

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TULSA

MAGAZINE

gusher

2016-2017



EMPOWERING WOMEN, EMPOWERING LEADERS

DEVELOPING THE POTENTIAL OF WOMEN
PAGE 14

A COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



AROUND THE LEAGUE | FINANCIAL UPDATE | #JOINJLT | SUSTAINER SCOOP



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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 is committed to working toward 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

The Junior League of Tulsa, Inc., welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations, and communities.

Junior League of Tulsa, Inc.

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Impact; Tulsa City-County Library: After School Homework Club; Tulsa City-County Library: Retail Store; Resonance Center for Women: Take 2 Restaurant; Resonance Center for Women: Choosing to Change; Hawthorne 2nd Grade Art; Philbrook MyMuseum Mobile; Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma; Harvest Market; Scholarship; Street School Culinary Club

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Jennifer Doverspike
2016-17 gusher chair

gusher is an annual publication of
the Junior League of Tulsa, Inc

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A League of Extraordinary Women

"The purpose of Junior League membership has developed from that of simple service to others to the development of the individual member through service to others."

- Margaret Z. Heinzerling, speaking at AJLA conference, 1953

Most members of the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) have learned about our League's role in Tulsa history. We've been responsible for or collaborated with others to create some of the major institutions here in Tulsa: Mayfest, Child Abuse Network, Children's Medical Center, DVIS, and many arts and docent programs.

However, as this year's Editor of *gusher*, I've had the pleasure of spending a few hours at Central Library going through JLT archives and learning on a more intimate basis about the women that came before us.

I've been fascinated reading articles from the 1950s issues of *gusher* Magazine, in which debates over the roles of mothers and women played out across the pages. In fact, the roots of most of our well-known programs were from a time when the majority of women in the League were housewives, empty nesters, and stay-at-home mothers.

"A woman's place is where she's needed," wrote then-Junior League of Tulsa President Katie Westby in October 1957, and JLT was "needed everywhere." Westby herself was a well-known civic leader who was instrumental in the creation of the Tulsa Arts and Humanities Council.

One major JLT accomplishment discussed in this issue is Leadership Tulsa, which was a joint project of the JLT and the Chamber of Commerce in 1973 and modeled after our Provisional Course. The first few classes were comprised mostly of male business leaders—and also a few women, designated as "housewives" or "community volunteers." These women were Junior Leaguers, who went through the course and then continued their stewardship in improving it for the future years.

Today, one of JLT's missions is developing the potential of women, and we not only train future non-profit leaders but also empower the women we serve through our scholarships, community projects, and our Skills for Life programs, which we will cover in our Feature Story. As such, this year's Gem Gala Honoree is JLT Sustainer and Past President Deidra Kirtley, who serves as the Executive Director of the Resonance Center for Women. Resonance provides female offenders challenged by the criminal justice system the tools to succeed.

This issue is a love letter to the incredible power of determined women, and it would not have been possible without the grit and hard work of my own Committee—Lauren, Quinn, Jourdan, and Lacey—and the leadership of Communications Council VP Jennifer Wyckoff, 2016-17 JLT President Rita Burke, and my Sustaining Advisor Connie Doverspike. We hope you enjoy reading and learning more about our extraordinary League.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Doverspike
2016-17 gusher Chair

FROM THE 2016-17 PRESIDENT

DEAR GUSHER READERS,

The Junior League of Tulsa is our community's premier training and volunteer organization for women. A member-driven organization, JLT's mission is to develop the potential of women, improve the community, and promote voluntarism. This annual *gusher* issue explores what the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) does best: develop women leaders.

With approximately 700 Active, Provisional, and Sustaining members serving on over 30 committees, our organizational framework allows us to develop new leaders and ideas, increasing the footprint of our impact in the Tulsa community. In an age where time is precious and life can be demanding, the League is a place where women can learn something new about themselves and their community, hone their leadership skills, and meet like-minded friends.

Since 1923, JLT has provided volunteer leadership in more than 100 community projects in areas of healthcare, education, social services, child abuse prevention, homelessness, arts appreciation, parenting resources, historic preservation, domestic violence prevention, childhood obesity, and much more. Past JLT projects include Leadership Tulsa, the Ronald McDonald House, Mayfest, Oxley Nature Center, and the Child Abuse Network.

Currently, our community partnerships are focused on fighting poverty through hands-on education and community based training. Our community volunteers serve in placements focusing on female incarceration, children's art education and enrichment, and

healthy nutrition and food education. As some of Tulsa's most effective volunteers, JLT members served more than 44,000 total hours last year, with approximately 16,000 hours within the community benefiting the women and children in Tulsa who need it most.

In addition to our community programs, JLT provides members the opportunity to develop fundraising skills, a very critical part of non-profit volunteer work. We hope you will support our three fundraisers:

Holiday Market, our annual gift market, the Mentorship Luncheon, an inspiring luncheon recognizing our traditional and non-traditional scholarship recipients, and the Gem Gala, a beautiful evening at the Tulsa Historical Society honoring both individual and organization gems of our community.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue. A special thanks to our *gusher* Committee, under the leadership of our editor, Jennifer Doverspike, for telling our League story and their commitment and dedication to this issue.

As I reflect on the 2016-17 League year, I want to thank our members for the time, talent, and treasure given to JLT. It has been an honor to serve the League as President and work alongside some truly exceptional women; it has



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

given me a unique perspective on our mission and the opportunity to watch so many leaders around me develop their skills to become highly effective volunteers for our community. Many thanks to the 2016-17 Board of Directors for joining me on this journey, working so hard for the League, and leading with their hearts. I will always cherish this experience, love the memories and friendships I have gained, and enjoy watching our League grow in the future. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Rita Moschovidis Burke
2016-17 President

FROM THE 2017-18 PRESIDENT

HELLO, GUSHER READERS!

As JLT was founded in 1923, 2018 marks 95 years of making a difference in Tulsa. We have a lot to celebrate during this milestone anniversary year!

We are celebrating who we are as a League. We are a vibrant, sustainable, thriving, 95-year old organization with a mission to develop the potential of women, promote voluntarism, and improve our community through the effective action and leadership of our trained volunteers.

We are celebrating who we are as members. We are women who are threaded together by a common belief in the same mission and the conviction that, together, we will fulfill it. We are leaders in our community, our professions, and our homes. We are friends and family.

We are celebrating our presence in the community. We directly impact more than 20 different community organizations in the Tulsa area through volunteer support. The needs of our community have evolved over our 95 years, but our commitment to improving it has not changed.

We are celebrating our past. Our past programs, our past fundraisers, our past members, and the impact the Junior League of Tulsa has made on the Tulsa community over the past 95 years.

And we are celebrating the bright future in front of us. We have strong and committed members who are preparing to take the reins of our organization and thinking strategically about our future and how we fit into the landscape of the nonprofit community in Tulsa.

We are celebrating our first Board Fellows class this year. These fourteen members were selected to receive advanced training about how best to serve our community as a Board and community volunteer, then they will sit on a community Board next year as a trained JLT intern.

We are celebrating our Holiday Market, which returned to the UMAC this year on December 8-10, 2017. We celebrated mentorship with our Luncheon at Southern Hills Country Club on January 25, 2018, where we learned firsthand about mentorship in Junior League from our AJLI President Carol Scott. And we will



celebrate our 95th anniversary at our beautiful Anniversary Gem Gala on May 12, 2018, at the Tulsa Historical Society and Museum, and honor Taylor Hanson of the Hanson Brothers and the nonprofit he founded, Food on the Move, as our Gems in the Community.

But most of all, we will celebrate our members. We celebrated Member Appreciation Month in January, where we honored our members—both past and present. Thank you to each of our members for being a part of our 95 years.

I look forward to working with and for you as we celebrate this next year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly Aspan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the "n".

Molly Aspan
2017-18 President



JLT 2016-17 Board of Directors. Photo courtesy of Leslie Hoyt, www.lesliehoyt.com.

A Commitment to All

NEW DIVERSITY TASK FORCE RAISES AWARENESS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE JLT

In the 2016-17 League Year, in accordance with the Strategic Plan, the Board of Directors created a Diversity and Inclusion Task Force on the Leadership Development Council. The Task Force offers programming and educational opportunities to Members and ensures JLT is an active participant on the subject of diversity in the Tulsa community.

Deneisha Johnson, Chair of the D&I Task Force, had the goal, "to be more effective in the communities that we serve." Therefore, she said, "we have to first understand the differences in where we serve and where we live, our backgrounds, their backgrounds, and the various backgrounds of the Membership." As such, the D&I Task Force focused their research on topics such as socioeconomic equality and implicit bias.

