

# gusher

*Magazine of the Junior League of Tulsa*

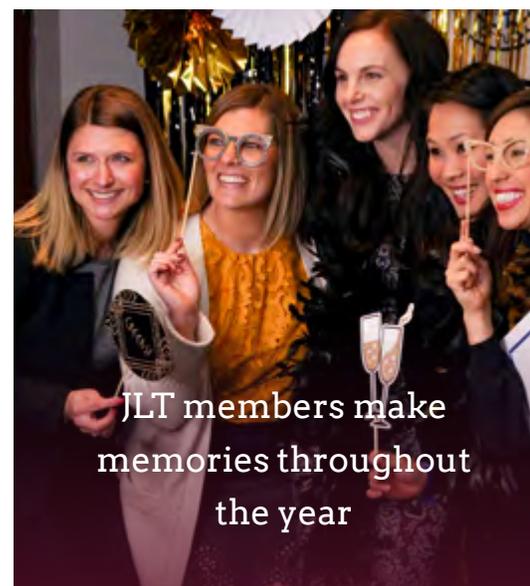
*2019-20 Issue*



Members learn self defense with the TEA Committee



Shannon Miller shares her Gold Medal Mindset



JLT members make memories throughout the year



# Dear members and supporters of the Junior League of Tulsa,



I write this letter to you from my home in a time of uncertainty – a time where self-quarantines are the new normal and much of human interaction is separated by phones lines and digital screens. Spending all my time at home has given me a lot of time to reflect on our history as an organization and the impact that it has not only made in our community for the last 97 years, but how it continues to impact us as women leaders in this unprecedented situation.

When you look back at on JLT’s roots, you see that our twelve founding members established the Convalescent Center for Children (later known as Children’s Medical Center) in the 1920s. It was here that this group of women sought to become a group that would not only seek out the needs of our community but would also boldly address those needs in a tangible way. Even when our country was at war in the 1940s, the women of JLT did not sit on the sidelines – instead, they joined the war effort and raised \$200,000 in war bonds as well

as furnishing day rooms for a “home away from home” for men who were in training. And in the last 40 years, the Junior League of Tulsa has addressed the needs of women, children, and families of the Tulsa community through such partnerships and establishments like Mayfest, Leadership Tulsa, Child Abuse Network, Ronald McDonald House, Laura Dester Children’s Center, Harvest Market, Take 2: A Resonance Café; Street School, and Hawthorne Elementary School’s 2nd Grade Art Program.

Why the history lesson? Because when I think of our past, it gives me great hope for our future. And that is why even though we are faced with difficulties that current generations have never faced, we will still rise to the occasion with kindness and resiliency, two traits that define the Junior League of Tulsa members. In this issue you will see what effectively trained volunteers can do for our community and how an organization that promotes the potential of women leaders can impact our city, our workplaces, and our homes. This year we have striven to be “a community’s best friend,” and I am proud to see the work that our nearly 600 members have put in to achieve that title.

Be proud to be a member of the Junior League of Tulsa. Be proud to be a supporter of the Junior League of Tulsa. And most of all, never cease the desire to support your community, even if it means doing so from the confines of your home.

It has been my absolute honor and true privilege to serve as the 2019-20 President of this phenomenal and life-changing organization. Thank you for reading and thank you for continuing to serve.

With gratitude –

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JRP", written over a light-colored background.

Jennifer R. Porter  
2019-20 President



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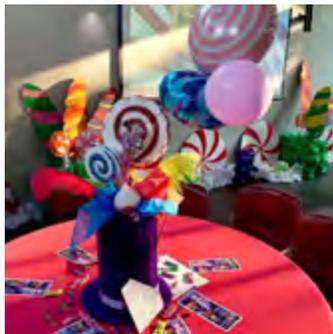
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On the Cover: 2019-20  
JLT Board of Directors

# Women Building a Better Tulsa



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. 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 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

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# Dear Readers,

The 2019-20 League year marks 97 years of service to the Tulsa community. From our humble beginning in 1923 with only 13 members, to today as we boast over 600 active and sustaining members, we have grown and changed as Tulsa has - adapting to and addressing the needs of the community. We provide a listening ear and guiding voice to women facing incarceration. We help provide meals and support to families facing food insecurity. We provide scholarships to high school students and women furthering their education. We develop women leaders and effective volunteers.

