
___ Check here if you are interested in becoming involved with a committee or task force. A member will contact you for more information and your areas of interest.

Thank you for supporting the Junior League of Tulsa.



ESTABLISHING MAYFEST

JLT INTRODUCED THE ANNUAL ARTS FESTIVAL TO TULSA WITH JUBILEE '73.

The year was 1972. Richard M. Nixon was president. A gallon of gas cost 36 cents. Utica Square just opened, and the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) was about to celebrate its golden anniversary.

Coinciding anniversaries of the City of Tulsa, the Tulsa Philharmonic Society, and the Junior League gave JLT an opportunity to approach these groups with the idea of co-sponsoring an arts festival. "It was our gift to the city," says 1972 JLT President Nancy Daniels.

The purpose was to produce an arts festival that would bring local performing and visual artists to Tulsa May 18–20, 1973, at the Civic Center Plaza. The festival, called Jubilee '73, would commemorate the City of Tulsa's 75th anniversary, the Junior League of Tulsa's 50th anniversary, and the Tulsa Philharmonic Society's 25th anniversary.

"We didn't know what we were doing," Daniels admits. "We just put our heads together, and it

was a huge success." Over just a 12-month span, JLT planned and executed a festival featuring a slate of exclusively local artists and food vendors. "At that time, members were so committed. We would have never disappointed each other by not doing our jobs. The hours were long. It was hard work. It was hot—I do remember that—but it was fun." Underscoring the fun of Jubilee '73, Daniels remembers the children's area was extremely popular because the kids painted

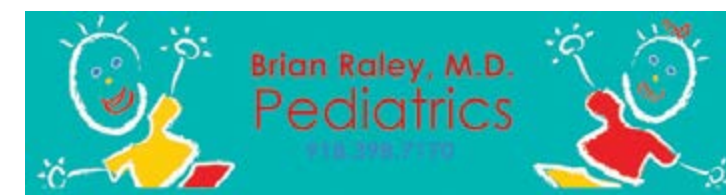
“ We didn't know what we were doing. We just put our heads together, and it was a huge success. ”

with squirt guns. "The KidZone was one of the most fun things we did. Everyone who worked that area was covered in paint. Everyone loved it," she recalls.

In 1974, JLT turned over production of the festival to Downtown Tulsa Unlimited (DTU) and the Arts & Humanities Council of Tulsa. The gift to our city has transformed during the past 43 years—changing in size, scope, name, and even location. Today, Mayfest boasts having "something for everyone," including three indoor galleries, along with multiple outdoor areas with fine arts, crafts, performing artists, KidZone, and—of course—great festival food.

Daniels recalls her time as president saying, "It was the easiest job at Junior League. The women did all the hard work, but the president got the credit." Fittingly, the gift presented to Daniels at the conclusion of her term had Jubilee '73 ties. It was a beautiful ring by Ann Garrett, a local artist who had a booth at the inaugural festival.

Four decades later, Daniels says JLT's gift to Tulsa is evidence of the League's pioneering spirit, vision, and contributions to our city. "Jubilee '73 is an example of what JLT can do. It makes me proud," Daniels says. "We did it, and we did it beautifully." ♦



GableGotwals' labor and employment group represents employers in all aspects of employment law. We regularly counsel employers on day-to-day human resource issues, ensure compliance with state and federal laws and regulations, and assist in preparing contracts, handbooks and policies. We have extensive experience appearing before government agencies such as the EEOC, OSHA, DOL and OFCCP. We represent employers in labor disputes and in all types of employment-related individual and class-action litigation, such as claims under Title VII, ADEA, ADA, FMLA, FLSA, GINA and other state and federal laws. Our knowledge and skill means efficiency and savings in solving your issues, and confidence that we understand the real world consequences to your company.

GableGotwals...Solving Problems and Managing Opportunities.

We Are Employment Law



TULSA · OKLAHOMA CITY · www.gablelaw.com



Can **ONE** company...
change the face of an industry by championing
workforce diversity and promoting creativity? Absolutely.

All of our success stems from the collective strength, skills and experience of our employees. We rely on their expertise to promote a culture where a commitment to smart business and customer service are a priority, and we are always looking for new talent.

ONEOK.com



Health Zone for fitness.

Enjoy the ease of membership without contracts. Make a move in the right direction toward this 70,000 square-foot medically-based fitness facility. Health Zone offers an array of exercise equipment, two indoor pools, an extensive selection of classes and a variety of wellness programs.

5353 East 68th Street South | 918-494-1671
saintfrancis.com/healthzone



 *Leslie Hoyt.com*
Heirloom Children's Portraits
918-200-9436



4329 S. PEORIA SUITE 335

918 • 346 • 6016

MINTDENTALTULSA.COM

BARROW & GRIMM

Junior League of Tulsa, Inc.
3633 S. Yale Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74135

WANT MORE? GO ONLINE!



The Junior League of Tulsa's website is home to articles about

- The Junior League of Tulsa's Work in the Community
- Ladies of the League
- Sustainer Updates
- Fundraiser Details
- Activities Around Town
- And More!

New articles are added each month.

Visit Gusher Online at www.jltulsa.org.



DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TULSA ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, AND TWITTER FOR MORE UPDATES!