Highlights of the Task Force's year include: a poverty simulation at OU-Tulsa, a SNAP Challenge Week for Members from January 22-28, and a "Super Saturday" of training including speakers and facilitators focused on topics such as implicit bias and inclusive leadership.

JLT PARTICIPATES IN OU-TULSA POVERTY SIMULATION

The Task Force, along with the Training and Education Committee, partnered with JLT Past-President Dr. Brenda Lloyd-Jones to bring League participation to the Poverty Simulation hosted by Dr. Lloyd-Jones

and OU-Tulsa. Participants in the two-hour simulation were required to assume specific roles within a family living under the poverty line, where each role must work together to provide food, shelter, and necessities. The objective of the Poverty Simulation was to help individuals, through their assigned roles within the simulation, realize the stereotypes surrounding people living in poverty. *gusher* interviewed two participants, Lacey Theobald and Lauren Bartlett, to gauge their reactions to the event.

According to Theobald, the simulation was more interactive than expected. "Once we got our roles we were expected to play, I was immersed in being that person and living in a lifestyle that I was not familiar or comfortable with. It was very eye opening," she said.

"Post simulation I felt very anxious," she continued. "The whole time we were participating in the simulation I felt like I could never catch a break. From trying to keep our heads above water on paying bills to having money for food, many people I interacted with throughout the day at my work, daycare, the bank, and different companies I paid bills at were very short and rude to me. It was a really sad realization that this is reality for so many people."

Bartlett states, "I felt a mix of emotions after the Poverty Simulation. First of all, it was heartbreaking; it's sad realizing how many people are affected by

poverty. It was eye opening to learn how difficult things are and seeing how hard it is to escape poverty once you are in it. Lastly, the experience made a strong impact on me. Junior League's mission was brought to a whole new light in my mind. I always knew that we worked to help women and children in poverty, but I don't think I realized the sheer importance of our organization until I experienced this simulation."

SNAP CHALLENGE HIGHLIGHTS NUTRITION DIFFICULTIES

From January 22-28, 2017, JLT members participated in a "SNAP Challenge." SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) is a federal aid program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Under a SNAP Challenge, each individual or family should spend the allotted amount for food and beverages during the challenge week. Food the participant already has at home or is given by others must also be accounted for in the budget.

Diversity and Inclusion Task Force Chair Deneisha Johnson, as a single individual, qualified for a budget of \$45 for the week. In a Facebook Live video she streamed following the challenge, she revealed she tried to eat pot roast and potatoes for the whole week and quickly tired of leftovers. Others in the challenge, she said, could not afford enough meat so did vegetarian meals. One difference in privilege

"IT WAS EYE OPENING TO LEARN HOW DIFFICULT THINGS ARE AND SEEING HOW HARD IT IS TO ESCAPE POVERTY ONCE YOU ARE IN IT."

(article continues on page 10)

PAST PRESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: DR. BRENDA LLOYD-JONES



gusher spoke with past Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) President, Dr. Brenda Lloyd-Jones, to learn more about her work with the Poverty Simulation through OU-Tulsa and her continued commitment to the community. Dr. Lloyd-Jones is an associate professor at OU, published author, and has won numerous service awards. She has remained passionate and active in community volunteerism since serving as JLT President in 2002-03.

JLT: Share with us why you're passionate about your work with the Poverty Simulation:

Dr. Lloyd-Jones: As a scholar and researcher, I have found that poverty is a reality for many individuals and families in Tulsa. What is more, deepening poverty is inextricably linked with rising levels of homelessness, food insecurity, health disparities, and education inequities. Unfortunately, children are particularly affected by these conditions; 24.3% of children live in poverty.

As a Human Relations Professor at the University of Oklahoma, it is important that I go beyond

lectures that provide awareness and understanding of poverty and actively involve students in practices that empower them to evaluate and change social inequalities. In the case of poverty, unless you have experienced it, it is difficult to actually comprehend the day-to-day reality of poverty.

OU-Tulsa Poverty Simulation serves as a transformative function for those interested or engaged in combatting the cycle of poverty—from policymakers to community leaders to service providers to students. It is a role-playing experience that offers participants the opportunity to learn more about the realities of living in conditions of poverty.

JLT: What other community work have you been involved in?

Dr. Lloyd-Jones: As an avid volunteer, I have immersed myself in Tulsa's volunteer infrastructure, serving on the boards of multiple non-profit organizations. Of late and in addition to serving on the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) Community Advisory Board, I am a board member of Retired Senior Volunteers Program (RSVP) of Tulsa. I enjoy linking my academic knowledge of the aging process with RSVP's mission.

JLT: You were a League President—how did your time in JLT prepare you to serve and volunteer in other areas of your life?

Dr. Lloyd-Jones: JLT continues to be a highlight of my tenure as a community volunteer and leader. As a JLT member for many years, I was active in a number of

placements including Provisional Admissions Co-Chair, which enhanced my collaborative skills and my capacity to manage a relatively large number of diverse and community-minded volunteers. Also memorable was the opportunity to represent JLT as a Service Provider and consultant for the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI).

JLT's influence is observable in my approach to supporting the non-profit boards on which I serve, engaging directly and deeply in the substantive work of the organization, providing effective governance, and offering ongoing community development opportunities.

JLT: You're a professor, avid volunteer, published author, and have won many awards that recognize your involvement in the community and accomplishments. What is one of your accomplishments you are most proud of?

Dr. Lloyd-Jones: Perhaps the accomplishment I am most proud of is as the founder of The Mothers Group Inc., which is a 25-year plus non-profit organization (501(c)3), and as the creator of its widely acclaimed annual educational event known as the Santa Community Project, which features a Black Santa and Mrs. Claus who promote children's education, books, and reading. In 2014 The Mothers Group recognized 25 years of hosting this community-wide literacy event.

It all started while I was waiting in the checkout line at Rudisill Library. I overheard a child ask her mother to be taken to

Past President Spotlight: Dr. Brenda Lloyd-Jones (continued)

another part of town where her picture could be made with Santa. Citing the travel distance and the rising cost of gasoline, the mother reluctantly said no. The youngster's heartbreak touched me, and I was moved to do something about it. Approaching the officers of The Mothers Group, I shared a simple idea: invite Santa and Mrs. Claus to the library and create an event that would have them present to take photographs with children in the North Tulsa community. In 1989, The Santa Project was born. In addition to a free photograph with the Clauses, each child received an age-appropriate, new book.

After only a few years, the Santa Project outgrew the library. Hence, the Greenwood Cultural Center became the new home for the Santa Community Project.

JLT: What is one of your fondest memories of JLT?

Dr. Lloyd-Jones: One of my fondest JLT memories is of receiving a JLT presidential scrapbook at the end of my term. Presenting the outgoing President with a book filled with memories of her presidential year is a long-standing JLT tradition. I keep my scrapbook close by because it serves as a genuine source of inspiration, motivation, and pride for me as I continue to honor my purpose and passion through community service and leadership.

JLT: What is your motto or favorite quote?

Dr. Lloyd-Jones: One of my favorite quotes is: "We should seize every opportunity to give encouragement, for it is oxygen to the soul." —George Adams

(continued from page 8)

Johnson noted was the above individual could search on the internet for good recipes or ways to stretch a budget—resources not necessarily available to those living in poverty.

JLT Recording Secretary Meg Watkins also participated in the challenge. Her budget for a family of two was \$89/week. "While I consider myself an 'empty nester'," she said, "there are rarely only two for each meal. During my research and planning process I discovered I needed to tell my kids and their families not to come over this week, explained to friends not to stop over for dinner that week, cancelled the regular football party and struggled with a JLT dinner club that I promised several people I would attend. Sticking to this budget meant socialization would be a very low priority."

She also noted that individuals in poverty often face transportation issues and live in "food deserts"—areas with little access to healthy food. Whereas someone participating in the challenge could drive to many grocery stores to find the best deals and load up on items, an individual in poverty may choose only a store accessible via public transportation and would have to carry the items home.

"What did I learn? Hunger in Tulsa is a reality," Watkins stated. "Food deserts exist in Tulsa. Inexpensive foods tend to contain little nutrition value, yet tons of sugars, artificial ingredients and/or fat. What have I done since the challenge? Volunteered at the [Food Bank], donated to the kids' Backpack program and have my eyes wide open to help where I can."