This year, we continued to grow and change with a more active focus on diversity and inclusion, changes to our Provisional Class projects, and a variety of targeted training opportunities for members. The Diversity and Inclusion initiative that began in 2016-17 has grown into a dedicated, hardworking task force that fosters diversity and inclusion among our membership. The 2019-20 Provisional Class took on a new role in planning fundraisers with a successful Trivia Night and the revival of an old favorite, Blooming Deals.

The 2019-20 *gusher* issue highlights our seven community programs and offers a window into how the Junior League of Tulsa is making a difference in the lives of others. From planning fundraisers to providing member training opportunities to spending time with women in recovery, we have all had a hand in building a better Tulsa.

Personally, as Chair and as Chair-Elect, I have gained a deeper knowledge of JLT and the impact we have on our city. The number of lives touched by the Junior League of Tulsa is far beyond what we can imagine. In reflecting on our local impact, I am reminded of a quote from the late Barbara Bush, member of the Junior League of Houston. "Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others." Thank you for giving your time, talent, and treasure through the Junior League of Tulsa. Together we are creating something great, something that I hope will live on for another 97 years.

Sincerely,



Meggie Gaskins  
2019-20 *gusher* Chair



## 2019-2020 *gusher* Committee

Meggie Gaskins / Chair

Jessica Degginger / Chair-Elect

Katie Groke

Madison Holder

Tara Payne

*gusher* is a yearly publication of The Junior League of Tulsa, Inc., 3633 South Yale Ave., Tulsa, OK 74135; devoted to informing the membership and the community of current League projects, events, and issues. For more information on advertising, please visit [www.jltulsa.org](http://www.jltulsa.org) and click on *gusher* or e-mail [gusher@jltulsa.org](mailto:gusher@jltulsa.org).

# Little Leaguers

## Our Growing Junior League of Tulsa Family



*Brooks Michael Bartlett*

Born on December 17, 2019 to member Meredith Bartlett



*Callum Wolfe Schuster*

Born on August 28, 2019 to member Lindsey Schuster



*Lucas Lastinger*

Born on October 23, 2019 to member Ashley Lastinger



*Leila Turkish*

Born on December 25, 2019 to member Cristy Turkish



*Caroline Marcelle Coker*

Born on October 25, 2019 to member Jackie Coker



*Lincoln Patrick Nation*

Born on February 13, 2020 to member Laurie Nation

# League Leash

We can't forget about our furry family members!



*Winnie Mae and Traveler Lee*  
Member Lauren Corbut



*Charles Xavier Harrington*  
loves chasing squirrels,  
snuggling, and treats  
Member Morgan Harrington



*Mack loves lettuce!*  
Member Katie Grassmeyer



*Gann loves running and*  
*moving shoes outside*  
Member Katie Groke



*Spike (left) loves walks and naps and*  
*Tea (right) is a new member of the*  
*family from a rescue in Miami, OK*  
Member Leslie Snider



*Miller likes to play fetch and he loves*  
*going to the dog park*  
Member Chandler Moxley



*Prudence loves chasing our doodle,*  
*Beatrice, guarding the house, and is*  
*loving being rescued from the pound*  
Member Tarynn Venable

# Members share cultures and

The Junior League of Tulsa's Diversity & Inclusion Task Force joined the Social Committee to throw the inaugural JLT Friendsgiving on November 18, 2019. Using food as a great unifier, member Jessica Degginger thought the event would be a wonderful way to learn about fellow League members while having a spirited, holiday-filled evening. She came up with the idea after accidentally walking into a multicultural club while she was in college, "They started discussing their different cultural backgrounds from around the world and how each one had learned to remove facial hair and tweeze their brows from their mothers in different ways; one had used sugaring, one threading, and my grandmother had taught me to tweeze mine based on measurements of my face. I loved this club immediately," Degginger explained.

Diversity & Inclusion Committee Chair Victoria Hui Holloman shared in the excitement of being exposed to other cultures and backgrounds through food, "Once everyone settled in, we started going around the room and letting each person tell us

what they brought and why. I loved hearing the reasoning behind each dish and for many, this was the first time they had made the dish," Holloman said.