SUPER SATURDAY INFORMS AND EDUCATES THE JLT MEMBERSHIP

On January 28th the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) Diversity and Inclusion Task Force, along with the Training and Education Committee, hosted a two hour social awareness training called Super Saturday. According to Deneisha Johnson, Chair for the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force, the idea for Super Saturday came from a similar training held annually at the Junior League of East Orange New Jersey. The event included a discussion on multiple topics such as implicit bias, microaggression, privilege, inclusion, and equality, as well as a panel of guest speakers with strong backgrounds in each topic to spark discussions between League members. Speakers included JLT's own Deneisha Johnson, Josh Linton, Diversity and Inclusion Project Coordinator at OneGas, and Delaina Holmes, President of the Verizon employee resource program CITE for African American employees.

The main goal for Super Saturday was membership engagement and awareness. JLT members participated in intense and insightful discussions on how JLT can better improve diversity within the League and what steps need to be taken to get there. Attendees of the event left feeling a greater sense of awareness of the different backgrounds and experiences of those around them. JLT members Cheryl Majors and Tori Ford attended the event and both agreed the privilege walk was what stuck with them after they left Super Saturday. The walk was designed to be a visual reminder

"THE WALK REMINDED ME OF BOTH THE STRUGGLES I'VE HAD AND HOW FORTUNATE I HAVE BEEN."

of privilege within the group, with the less privileged being closer to the wall and those more privileged making it across the room. Ford said, "It was humbling to see this

and made me realize that I have been given many opportunities that I assumed most women I knew within JLT had been given." Majors agreed, saying "The walk reminded me of

both the struggles I've had and how fortunate I have been. It was personally eye opening to reflect on the questions that were being posed and my honest responses." ♦

NEW FOOD BANK COMMITTEE PROVIDES COMMUNITY DINNERS

JLT partnered with the Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma this year to provide monthly community dinners to Hawthorne Elementary and Penn Elementary serving students who are experiencing food insecurity. JLT's Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma Committee has 17 members and provides one meal a month to each of the two schools. The members of the Committee deliver and serve over 300 hot and nutritious dinners to students and parents of the schools. The Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma prepares the food, and the JLT Committee handles event set-up, serves meals, packages up leftovers, and cleans up.

The Committee sees this program as a great way to engage parents in the school community while also providing a healthy dinner for the entire family, according to Committee Chair Sarah Walker. Walker highlighted the December dinner at Penn Elementary, after which families were able to watch *The Polar Express* in the gym. Each family also "[received] a special Polar Express care package from the Junior League. It is a lot of fun getting to know the kids and parents and an important way the Junior League of Tulsa is living out its issue statement."

The schools they serve are located in North Tulsa, in the heart of a food desert, and many of these families served are considered under the poverty line. These monthly meals not only provide a healthy option for families to eat that night, but they also are provided leftovers. Teachers and principals at each elementary school attend the dinners and have an opportunity to discuss student welfare with families, provide education and training opportunities, and allow parents and teachers to build critical relationships with each other. Hawthorne Elementary has observed a large increase in PTA meeting attendance by coordinating dinners on the same night. At Penn Elementary, literacy is promoted during meals by giving each family a book to discuss and take home.

Eileen Bradshaw, Executive Director of the Food



JLT members serving at the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma

Bank, says she is very pleased with the partnership. "Sharing a meal together," she continues, "can have a powerful effect on these families and teachers—these dinners build community. We provide the food, but the women of Junior League are the ones that make it happen. I am so grateful for their time and commitment."

The Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma is the largest private hunger-relief organization in Eastern Oklahoma providing food and other donated products to 450 partner programs in 24 counties. Together the Food Bank provides more than 339,000 meals to hungry Oklahomans each week. In fiscal year 2016, the Food Bank distributed more than 21.1 million pounds of food.

The Food Bank's Tulsa warehouse, the Donald W. Reynolds Distribution Center, opened in June 2006. It is a 78,000 square-foot facility that can store up to three million pounds of food at any one time.

For JLT's March GMM, members participated in a "done-in-a-meeting" concept—an abridged meeting with a service component—and sorted and bagged a large amount of fruit that the Food Bank had received as a donation. The fruit would be distributed in kids' backpacks for Spring Break and for the free family farmers markets.

2016-17 Year in Review

COUNCILS WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE JLT AND THE COMMUNITY BEYOND.

gusher asked Council Vice Presidents to highlight their successes for the 2016-17 League Year. Below are their responses.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL VP, MARY BETH NESSER

We've had many successes on Community Council this year, from continued progress with existing projects and the development of new partnerships. Two of our most exciting endeavors included the establishment of a new partnership with Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. Led by Sarah Walker and a fabulous Committee of women, we established family dinner nights at Penn Elementary and Hawthorne Elementary. Our members have worked with Food Bank to provide delicious family meals while engaging the members of the school communities in PTA meetings, game nights, and fellowship. It has been such a reward for JLT members to be a part of this growing project, and we hope to continue and possibly expand it in the future.

Other notable events include seeing the establishment of the JLT and Tulsa City-County Library Intergalactic Spaceport & Emporium pop-up shop at Holiday Market. The pop-up shop launched in October and is available online until the permanent storefront, opens. The store will serve as the front-end operation for a nonprofit after-school writing and tutoring center. Proceeds from sales in the store will benefit the after-school program. JLT will continue its involvement with the Intergalactic Spaceport & Emporium as the storefront is established and the tutoring curriculum is developed.

Every year we are amazed at the work our Committees accomplish. Housing over half of the Provisional and Active membership, Community Council was active in the Tulsa County Library After School Homework Club, provided food education at Street School and Harvest Market, continued its education and mentorship programs with Resonance clients through the Choosing to Change and Take 2 programs, and continued our efforts to bring education and awareness of the arts through programming at Hawthorne Elementary and the Philbrook MyMuseum Mobile program at The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis. We also awarded \$10,000 in scholarship money to further the education of women and participated in over 60 "Done in a Day" projects through our Impact Committee. It was an exceedingly rewarding year for all!

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL VP, LAUREN PIERCE

I am very proud of the Leadership Development Council this year. Each Committee has many accomplishments, but I am most proud of the development of JLT Board Fellows program, which is a leadership training course that prepares women with the training and experience to become a well-informed Board member of a non-profit partner or Junior League. JLT Board Fellows will pair the member with a non-profit partner to serve on their Board of Directors after the training course. Often women want to be a part of a non-profit or Junior League's Board but don't have experience in strategic planning, fundraising, or budgeting. It was our goal to train the women and

prepare them.

My Council also spread the word about diversity and inclusion this year. While the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force is in the beginning stages, they have done research and reached out to other Leagues to determine where JLT should take this Task Force. They have done a great job communicating and celebrating diversity and inclusion within JLT.

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL VP, BROOKE STURDIVANT

This year we were successful with our Sustainer reMember campaign and the clean-up of membership numbers, placements, statuses, and records in Digital Cheetah. The Provisional team did a great job this year developing the potential of our newest members.

Membership Council was incredibly cohesive this year. We were very good at supporting one another and helping to make each other's responsibilities successful, and I am proud of the way each and every person on our Council stepped up to man something additional to their initial responsibilities. For example, Brooke Fielder and Melissa Hudson spearheaded Trivia Night and the Transfers Committee in addition to being the Chair and Vice Chair of Social and Hospitality.

COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL VP, JENNIFER WYCKOFF

Our social media pages (particularly our Members Only Facebook page) and eBlasts have produced thoughtful and informative posts to get our members especially engaged. I am also excited that the *gusher* team

BY THE NUMBERS

A NUMERICAL LOOK AT THE LEAGUE AND ITS CONTRIBUTIONS



675 TOTAL JLT MEMBERSHIP



227 JLT ACTIVE MEMBERS



70 JLT PROVISIONALS



378 JLT SUSTAINERS



44,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS
DIRECTLY IN THE COMMUNITY



420 TRAINING HOURS



\$166,250
NET TOTAL FUNDRAISING INCOME

was able to take Gusher Online live this year and produce quality content to both the Membership and the public.

Our Marketing Committee has tapped into our local media outlets more so this year with consistently sending out press releases related to our events/projects/trainings and has worked on creating one-sheet informational guides (including recreating the "DIP" card) for our members to use when promoting JLT and our events/projects in a consistent manner. Our website (thanks to the Technology Committee) has consistently provided relevant and timely information to both internal and external parties, and our Archives Committee was able to begin work on creating a user-friendly repository for storing all archive-able content.

FINANCE COUNCIL VP, LAUREN AVERY

The coordination of fundraising efforts among the different Committees in the Council is the achievement I am most proud of this year. We have become more strategic within our communication to donors through our Donor Database and our "One Ask," which has allowed us to create relationships that are beneficial to both JLT and the donor. We have also solicited and received support from the Board that has been very beneficial. Our fundraising Chairs worked together as a team to produce three successful events that have represented the League well.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIR, VICKI WRIGHT

The Strategic Planning Committee, in collaboration with the Board of Directors, developed an Annual Plan to guide us through our priorities outlined in JLT's Strategic Plan. With this new planning strategy, we have taken our goals and objectives and implemented in-League responsibility assignments and timeframes in which the tasks should be completed. The use of the Annual Plan has allowed for documentation of what has been, what needs to be, and what could be accomplished, which in turn will lead to smoother annual transitions of leadership. ♦



Developing the Potential OF WOMEN

JLT has a long history of uplifting women in the Tulsa community and preparing them for a better future

The Junior League of Tulsa was one of two recipients of the \$10,000 Community Impact Award at the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI) Annual Conference held on May 21, 2017. The award, funded by Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures, recognizes chapters/projects that concretely illustrate the Junior League tradition of achieving significant community impact through collaboration.

JLT was awarded the Community Impact Award for its partnership with the Resonance Center for Women. JLT volunteers have mentored over 120 non-violent female offenders through both the Choosing to Change program at Turley Correctional Facility and the transitional work program at Take 2 Café in downtown Tulsa. The partnership between JLT and Resonance highlights JLT's goal to end the cycle of poverty through hands-on education and community-based training.

2016-17 JLT President Rita Burke said,

"We are proud to collaborate with Resonance to serve women in our community who need a second chance and are thankful for the generous \$10,000 award from Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures. Developing the potential of women, promoting voluntarism, and improving the community is the heart of our mission. I'm very excited and thankful for our many wonderful volunteers in JLT who were able to make this happen!"

The Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) has been a community partner to Resonance Center for Women for more than 20 years.

SUPPORTING WOMEN IN TRANSITION

Resonance was founded in 1977 as a non-profit organization which focused on offering troubled women a support system of groups and educational opportunities outside of their challenging life situations. Today, Resonance responds to the needs of Tulsa women by offering an outpatient drug and alcohol treatment facility. Currently, Oklahoma has the highest

rate for female incarceration in the United States, and through reentry and mentoring programs such as Choosing to Change, Resonance aims to help female offenders break the cycle of repeat incarceration and support the well-being and self-sufficiency of women and their families challenged by the criminal justice system.

JLT partners with the Choosing to Change program to provide support to the women at the Turley Residential Center. JLT's Choosing to Change Committee spends four sessions with a group of 12 women, a "cohort," over an eight-week period. Throughout this timeframe, JLT focuses on teaching a curriculum that includes communication, nutrition, self-care, conflict resolution, and job skills. Choosing to Change Chair Laura Law states, "We laugh often, we eat good food, and we have real conversations with these women about some very difficult topics and how they can improve the direction of their lives." Over the course of the League year, JLT volunteers mentor 4-5 cohorts of women participating in the program.

Through the planned curriculum, the JLT Choosing to Change Committee fosters one-on-one relationships between the women at Turley and League volunteers. Small groups allow the committee to promote a positive and encouraging support system. A secondary goal of the committee is to learn, research, and educate members about the issues surrounding female incarceration in Oklahoma. Deidra Kirtley, Executive Director of Resonance Center for Women, spoke to gusher last year about JLT's work with Resonance, saying, "I am so thankful the Junior League



Rita Burke, Molly Aspan, and Mary Beth Nesser accept the Community Impact Award at the AJLI Annual Conference.

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." JLT recognized Kirtley and Resonance this year as the 2017 Gem Gala honorees.

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.

The Resonance Board of Directors adopted many of the Social Venture Committee's recommendations and decided to open Take 2, a café that opened in March 2016 in downtown Tulsa. Choosing to Change graduates have the opportunity to work there, and a few have the opportunity to live in a loft above the café.

In conjunction 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

"WE LAUGH OFTEN, WE EAT GOOD FOOD, AND WE HAVE REAL CONVERSATIONS WITH THESE WOMEN ABOUT SOME VERY DIFFICULT TOPICS AND HOW THEY CAN IMPROVE THE DIRECTION OF THEIR LIVES."

JLT VOLUNTEERS HAVE MENTORED OVER 120 NON-VIOLENT FEMALE OFFENDERS THROUGH BOTH THE CHOOSING TO CHANGE PROGRAM AND THE TRANSITIONAL WORK PROGRAM AT TAKE 2 CAFÉ.

will work either at the café or elsewhere.

AN AWARD-WINNING APPROACH TO DEVELOPING SOFT SKILLS

The Junior League of Tulsa's partnership with Resonance Center for Women is one of many League efforts to mentor women in the community.

In 2000, the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) implemented a Skills for Life program in collaboration with the Day Center for the Homeless. Through the Skills for Life program, JLT worked with the Director of the Day Center to develop a curriculum useful to the Tulsa homeless population with training sessions on topics such as financial management, Tulsa transit, food and nutrition, communication skills, job interview skills, and self-advocacy. The success of the program led JLT to win the AJLI Crest Whitestrips Award in 2003, which included a \$10,000 award

to JLT's training and community programs.

Because of the impact the Skills for Life program had on the Day Center for the Homeless, the program expanded to serve Domestic Violence Intervention Services (DVIS), beginning in 2003. JLT's partnership with DVIS began in the early 1980s, shortly after DVIS opened its first shelter for women. Since that time JLT has helped raise awareness and advocate for victims of domestic abuse in the Tulsa community through different programs within the League, to include the Domestic Violence Project, which aimed to "increase public awareness regarding domestic violence and to offer assistance to those affected by domestic violence." The project had multiple areas of focus, many requiring specialized training for JLT volunteers. For example, members assisted with DVIS's teen education curriculum and worked as advocates for women and children. In 2016, JLT was

recognized as one of the "40 Faces of DVIS" on the agency's 40th anniversary.

The DVIS Skills for Life curriculum was developed to help victims of domestic abuse transition back into society and the workplace through classes that covered topics such as resume skills and job training, positive parenting skills, information on seeking and obtaining housing, as well as legal issues. By 2005, the training programs at DVIS had served and benefited over 100 women in the Tulsa area.

SETTING WOMEN UP FOR SUCCESS

Women in poverty feel effects such as limited access to resources, opportunities, and confidence. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Oklahoma is one of the poorest states in the country, with more than half of the state's counties having an average income of at or below the federal poverty level. Oklahoma's poverty rate is 16.1%, which is well above the national rate of 13.5%. A single parent in Oklahoma who is working a full-time job at minimum wage will still fall under the national poverty line.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Oklahoma has the nation's third-highest rate of people working at



JLT partnered with Resonance to help develop the concept for Take 2 Café.

The DVIS Skills for Life curriculum was developed to help victims of domestic abuse transition back into society and the workplace.

(article continues on page 18)

PAST PRESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: 5 QUESTIONS WITH DEIDRA KIRTLEY

Deidra Kirtley is the Executive Director of Resonance Center for Women, a nonprofit agency promoting the success and self-sufficiency of women challenged by the criminal justice system and a Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) community partner. She serves on the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women, the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women Advisory Board, the Ronald McDonald House Charities Advisory Board and is a trustee on the Junior League of Tulsa Endowment Management Board. She is a past President of JLT and was named Sustainer of the Year in 2015. Kirtley also served a two-year appointment on the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) Governance Committee. Kirtley has been extremely involved and supportive of JLT throughout both as an Active and as a Sustainer.

JLT: Tell us about your role with Resonance Center for Women.

In a nutshell, my responsibilities include leading the organization in financial growth, long-range planning, community relations, and general administration. Like most Executive Directors, I wear a lot of hats and that's what keeps my job interesting. Every day is different for me, but the common thread is that I am always advocating for the women we serve and our mission at Resonance. Of course, there are many unexpected things that pop up during the day as well... like the occasional raccoon or bat that makes its way into one of the chimneys, or dealing with an aging, leaky sewer line or pacifying the neighbor whose yard is affected by the aging, leaky sewer line. But all in all, it's an easy trade off to work in a beautiful 100-year old mansion and to witness life-changing work

every single day.

JLT: How did JLT prepare you for your role as Executive Director?