Other attendees praised the event's unique feel and inclusiveness. League Member Erica Kumar described Friendsgiving as, "a really great gathering of familiar and new faces from JLT, so it was nice to sit down and chat with some new people and get to know each other better," she said. The opportunity for everyone to share not only a dish but also the story behind it, opened Kumar's eyes to the depth of JLT's membership, "I didn't realize how diverse our membership actually is until I heard everyone's background story."

Some memorable dishes on the event menu were - Cherokee Cookies, Yassa Poulet from Senegambia, bacon grease popcorn with tomato soup, biscuits, and Hong Kong Chicken. One member spoke about the importance of wine to her family who originated from Italy and now owns a

vineyard in Napa. All of the recipes and shared history behind them were compiled into a PDF file for a recipe exchange between the JLT members in attendance for the Friendsgiving event.



# traditions at Friendsgiving



# JLT and Street School Continue Five Year Partnership

Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) is continuing its partnership with Street School to provide a culinary class for the students. Junior League volunteers develop and conduct cooking classes twice a month for high school students participating in Street School's "Culinary Club." The partnership began in 2015 and its continued success led to a 100% increase in class size for the 2019-20 school year.

"Street School is the best community placement," remarked Lindsey Geist, Culinary Club Vice Chair. "Not only is it a ton of fun, but we are able to develop real relationships with the students. Being able to have a weekly influence in the students' lives helps motivate them to and uncover their true potential. Honestly, they bring more joy into my life than I probably do for them."

The Junior League classes focus on providing students with affordable and healthy meal options along with basic food preparation education. In addition to learning to cook the meal, students are sent home with ingredients to recreate the dishes. "You can tell that these students have lots to learn, but also so much to teach us. I can't wait to learn more about them and their school," commented Lisa Saxon, JLT provisional member and member of the Street School Culinary Club Committee.



The impact of JLT goes beyond the classroom at Street School – with committee members touching students' lives. "There was a student at Street School who when she turned 18 was able to get her own apartment and stop living on friends' couches," explained Kellie Stone, JLT Community Programs Vice President. "She worked two jobs and was attending school with a plan for college. When our committee found out she was moving, we went in together and bought her a few furniture items she was lacking and brought them to her. She was so thankful and excited. Shortly after, we attended her high school graduation and she is now in college! We all keep in touch, and she is hoping to become a therapist to help kids like herself who have struggled with difficult family situations. She is truly amazing!"



Street School is the only tuition-free, non-profit, alternative school in the Tulsa area that provides education along with therapeutic counseling and outreach programs. Street School focuses on drop-out prevention, intervention, and recovery for students in grades 9 through 12. The school operates as a non-profit agency in partnership with Tulsa Public Schools and serves an average of 200 students between ages 14-19 annually. The school's comprehensive and individualized services enable students to reach their potential and become responsible and productive adults.

*Street School is located at 1135 S. Yale Avenue Tulsa, OK 74112. If you would like to learn more or get involved with Street School, visit <http://www.streetschool.org/>.*

# Lemon-Aid Project Celebrates 25th Anniversary



The Lemon-Aid Project, founded by Katie Eller Murray in 1994, is a city-wide fundraiser held on Labor Day weekend. Originally held from 1994 to 2000, kids across Tulsa, Oklahoma donated their time to sell lemonade and raise money for the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless. Over the course of seven Labor Day weekends, with the help of more than 10,000 youth volunteers, The Lemon-Aid Project has raised more than \$350,000.

The Junior League of Tulsa Impact Committee was excited to help provide woman power for the Lemon-Aid Project's 25th Anniversary Celebration. Several JLT members grew up with Lemon-Aid's mission and were eager to get involved. The Impact Committee organized a school supply drive to donate backpacks for area youth experiencing homelessness. The response from JLT members was tremendous, and the committee helped fill 95 backpacks. This also paid homage to JLT's 95th anniversary.