Almost every position I held in JLT helped prepare me for this job ...working with Board members and volunteers, working with nonprofits, identifying gaps in the community, creating strategic plans and budgets...they all were helpful in very different ways, although I probably didn't realize it at the time. However, the single most important skill set I learned through Junior League was how was how to build a diverse team and rally their support to move a project forward while also learning to keep the team intact and maintain their momentum. Sometimes a lot of great ideas never happen simply because people lose their focus and/or their steam. There are many days when I sounded like a broken record in getting a new idea up and running. But I also know the minute I stop talking about what is possible, the focus drifts and the idea dies.

JLT: Oklahoma has the highest female incarceration rate in the country. How does Resonance serve these women re-entering the workforce as well as others challenged by the criminal justice system? What are some of the challenges women specifically face?

Women involved in the criminal justice system are often misunderstood and are treated as outcasts in our community. But for the most part, they are women who have experienced immense childhood or adult trauma. They are mothers who love their kids. They are daughters, sisters, and neighbors filled with shame and embarrassment about their actions, and they are nonviolent offenders



Deidra Kirtley, Executive Director of Resonance Center for Women

who, more often than not, have a substance abuse problem. Our goal at Resonance is to help them get their lives back on track...either by providing treatment in lieu of incarceration, or by helping them successfully release from prison. If we can help our clients get clean and sober, they are better parents, they are better employees, and they are better members of our community. And when we help our clients find employment and safe, sober housing upon release from prison, it greatly reduces the odds they will return to prison. But it is easier said than done, especially with a felony record and a staggering amount of fines and fees...often these barriers drive many women to the same bad behavior that led to their incarceration in the first place. Resonance works hard to prevent women from being incarcerated and also to help women find the mentoring, employment, and housing they so desperately need to be successful after they release from prison.

JLT: How did you feel being this year's JLT Gem Gala honoree?

Being the honoree was amazing on so many different levels. However, the fact it encompassed the three things I am most proud of

A single parent in Oklahoma who is working a full-time job at minimum wage will still fall under the national poverty line.

in my life...my family, my volunteer involvement, and my work...made it extra special. The award itself was just icing on the cake!

JLT: Do you have a story you will never forget from volunteering with JLT or watching a JLT volunteer at Resonance?

I will never forget one of our graduation ceremonies for the women who completed the "Choosing to Change" program at Turley Residential Center. Committee Chair Whitney Mathews was helping at our graduation. Each of the program participants was giving a testimonial about her experience, and the admiration for the Junior League members and their involvement melted everyone's hearts, with one graduate saying, "for the first time in my life, I feel like I am part of a girlfriend group," with another tearfully saying directly to Whitney "thank you so much for accepting me for the way I am."... to which Whitney tearfully replied "I feel the very same way." There wasn't a dry eye in the house. I'll be honest in saying I was a tad apprehensive about how well Junior League members and incarcerated women might relate to one another, but after this graduation (one of our first), I knew it was a match made in heaven! ♦

(continued from page 16)

or below the minimum wage. While federal programs, such as food stamps and unemployment, can soften the blow, they are only a temporary relief to the overall issue.

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.

JLT won AJLI's 2004 Leadership Development Award for creating Blooming Success for Life, a program that empowered members to provide services and resources to help the unemployed women in the Tulsa community. The program was designed to aid underserved women in gaining and maintaining meaningful employment by helping them obtain the confidence and self-esteem they need to succeed in the workplace. Through this program, League members worked with clients and provided one-on-one counseling and networking, hands-on training, career profiling services, and mini job fairs.

In the past, JLT supported the Blooming Success for Life, as well as other community projects, through an annual consignment sale called Blooming Deals. In 2000, JLT led an effort to provide suitable clothing and necessary skills for 25 local women, through a combined effort between the Blooming Deals Committee and the Dress for Success and Skills for Life Task Forces. Tulsa area agencies referred the women, who were then assisted by members to find a complete clothing ensemble for use during a job interview. The women also attended a workshop led by experts teaching how to write a good resume and to be

successful at a job interview.

Today, JLT continues its efforts to nurture the success of women through the Little Black Dress Initiative (LBDI), a poverty awareness campaign that encourages the Tulsa community to participate and illustrate the effects poverty can have on women. Women wore the same black dress, and men wore the same black slacks and jacket for five consecutive days from Monday, October 10 through Friday, October 14, 2016. During the campaign, JLT hosted an accessory drive for Dress for Success, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to empowering women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire, and the development tools to help women thrive in work and in life. This year also marked Dress for Success's 15th anniversary.

KJRH 2 Works for You anchors Darcy Jackson, Kristen Horne, and Tanya Wright participated in the LBDI campaign all week as well as interviewed JLT members during Monday's midday segment. Over 200 buttons were distributed for members to wear throughout the week to spark awareness of the initiative.

Anna Smith led this year's LBDI, bringing a fun social media contest to encourage participation through a daily selfie contest. Smith said she "loved the feedback we received about the landmark locations being JLT-specific community partners. We hoped that having the locations as such would bring our members out to those locations to better familiarize them with our community outreach, since many members have yet to be placed on Committees for those programs. It was great to see women getting out there to promote all of the good in our community." ♦

A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

The Junior League of Tulsa's Founding of Leadership Tulsa

In April 1973, representatives from the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce, the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT), the University of Tulsa (TU), Oral Roberts University (ORU), the Community Service Council, and Goals for Tulsa (a Chamber-sponsored task force), met in the Osage Room at the Summit Club to discuss the implementation of a "Tulsa Institute for Leadership Training."

After reviewing similar programs in Atlanta and Fort Worth, which used the appellation of "Leadership [City]," it henceforth became known as Leadership Tulsa.

The goal was to "better prepare tomorrow's leaders with the information, skills, and connections through which they could build a better city," writes Wendy Thomas, current Executive Director of Leadership Tulsa. The program was jointly sponsored by the Chamber and by JLT, with the curriculum designed by representatives from JLT, ORU, and TU.

JLT Sustainer Erma Henson was one of the Program Coordinators for the Leadership Tulsa curriculum. "We had been there before," she said, explaining why JLT was heavily involved in the project. "[Leadership Tulsa's curriculum] is similar to the League in what it does."

Indeed, JLT's reputation in Tulsa was one of prestige, and it was

known for its intense Provisional Course. Past JLT President Janet Felt Deck had previously chaired a JLT Committee opening up its Provisional Course to young business leaders in the community, effectively creating a precursor to Leadership Tulsa.

JLT's 1975 Provisional Course, which that year was chaired by Henson, is demonstrably similar to the way Leadership Tulsa currently operates, with regular all-day events that include tours, talks, and panels highlighting different aspects of the city and the community. All-day meetings occurred every Monday from late January to early March. One day's theme was economic development and included talks from the Williams Company and Parker Drilling in the morning. The afternoon consisted of the history of banking and the national economy, following a luncheon in the Executive Dining Room of First National Bank. Another day featured panels at City Hall with speakers including then-Mayor LaFortune, a police building tour from the Chief of Police, a district judge giving an overview of the court system, and a speech by the District Attorney.

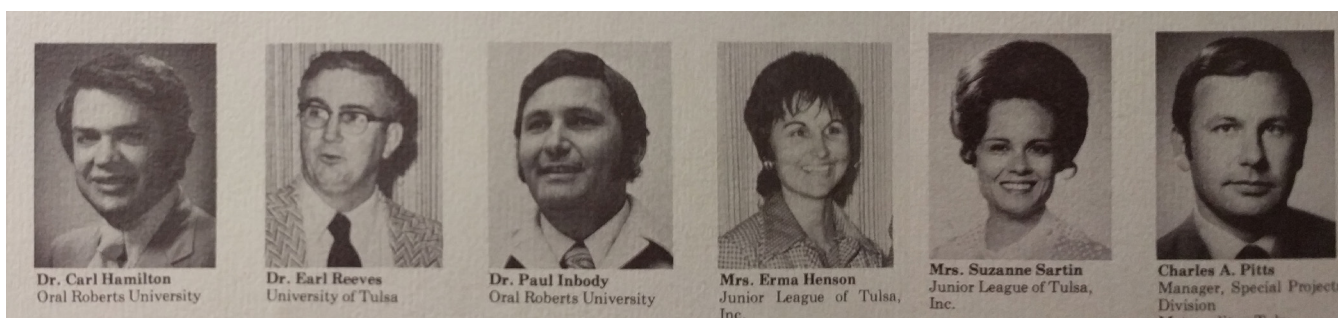
The first Leadership Tulsa course ran from Fall 1973 to Spring 1974. It was a small, handpicked group—the creators had wanted to set the course up for success. Thirty-nine prestigious members of the

community attended, including attorneys and business leaders. The class featured six women, including Pat Woodrum, the then-Assistant Director of the Tulsa City-County Library. Two of the women were listed as "housewives", one of whom was Polly Nelson, a JLT member who later chaired JLT's Committee supporting Leadership Tulsa.