JLT members and their children set up their own lemonade stands during Labor Day weekend to raise money for the big event as well. With

multiple lemonade stands throughout Tulsa, the Lemon-Aid project raised more than \$15,000 for the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless in just two days. Members of the Tulsa community, including JLT members, came together at Guthrie Green on September 2, 2019 to celebrate their efforts and 25 years of assisting the homeless. At the celebration, JLT members filled and handed out 30 welcome baskets to the people living at Hudson Villas, the permanent supportive housing program of the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless.

If your non-profit organization or school has a project or program that could use some extra volunteers, please complete and submit the JLT Impact Grant Application at [www.jltulsa.org/community](http://www.jltulsa.org/community). There is a limited budget for project assistance. The main purpose of our application should be to request assistance with projects and programs related to JLT's mission and focus, rather than to simply provide funds, solicit donations, fundraising, or purchasing items. If you have any questions about potential projects, the application process, or need more information, please contact the Impact Committee at [impact@jltulsa.org](mailto:impact@jltulsa.org).

# Take 2: A Resonance Café Provides Second Chance for Women in Transition

The Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) has a partnership with the Resonance Center for Women, an organization that supports the well-being and self-sufficiency of women and their families challenged by the criminal justice system and affected by substance abuse. The Resonance Center's Take 2 Restaurant, located in downtown Tulsa, is a rehabilitation program for women who have recently been released from prison and provides them a way to integrate back into the community.



The women complete specific requirements to remain in the program including attending recovery meetings, abiding by a curfew, and working a certain number of hours weekly at Take 2, A Resonance Cafe. The restaurant provides an opportunity for the women to build life skills, establish a

work history, and save money. The Take 2 program also provides a safe, sobriety-based place to live while the women complete the six-month program.

Co-chairs Niki Grueberger and Erin Cole are leading JLT's Take 2 Restaurant Committee this year. Erin became interested in chairing the committee after falling in love with the program during her Provisional year. "For many women, this helping hand is all they need to pull themselves out of their former life. It's a place to start over fresh and have that second chance at life (Take 2 wink wink)," Cole remarked.

Take 2 Committee members spend time with the women in the program twice a month and serve as a positive influence for the women who have just been released from prison and might not have positive role models in their lives. The committee visits with the Take 2 participants at their loft that is located directly above the

restaurant. They bring them dinner or cook for them and do crafts or other fun activities together like tie dying shirts, making sugar scrubs, or painting canvases to hang in the cafe.

Niki Grauberger, 2019 Co-Chair, explained, "Being part of Junior League, you can show them they can do fun activities without doing drugs or illegal activities, and you are being a constant for them, because a lot of them don't have stability in their life. Coming out of jail, it is very hectic. Our being there every other week gives them stability, and they see that people can be dependable."

Cole shared how much of an impact the women have made on her life and recalled one woman in particular who was graduating from the Take 2 program. "She really opened my eyes to just how hard it can be for someone to start over after time in prison. When she was ready to move out of Take 2, she had a tough road ahead.

She had a house in her hometown, but it had been vacant for years. So, the weather and people had taken a toll on the home. She had no usable furniture, kitchen essentials, beds, etc. Through the generous donations of my church



and friends we were able to get her furniture and at least give her a start. It really showed me just how much they have to rise above to stay sober and to start over. She now has her home set up, a steady job for two years, a car, and regained custody of her kids."

Visit [www.take2tulsa.com/our-purpose](http://www.take2tulsa.com/our-purpose) to learn how you can support Take 2: A Resonance Café and Tulsa's Resonance Center for Women.

# Poetic Justice Offers Outlet to Women Facing Incarceration

Junior League of Tulsa community partner - Poetic Justice - focuses on helping incarcerated women with restorative writing workshops, emphasizing voice, hope, and the power to change. In March of 2014, Poetic Justice started as a writing class for incarcerated women at the Tulsa County Jail. Since then, more than 1,750 women have been a part of the classes.

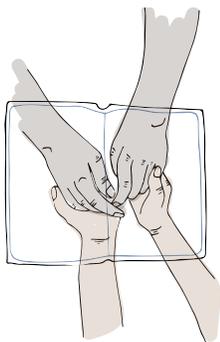
The Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) began partnering with the organization in 2018. The JLT Poetic Justice Committee visits Eddie Warrior Correctional Center in Taft, Oklahoma; Mabel Bassett Correctional Center in McLoud, Oklahoma; and Resonance Center for Women in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The groups serve about 15 women who meet weekly for two months.

These sessions empower women to express themselves through written words. Women who have never picked up a pen in their lives find the confidence to write from the hearts. The writing sessions allow them to have an outlet for the wide range of emotions they feel as they face the journey through the criminal justice system. "This is certainly not a placement for the faint of heart,"

remarked Kellie Stone, JLT Community Programs Vice President. "There can be heavy subject matter, but the tears and laughter with these women is priceless and reminds us of how we all face similar struggles and triumph in our lives."

Poetic Justice's work is important for our community as it puts a face and story to the women in Oklahoma's correctional facilities. "It is truly a moving experience listening to a woman write a poem about how much she misses her children and how she can't wait to get back to them," said Stone as she reflected on her experience working with the women. "I've seen women break into tears reading a poem they wrote about their mother, and how if she would have listened to her she would not be in the situation she is now. It is heartbreaking and beautiful at the same time."

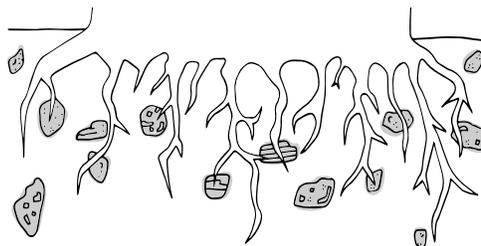
Poetic Justice has published five volumes of poems written by women during the sessions. The poetry books are available for purchase through the Poetic Justice Etsy shop: [etsy.com/shop/poeticjusticeok](https://etsy.com/shop/poeticjusticeok). Visit [www.poeticjustice.org](http://www.poeticjustice.org) to learn more.



Love

I have watched it recede  
I have reached for it  
I have called out to it  
And I cried when it vanished.  
Some things never come back.

-L.W.



We Speak Each Other

I want my home with the cypress wild  
Clinging to the edge of the cliffs  
With grief-scrabbled talons,  
Roots seizing stone.  
The battle to survive is all.  
Winds and rain come,  
Come hard and swift and relentless.  
It's the season for storms.  
How does the cypress stand tall?  
How do twisted limbs prevail?  
When morning breaks  
--and break it shall--  
Will home be as I remembered?  
Will the cypress ever whisper of me?

-Jax



What You'd Find in Paden, OK

Small rooms, dark skies, bright stars, million stars  
Oil well pumping, scorpions in the tub,  
brown leather recliner, Prince Albert can  
Yellow fingertips, rolling papers, soft hands,  
smell of Oil of Olay  
Yeast rolls--mouth-watering-warm  
One little girl, two proud parents of grand, one missing dad  
Scrapbook, catalog paper dolls,  
Princess Diana magazine clippings  
Antique jewelry, music box with a turning ballerina,  
fluffy homemade quilts  
Learning to tie shoes, beautiful flower beds  
Long walk to the mailbox, riding shoulders on the way back  
Piercing blue eyes of Paw Paw, soft skin of Maw Maw  
Ready to go home to Mamma.

-A.R.N.

# Bringing Art to a School in Need

Over the last several years, more and more arts programs have been cut from school budgets. The Oklahoma State Department of Education data suggest Oklahoma schools ended 1,110 fine arts classes between 2014 and 2018. Rural and low-income schools have been hit especially hard, and Hawthorne Elementary School in Tulsa is no exception. Hawthorne does not have an art teacher on campus, and students have little to no art supplies in their classrooms. Teachers try to implement some art into their curriculum, but that can be difficult with large class sizes and state mandated subjects. Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) members are working to combat this problem.

A group of JLT members visit two Hawthorne Elementary 2nd grade classes bimonthly and give 30-minute art lessons. Members create the lessons, provide the materials, and guide the students through making the artwork.

Tara Proctor has been on the Hawthorne 2nd Grade Art Committee for a number of years and has seen great improvement in students as they progress through the program. “Art helps with problem solving skills, and they are missing those pieces in daily lessons. One student who wouldn’t finish a project or would get upset if it wasn’t perfect, learned to handle their emotions through art class and is able to participate and be excited for new lessons.”