JLT continued to provide support to Leadership Tulsa as a Special Interest Group until 1977, when Leadership Tulsa formed its own independent Board and eventually achieved 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.

Today, Leadership Tulsa is recognized as the first program of its kind in Oklahoma and as a national leader in community education. It is currently on its 57th class and serves 100 people of diverse ages and backgrounds every year. It has expanded its footprint by creating programs such as LEAD North—dedicated to bringing leaders from all sectors to make meaningful change in North Tulsa—and Board Internship programs in collaboration with TYPros and the Tulsa Area United Way.

"It's one of the things I'm most proud of [creating in Tulsa]," said Henson wistfully. "We wanted to relate to the business community and use the people who are about Tulsa and help plan for the future." ♦



Leadership Tulsa Program Coordinators

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHTS: TE'A WILLIAMS AND STEPHANIE ROYER

On February 10, 2017, the Junior League of Tulsa, Inc. (JLT) hosted its fifth annual Mentorship Luncheon at the Mayo Hotel, celebrating the impact of mentorship and scholarship in developing outstanding women leaders. The Mentorship Luncheon provides an opportunity for JLT to honor and recognize its annual scholarship recipients. JLT awarded \$10,000 in total Scholarships. Founders' Scholarships are awarded to graduating high school students, and Cook Scholarships are awarded to nontraditional students.

gusher interviewed the winners of the Founders' Scholarship, which recognizes high school women who demonstrate an exceptional commitment to academics and voluntarism. The Cook Scholarship awardees were unavailable for comment.

Te'a Williams's favorite quote is



Te'a Williams

"Don't just settle to be an average person, strive to be a remarkable one!"

This remarkable Union High School senior has plans to attend the University of Oklahoma to major in Pre-Communication Disorders and minor in Psychology. She hopes to become a speech pathologist.

Te'a competes in Track & Field, Cross Country, Volleyball Intramural, and Junior Achievement and is an active member of several clubs including MESH, Interact, College & Career, FCCLA, and a

Christian Lead Worship Club called "FUSE." She does all this while working two jobs, averaging about 20-27 hours per week.

In her spare time Te'a loves to practice her guitar (she is self-taught!), work out because she values her health, hang out with her mom and sisters, and practice yoga.

Te'a has also made volunteering a priority. She volunteers at the Oklahoma Aquarium, Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma through Junior Achievement, and Neighbor for Neighbor with Interact. She also enjoys volunteering with children at The Griffin Promise, a children's autistic clinic, as well as Grove Elementary Childcare special events.

Volunteering is important to Te'a because she values serving others. "I understand the need for help from life experiences...I want to help others in hopes to make them smile. It's important because that is one way to spread love to a great amount of people and to vividly see your impact. To me life is pointless if it's only about doing things for yourself. When you give, you shall receive and though my intentions are never to receive anything, God has promised that," she said.

Stephanie Royer is also a graduate of Union High School. A National Merit Scholar, Stephanie plans to study neuroscience and eventually attend medical school.

Community involvement has been a part of her life from a young age. Stephanie explains that she was born and raised in Turkey. "The society I grew up in was extremely community-centric in comparison to the predominant individualism in American society. Perhaps this is why involvement in and service to my community has always been so natural for me."

Stephanie's voluntarism includes

starting a non-profit outreach called Music & Me, which introduces music to underprivileged and special needs children. She also



Stephanie Royer

volunteers at Saint Francis and St. John Hospitals, serves on the Junior Board of Volunteers of America, and received the President's Volunteer Service Award.

"I give back because I can," she states. "As the book of Galatians says, 'use your freedom to serve one another humbly in love.'"

If her giving nature wasn't enough, this Renaissance woman competes in varsity golf, is the concertmaster of Tulsa Honors Orchestra and plays violin for her church, and is President of Tulsa Union Medical Society and Mu Alpha Theta. She collects accolades; she became a published poet in the Poetry Institute of Canada, won the OKPTA State Award of Excellence for music composition, and is an Academic All-Stater.

However, it's not all work and no play for Stephanie. Stephanie shares her TV guilty pleasure—Gilmore Girls—and after leaving home will miss playing card games with her family and making up harmonies to songs with her sister.

When asked her favorite quote, Stephanie replied with statement from inspirational author Roy T. Bennett: "Attitude is a choice. Happiness is a choice. Optimism is a choice. Kindness is a choice. Giving is a choice. Respect is a choice. Whatever choice you make makes you. Choose wisely. " ♦

New Talent, Big Impact

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



Left to right: Ebony Anthony, Caitlin Martin, Jessica Yoon, Erin Burgess

On May 9th, 2017, at the General Membership meeting, 61 women became newly active members of the Junior League of Tulsa. Lauren Bradley, 2016-17 Provisional Chair, says "This year was a huge success. These ladies are a group of enthusiastic, motivated women who are ready to start giving back to the community and continue our rich tradition of building a better Tulsa!"

This year's Provisional Project partner was the Westside Harvest Market, a non-profit grocery store located near Eugene Field Elementary School. Each Provisional small group organized and hosted a cooking class designed to offer affordable and healthy recipes for members of the community. Since not every Provisional is placed on a Community Council, this project offered every woman the opportunity to see the impact Junior League is making in the lives

of the families they serve.

With the abundance of talent that this group has, they have already started making their mark on the League with several women taking on Chair and Vice-Chair during their first active League Year. The Membership are so proud to welcome them and can't wait to see the impact they are going to make in the years to come.

gusher interviewed these new Actives back in August 2016, at the beginning of their Provisional journey.

KACIE FRAZIER

JLT: Where are you from?

Kacie: I grew up in Oklahoma, then moved to Nashville, TN after college. In 2011, my husband was relocated to Broken Arrow, so I am an Okie again.

JLT: What's your occupation?

Kacie: I represent The Children's Hospital Foundation at Saint Francis.

JLT: Why did you decide to join JLT?

Kacie: My husband and I have set our roots down in Tulsa, and I want to personally invest in my community. I plan to raise my daughters in Tulsa, so I want to be a contributor, not just a consumer.

JLT: What's your placement this year?

Kacie: IMPACT!

JLT: What are looking forward to most in Junior League?

Kacie: I am excited to learn about service opportunities and organizations I wouldn't otherwise be exposed to, and I hope to build new and lasting relationships along the way.

JLT: What other volunteer work do you do?

Kacie: I am super involved at church and serve at my daughter's elementary school.

JLT: What do you like to do in your spare time?



Kacie Frazier



Ebony Anthony



Laura Bryant

Kacie: Spare time?! I have a six year old and a six month old—I don't understand the question. If I had some spare time, first I would catch up on some sleep, ha! After that I would travel to a new city and do nothing but eat delicious food! I am also a huge football fan and a Netflix junkie.

Editor's note: Kacie was this year's Provisional of the Year.

EBONY ANTHONY

JLT: *Where are you from?*

Ebony: Alabaster, Alabama

JLT: *What's your occupation?*

Ebony: Community Network Project Manager on a cardiovascular study with OU's Health Sciences Center

JLT: *Why did you decide to join JLT?*

Ebony: My best friend introduced me to JLT by asking me to join her at a recruiting event. I did not know much about Junior League, but I am very happy that I went to the event and learned more. I was instantly sold on JLT and all it had to offer!

JLT: *What's your placement this year?*

Ebony: I am on the IMPACT Committee

JLT: *What are you looking forward to most in Junior League?*

Ebony: Since I have only been in Oklahoma for a year, I am looking forward to a number of things: 1) Learning more about my new city, 2) Increasing my volunteer efforts around Tulsa, and 3) making new friends.

JLT: *What other volunteer work do you do?*

Ebony: I have not done as much volunteering as I would have liked since I moved to Oklahoma. However, I have had the opportunity to volunteer at 'The Little Lighthouse'

and 'Night Light Tulsa,' and I absolutely love doing both! Back in Alabama, my volunteering efforts focused mostly on homeless/lower income individuals and those with special needs.