In the fall of 2019, committee members provided each of the 45 students with a backpack of art supplies for them to use over Christmas break. The backpacks provided the students with plenty of supplies to continue working on art projects at home. Before the JLT art program, some students had never seen a bottle of glue. Now, students are exploring a whole new world of creativity with their JLT art teachers.



# Sustainer Scoop

Fellow Sustainers,

I've learned a lot this League year. I learned that things don't always turn out quite the way you planned! We started this year with a simple goal – to regroup the sustaining members of our League and reinvigorate the sustaining member program. While inclement weather led to the cancellation of the November speak-out, and the COVID-19 pandemic led to the cancellation of our March, April, and May events, as well as the spring reunion, our goal was met – just not quite in the way we planned!

The sustainer affinity groups – Lunch Club led by Robyn Cannon, Book Club led by Sue Curry, and Sustainer Connections / HUGS led by Carla Gilbert - are thriving and welcoming new members. We brought back Restaurant Club and Catch-Up over Cocktails and hope to continue these into the new League year. I enjoyed seeing so many Sustainers at the Annual Christmas Party, spearheaded by Lucia O'Connor, and co-hosted by Past-Presidents Suzanne McAuley and Debbie Luthey.

The most important thing I learned this League year is that every sustaining member is a valuable asset of our organization. This organization was built upon the efforts of our sustaining members and will continue to rely upon the sustaining members to provide mentorship and advice, as well as support. I learned how important it is to use the training acquired during our League experiences to go forth into our community and make a difference. The rescheduled 2020 Gem Gala is honoring Lucia O'Connor, a sustaining member of our organization, for “going the extra mile” and making a difference in our community. I hope to see you at the Gem Gala in August!

Until then, please accept my sincere gratitude for all the support and encouragement you gave me during this rebuilding year. With your feedback and advice, we've made several changes (including printed directories upon request, as well as printed mailings) which will continue in the next year. That said, please watch your mail for an annual dues renewal form, as well as an interest sheet to identify which affinity groups you would like to join, how you would like to serve with the sustaining members in the 2020-21 year, and comments or suggestions for the leadership team. I'll transition this information to Leslie Frazier, who is our 2020-21 Sustainer Engagement Chair as well as the 2020-21 Board of Directors.



Meg Watkins 2019-20 Sustainer Engagement Chair

# JLT Provisionals Shine at Retreat

The Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) headquarters was glittering with excitement for the 2019 Provisional Retreat on Saturday, June 22, 2019. The scene is set for the new group of more than 45 Provisional members to truly shine in their commitment to JLT and the Tulsa community. In keeping with this year's Provisional theme, "She's a GEM," the day featured lots of jewels and sparkle. The retreat included a wealth of JLT information and a bus tour Junior League community programs with stops at Tulsa Community College to learn about Food on the Move, the Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, and lunch at Take 2: Resonance Cafe with Resonance Executive Director (and JLT Past President) Deidra Kirtley.

Whitby and her committee planned a full schedule for the year that included learning from previous JLT leaders. "We have socials and events that we hope will involve our Sustainers and current leadership. We have a long line of powerhouse women that came before us and made this organization what it is today. We want to show our appreciation for paving the way for us and give the Provisionals opportunities to connect with and learn from Tulsa's best ladies," Whitby said.

Provisional member, Sara Gomendi, shared that she was looking for ways to meet like-minded women in order to build friendships and business relationships. Sara has lived in Tulsa for several years after moving from Wyoming

and opening her own holistic wellness practice. Sara joined JLT because she wants to be more involved in the community. "JLT is able to combine the voluntarism, networking, and leadership development all in one place, and I knew this was the right fit for me!"

Provisional Liaisons for 2019-20 include Erin Burgess, Mattison Carter, Ashley Dixon, Stephanie Forrest, Rachel Palmer, Dawn Pevey, Amanda Pitcock, and Christy Reis. Liaisons help to lead small groups of Provisional members as they navigate their first year of JLT involvement.

The traditional Provisional project took on a new look this year under Whitby's leadership. In the past, Provisionals have worked on a single community project or multiple smaller community projects to complete their Provisional project obligation. The 2019-20 Provisional Class successfully executed the JLT Trivia Night and resurrected an old favorite, Blooming Deals.