JLT: *What do you like to do in your spare time?*

Ebony: Life keeps me so busy that when I get free time, I like to spend as much of it as possible with friends and family. The older we get, the more difficult it is to organize everyone's schedules, so whatever time we get together is precious. I also love to travel, and I read whenever I can.

LAURA BRYANT

JLT: *Where are you from?*

Laura: I'm from Tulsa, and I've always lived here except for my time at OU.

JLT: *What's your occupation?*

Laura: Realtor with McGraw Realtors

JLT: *Why did you decide to join JLT?*

Laura: Rania [Nasreddine] is a close girlfriend of mine and she suggested I join. I also wanted to volunteer and get to know more people.

JLT: *What's your placement this year?*

Laura: Hawthorne Art

JLT: *What are you looking forward to most in Junior League?*

Laura: I'm most looking forward to getting my fingers involved in the community and getting to know like-minded women and establishing friendships.

JLT: *What do you like to do in your spare time?*

Laura: In my spare time I like to run and have coached the marathon groups for Fleet Feet Tulsa. I also enjoy cooking and gardening.

#JoinJLT Today!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR GREAT, DRIVEN WOMEN.

We are ready to recruit a new Provisional Class of the Junior League of Tulsa! Our goal is to make potential members feel welcome and included, while seeing all that JLT has to offer! We are focused on recruiting for all of JLT's membership groups, from Provisional to Sustaining members. If you know a woman who wants to make a difference in our community, foster relationships, and grow as a leader please have them contact join@jltulsa.org.

This year's Recruitment Committee is committed to continuing the tradition of recruiting women in Tulsa who exemplify the Junior League of Tulsa's (JLT) mission statement of improving our community and becoming trained volunteers. As our Recruitment Committee puts it, "JLT is the place to learn about all of the various facets that one has to have to truly become a community volunteer. As a member-driven organization, your hands will get dirty, but your skills will increase in ways you didn't even realize. On the plus side, you will make friends outside of your normal social circles and improve the community along the way."

Recruiting new members does not stop with the Recruitment Committee. The Committee needs all League members' help in identifying women who may be interested in joining JLT. If you have any contacts or have a recommendation, please get in touch with the Recruitment Committee at joinjlt@jltulsa.org, as well as filling out the membership interest form that can be found at: www.jltulsa.org/membership/become-a-member.

#JOINJLT MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

Junior League of Tulsa members:

- Must be at least 21 years old as of August 2018 (There is no maximum age to join!)
- Demonstrate an interest in voluntarism and a commitment to community service
- Show an interest in developing her potential for voluntary community participation
- Agree and understand the responsibilities of provisional membership

If you would like more information on joining the Junior League of Tulsa, please visit <https://www.jltulsa.org/membership/become-a-member/> and complete the Membership Interest Form. Our Recruitment Chair will contact you. If you need immediate assistance, you can also contact us by emailing joinjlt@jltulsa.org.

"JLT IS THE PLACE TO LEARN ABOUT ALL OF THE VARIOUS FACETS THAT ONE HAS TO HAVE TO TRULY BECOME A COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER. AS A MEMBER-DRIVEN ORGANIZATION, YOUR HANDS WILL GET DIRTY, BUT YOUR SKILLS WILL INCREASE IN WAYS YOU DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE."

ReMember JLT

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:	\$200
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 online 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.

DIPping with Junior League of Tulsa

Have you ever had difficulty describing the purpose of Junior League of Tulsa, Inc. (JLT) to an acquaintance?

One of the strategic goals of the Marketing Committee this year is to increase JLT's brand recognition within the community. Based on informal feedback from League members, the Marketing Committee found that Members felt they were not prepared to explain what JLT is or what it does in the Tulsa community to those unfamiliar with the League. After discussion at a recent Communications Council meeting, the Marketing Committee decided to reintroduce the DIP card, which was originally created in 2006. The DIP cards are conveniently about the size of business cards and share JLT's mission and goals.

The DIP cards provide an easy way for Members to remember JLT's mission and easily share it: Developing the potential of women, Improving our communities through the effective action of trained volunteers, and Promoting voluntarism.

Working with the Communications Council and JLT Leadership, Lesley Hess (Marketing Chair) based the initial design on that version and updated it. Of the new DIP cards, Lesley says, "We are excited to share the new DIP cards and hope that League Members find it helpful."



THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
TULSA

Join Us. Support Us.

The Junior League of Tulsa welcomes all women who value our Mission.
We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations, and communities.

www.jltulsa.org | @JLTulsa | 3633 S. Yale, Tulsa, OK 74135 | 918-663-6100

DIP into the Junior League of Tulsa!



Developing the Potential of Women



Improving Our Community Through Effective
Action and Leadership of Trained Volunteers



Promoting Voluntarism

Hello, Sustainers!



The fruit of silence is prayer.

The fruit of prayer is faith.

The fruit of faith is love.

The fruit of love is service.

The fruit of service is peace.

~ Mother Theresa

As a volunteer organization, the Junior League gives love and peace through service. Following your active years, your sustaining membership is a wonderful way to stay connected to the League, our mission, and to your friends. Sustainers can be very busy if they so choose or can play, eat, and read with other Sustainers while remaining connected to their League friends.

This past year was filled with many activities. Our fall party was a Bunco night at League Headquarters with a Halloween theme. The evening was filled with howling and growling during the 'spooktacular' game of Bunco. Since the party was held in JLT Headquarters, it was a fun opportunity to see the recent changes and updates.

The Spring Party was held in the home of Carla Gilbert. It was catered by Bread & Butter Kitchen (owned by a family of JLT members). We had so much

fun vying for that perfect lipstick during a highly competitive lipstick exchange.

Many members connected, or reconnected, this year through the various Sustainer clubs. The Book Club held their annual Christmas party but instead of reading a book, they enjoyed festive recipes and delicious wines for a celebration of love, hope, and gratefulness for each other. The Dinner Club celebrated the holidays at the Warren Duck Club. The Lunch Club visited Soul City, Bread & Butter Kitchen, Margaritaville, and Palace Café, to name a few.

The ReMember campaign continues as we reach out to Sustainers to either reconnect or remind them to pay dues. By ReMembering the Junior League, you help carry on the legacy created by you, your mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, and friends.

Sustainers had several opportunities to support the Junior League by attending several events this year. The Holiday Market hosted several events, including the Jingle and Mingle. The fifth annual Mentorship Luncheon gave attendees an opportunity to hear Jill Donovan discuss her success with Rustic Cuff. And the GEM Gala, a very ruby night, celebrated Sustainer Deidra Kirtley and Resonance Center for Women as our community gems.

It has been an honor to chair the Sustainer Engagement Committee for the past year. 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, the Sustainers who advised our active committees, and particularly our Sustainer Engagement Committee members:

Mary Alice Ahlgren
Laurie Brumbaugh
Ashleigh Boedeker
Julie Buxton
Robyn Cannon
Sue Curry
Stephanie Eckman

Leslie Frazier
Earlene Gathright
Carla Gilbert
Annabel Jones
Denise Piland
BJ Weintraub
Courtney Wilson

Sincerely,

Ellen Fuller
*Sustainer Engagement
Committee Chair*

Fundraiser Wrap-Up



Rita Burke and Molly Aspan with scholarship winners at Mentorship Luncheon.
Photo credit: Meredith Briscoe with Velvet Era Photography

2016 HOLIDAY MARKET

Holiday Market, a three-day one-stop holiday shopping extravaganza, encouraged members of JLT and community to shop unique merchandise from vendors from Oklahoma and across the country to raise funds to support the mission of the JLT.

The 2016 Holiday Market took place on November 4-6 at the Exchange Center at Expo Square and raised over \$76,000 for JLT.

2016 Holiday Market Chair Sarah Kester states that she "received a lot of positive comments about the quality of merchants we had last year, and I hope that will continue this year." 2017 Holiday Market Chair Elaina Osteen said some big changes may be underway for the 2017 Holiday Market and said, "I am most looking forward working with the Committee to execute

another successful event."

"Working on a fundraiser gives you an important, deeper appreciation for the financial component of our League," Osteen continues. "I think financial Committees are hands down the best way to make new, lasting friendships in League, and I'm looking forward to creating even more Holiday Market memories this year!"

"WORKING ON A FUNDRAISER GIVES YOU AN IMPORTANT, DEEPER APPRECIATION FOR THE FINANCIAL COMPONENT OF OUR LEAGUE."

"THE LUNCHEON ALLOWS US TO LIVE OUR JLT MISSION OF DEVELOPING WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITIES THROUGH PROGRAMMING AND SCHOLARSHIP."