## A World of Pure Imagination

Over 140 guests were treated to a world of pure imagination at the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) on October 4, 2019 at JLT and the Trivia Factory. The sold out evening featured dinner, themed cocktails, a raffle, and an assortment of prizes for the winning table.



# and Beyond



Tiffany Freeman is a member of the Trivia Factory planning committee and expressed her excitement at her first Provisional Class project. "I joined JLT to meet and connect with like minded ladies who want to make a better Tulsa," said Freeman. "The [Provisional] retreat tour opened my eyes to all of the places and organizations where JLT provides assistance." When asked about Trivia Night, Tiffany commented, "Our goal is to recreate the magical scene of Willy Wonka's colorful factory. We plan to completely transform our headquarters into the candy world we all remember from the iconic movie." Tiffany's vision came true, as HQ was truly transformed into a candy wonderland.

The 2019-20 Provisional members raised over \$2,500 towards furthering the mission of the Junior League of Tulsa. Table sponsors included David Bendel, Chara Cate, Kiren Koshal, Ashley Lastinger, Macey Martin, Kendall Mordhorst, Jennifer Nation, Christin Richardson, Jennifer Porter, Ashley Pettingell, and BJ Weintraub. Celebrity Attractions sponsored the event raffle.

## Blooming Deals Return

A Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) fundraiser that began in 1986 was brought back to life this year by the Provisional Class. The Blooming Deals event, which once raised more than \$40,000, was



once again a success. JLT members raided their closets and homes in support of the League, and their efforts did not disappoint.

"I love that Provisionals, women who are new to League, are reviving something that women who are now Sustainers created. It shows how important our history and traditions are to our organization and its success," commented Lauren Corbut, Communications Council VP.

Provisional Class members staffed six different drop off times in the weeks leading up to Blooming Deals. They sorted through thousands of donated items and priced each one for sale. When the big day arrived, hundreds of shoppers visited JLT Headquarters in search of a great deal. Items for sale included clothing, books, furniture, art, holiday decor, and more.

"I love a good deal and I was so excited that they gave me a chance to take this project on. I have a deep love for fundraising and I think it's the best way to get plugged into the League," remarked Provisional Chair, Ashley Whitby. "My favorite part of the project was getting to watch the Provisionals become a team. All of their hard work paid off and we reached our goal before 10:00 that morning!" In all, Blooming Deals raised over \$6,700 in support of JLT community programs.



# JLT Continues Partnership with Food on the Move

Food On The Move (FOTM), a mobile food initiative, is a collaboration of food and health experts and community partners to mobilize quality food into hard-to-reach economically challenged areas, helping to combat hunger in Tulsa and Oklahoma in a new way. The Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) is proud to partner with Food on the Move for the 2019-20 League year. The JLT Food on the Move Committee supports the program and assists with FOTM's mobile grocery initiative which hosts two events per month. All Food on the Move events are "pay as you can," allowing every family to take home fresh produce despite facing financial challenges.

The committee kicked off their League year with FOTM's first event of the school year which coincided with the Tulsa Edurec's Back to School event on August 17th. Attendees were able to visit the FOTM mobile grocery truck and take home healthy, quality food for their families. JLT members distributed bread, fruit, and produce. In addition, students from Tulsa Tech gave complimentary haircuts and manicures to attendees, and students from OSU-Tulsa administered free health screenings. Local vendors were on site to serve meals and snacks to all attendees.

The second FOTM was held August 22nd at the Tulsa Community College Northeast Campus. The TCC Northeast Campus was a new location for 2019. This small change made a big difference in attendance despite wet weather that day. Rhianon Staigler, Chair of the Food on the Move Committee said of the event, "It was one of the busiest Thursdays we have ever had, rain and all!" Mariam Conley, JLT active member, joined the FOTM

Committee because she wanted to learn more about programs designed to address food insecurity in Oklahoma. After attending her first event on September 17th at Edurec, she felt she was making an impact and that she played a small role in the overall services provided.