2017 MENTORSHIP LUNCHEON

JLT hosted its fifth annual Mentorship Luncheon at the Mayo Hotel, celebrating the impact of mentorship and scholarship in developing outstanding women leaders, on February 10, 2017.

The event featured keynote speaker Jill Donovan, Creator and Owner of Rustic Cuff. In three short years, Donovan's grassroots beginning turned into a booming business, with celebrities such as Miranda Lambert, Giuliana Rancic, and Kristin Chenoweth sporting her designs. Known for her big heart and generous spirit, Donovan's favorite thing is to inspire these traits in others.

The Mentorship Luncheon is a mission-based endeavor for JLT. According to Mentorship Luncheon Committee Chair Kristyn Cegielski, "the Luncheon allows us to live our JLT mission of developing women in our communities through programming AND

scholarship."

The Mentorship Luncheon also marked an opportunity for The Junior League of Tulsa to honor and recognize its annual scholarship recipients. The League awarded two Founders' Scholarships to graduating high school women who demonstrated an exceptional commitment to academics and voluntarism and two Mrs. W. Albert Cook Scholarships to nontraditional students—women returning to their studies after an absence, or just beginning their higher education—based primarily on financial need and a commitment to completing a degree. The proceeds from the annual luncheon help JLT fund \$10,000 towards its future scholarship program and support the mission of training and developing women leaders and highly effective League volunteers.

2017 GEM GALA

The second Gem Gala was held on Saturday, April 22, 2017, on the Grand Lawn at the Tulsa Historical Society, located at 2445 South Peoria Avenue. This event, which is quickly becoming a community tradition, features a new gemstone theme each year and honors two Tulsa Gems. Tulsa Gems are an individual and organization making significant impact in our community, according to Lauren Bartlett and Madelyn Tackett, Gem Gala Co-

Chairs. "We are so excited to continue the Gem Gala tradition, a black-tie affair studded with gems featuring a unique dinner and open bar, a guaranteed dance party, and recognition of an incredible woman and non-profit dedicated to helping troubled women get their lives back on track," says Bartlett. JLT's 2017 Gems are the Resonance Center for Women and its Executive Director, Deidra Kirtley, a past JLT President.

"WE ARE SO EXCITED TO CONTINUE THE GEM GALA TRADITION, A BLACK-TIE AFFAIR STUDDERED WITH GEMS FEATURING A UNIQUE DINNER AND OPEN BAR, A GUARANTEED DANCE PARTY, AND RECOGNITION OF AN INCREDIBLE WOMAN AND NON-PROFIT DEDICATED TO HELPING TROUBLED WOMEN GET THEIR LIVES BACK ON TRACK."

FUNDRAISER HIGHLIGHTS

Holiday Market Committee Members



Founders' Scholarship Recipients
Photo credit: Meredith Briscoe



Tulsa City-County Library retail store
booth at Holiday Market.



Photo credit: Nathan Harmon

Sarah Dougherty, a JLT Past President, with Tulsa Gem Honoree and Past President Deidra Kirtley and 2016-17 President Rita Burke

Prepping for Gem Gala



Gem Gala Committee Members
Photo credit: Nathan Harmon

JLT FINANCIAL POSITION 2016-17

ASSETS

 **\$360,051** TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS

 **\$755,566** INVESTMENTS AND CDS

 **\$1,882,058** PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT
(less accumulated depreciation of \$901,460)

 **\$980,598** NET PP&E

 **\$55,179** TULSA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

 **\$72,547**
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES

 **\$2,078,847**
TOTAL NET ASSETS

 **\$2,151,394**
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

JLT FUNDRAISERS 2016-17

 **\$2,439**
TRIVIA NIGHT

 **\$16,167**
MENTORSHIP LUNCHEON

 **\$75,405**
HOLIDAY MARKET

 **\$72,239**
GEM GALA

TOTAL NET FUNDRAISING INCOME: \$166,250

Tearing Down THE WALLS OF SILENCE

GUSHER THROWS BACK TO SPRING 2004 WITH A RECAP OF
JLT'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT

In 1981, the Junior League of Tulsa, Inc. set out to tear down walls — the walls of silence and ignorance which imprisoned victims of domestic violence.

A newly-formed task force began its assignment by contacting the two groups who would become the most instrumental in changing the lives of the abused in Tulsa and surrounding areas. The first group, Domestic Violence Intervention Services, Inc. (DVIS), had been a United Way agency for only two years.

Sheryl Smith, immediate past President of JLT, was leader of the Task Force on Domestic Violence. "DVIS had opened their first shelter in May of 1981, one month after the League had approved our task force," said Smith. "The DVIS staff was a very small, very committed group of women who manned a crisis line, provided counseling and offered safety to women and children in the dilapidated old shelter."

Representing the League, Smith joined the other key group, the Community Service Council Task Force on Domestic Violence. This task force was a first-time blend of representatives from DVIS, other social service agencies, hospitals, the Police Department, the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office and various interested individuals to study the problem of domestic violence and to identify and strengthen the services available to victims.

Two specific goals were established. First was to assist in the creation and implementation of emergency room and hospital pro-

tol for domestic violence cases. Second was to assist in the passage of five legislative bills to better protect victims of crime and abuse.

"During that time," said Smith, "the Junior League's Task Force educated League members. We wrote a position statement on domestic violence that was adopted by both the Tulsa and Oklahoma City Junior Leagues. Once approved, League members statewide were able to lobby for the passage of the proposed legislation."

The Task Force also printed and coordinated the distribution of 10,000 referral cards for DVIS which listed the rights of domestic violence victims. Additionally, the League printed the first of several brochures.

Diane Allen, a JLT Board member and former DVIS Board President, currently serves as Interim Director of DVIS. "We wouldn't have had such success without League participation," said Allen. By May 1988, the JLT will have spent over \$47,000 in the Project and 158 Junior League volunteers will have answered the crisis line, assisted victims at the courthouse, worked with women and children at the shelter and served on a speakers bureau for community education. Altogether, over 18,000 volunteer hours will have been devoted to this project.

Most DVIS clients come to the agency through Crisis Line (a 24-hour service which received over 6,000 calls in 1986) or are referred



DVIS staffer DeeDee Smith
counsels client.

by the District Attorney's Office after victims apply for a protective order. Clients are given a brief background of DVIS programs and services, and a large boost to their self-esteem.

The shelter can accommodate 60 people; the average stay is 30 days. "We are generally full," said Allen, "and frequently have to re-route people to other sources of assistance. Unfortunately, it usually takes several stays before our clients can break away (from the abuser)."

Terrie Ernst, Director of Community Outreach for DVIS, is responsible for the volunteer program, as well as fundraising and public relations. "I have to do very little recruiting for volunteers," said Ernst. She believes there is sufficient community interest to keep DVIS well-staffed.

Ernst and Allen are both examples of how Junior League training led to career opportunities. "I feel as if the job was custom-made for me," said Ernst. "My training through the League has given me the background and flexibility to develop the DVIS volunteer program as I think it should be."

One volunteer at DVIS is a grandmother whose life is comfortable now, although she spent many years as a battered wife with no help available. She doesn't dwell on her past, but once in a while, she shares her story with someone else who needs a way out — who needs hope.

Beverly Creekmore

Throwback gusher, also known as #TBG, is a play on the ever-popular social media trend #TBT, or Throwback Thursday. The idea behind Throwback Thursday is to resurrect old photos from one's past for others enjoyment. Our version, #TBG, will pay homage to old articles in past issues of gusher so that today you may see what was making news in the Junior League of Tulsa in years past. ♦

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After GMM Social at Doc's



JLT at the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma



JLT 2016-17 Chairs

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2018 events

MENTORSHIP LUNCHEON

January 25th, 2018
Southern Hills Country Club

GEM GALA

May 5, 2018
Tulsa Historical Society

HOLIDAY MARKET

December 7-9
Union Multipurpose Activity Center

congratulations

to these 2016-17 League Year award winners

Volunteer of the Year

Provisional of the Year

Sustainer of the Year

Spirit of the League Award

and to JLT for the

Brooke Fielder

Kacie Frazier

Ashleigh Boedeker

Food Bank
Committee

AJLI Community Impact Award

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TULSA

Save the Date

2018

GENERAL MEETINGS

JANUARY 17

APRIL 18

FEBRUARY 21

MAY 16



Lauren Landwerlin, Shea Roach, Ann LaGere



Julia Dixon, Laurie Nation, Carolyn Siegerist

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.



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