Food on the Move also hosted a special event on Saturday, November 9th in conjunction with the Philbrook Museum of Art's Second Saturday programming. The Philbrook Museum of Art partnered with Food on the Move, Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance, and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to explore the impacts of hunger in the Tulsa community. The event included special activities like a scavenger hunt around the museum, storytime, harvesting fresh veggies from the Philbrook gardens, and a garden tour. Attendees learned about hunger in Tulsa, how to get involved, and had the opportunity to create artwork that explored gratitude and giving.

The Food on the Move events at TCC Northeast and Edurec are ongoing, with one event at each location per month. More information and event dates can be found at [www.foodonthemoveok.com/](http://www.foodonthemoveok.com/).

# Feeding Families in Need

The Junior League of Tulsa's (JLT) partnership with the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma is working to make an immediate impact for Oklahomans facing food insecurity. According to the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, one in four Oklahoma children face food insecurity, and statewide, one in six adults do not know where their next meal is coming from.

The JLT Food Bank Committee works with Hawthorne Elementary School and the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma to serve monthly community dinners at Hawthorne Elementary School events. Those include Literacy Nights, parent teacher conferences, monthly PTA Meetings, and other special events. The Tulsa Public School District said that 83% of its nearly 40,000 students are economically disadvantaged. Every student at Hawthorne Elementary qualifies to receive free and reduced breakfast and lunch, meaning their family's income is considered at or below the poverty line.

The Food Bank prepares the meals for the events, and the JLT Food Bank Committee and its Chair,

Allie Stites, help coordinate food transportation to the school. Allie says that she, "loves the opportunity to build relationships with our Hawthorne Elementary

school students, families, teachers, and community members, given we serve monthly at the school, and get to be part of the PTA meetings, special events, and parent-teacher conferences." When asked about her favorite part of serving, commit-

tee member Sara Gomendi said, "The connection with the children and families in the community. It's such a blessing to bring joy to so many people by helping to provide a good meal, a smile, and conversation!"

During the October community dinner, Hawthorne Elementary hosted its PTA Meeting, followed by an opportunity for students to trick-or-treat throughout the school. Students and their families at-



tended, as costumed kids experienced the seasonal childhood tradition in a safe and warm environment. Hawthorne Elementary community partners, including JLT, donated bags of candy, small snacks, and toys for the kids. The donations filled the principal's office and helped to ensure everyone went home with lots of goodies.

Teachers and volunteers were stationed at classrooms, and students and families had fun going door-to-door. Committee member Amanda Therrell commented, "It was so fun seeing all the kids dressed up and excited to trick-or-treat from classroom to classroom. Our committee even joined in on the fun and dressed up to serve food to everyone. We had such a great time!" Therrell continued, "Of all the committees that I've been involved with through Junior League, the Community Food Bank Committee has been the most fulfilling."

Learn more about the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma and how you can support their efforts at [okfoodbank.org/](http://okfoodbank.org/).



# Training Education and Achievement

*In 2016, JLT established the Training, Education, and Achievement (TEA) Committee to provide specific opportunities for members to develop new skills, learn about new ways to help the Tulsa community, and recognize and steward future women leaders. Active and Provisional members are required to attend one hour of TEA training each year. 2019-20 TEA offerings included an information session on Oklahoma's foster care system, a financial planning presentation, self-defense training, a poverty simulation.*

## Female Focused Finances

The Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) recently welcomed Lisa Zaidle Clark of Morgan Stanley Wealth Management to provide a women-focused financial presentation entitled, "Picture Your Prosperity." Clark is a Senior Vice President, Financial Advisor, and Financial Planning Specialist with the Clark/McKinney/Tramontana Group.

During her presentation, Clark explained that the first savings priority should be retirement, especially if your company offers a match. Chris Oden, JLT active member, commented, "I found it astonishing that only 46% of women are contributing to retirement plans through their employer. If their company offers a match contribution, they are literally refusing free money."

Then, Clark focused on financial challenges that are unique to women. "Women hold the burden of care," she explained. "Many women today are in the 'sandwich generation' and are caring for their own children as well as their aging parents. Clark's

advice is to stay invested. "Successful investment involves patience," she explained. After covering the basics of investing, she moved on to planning for the unexpected and the importance of women becoming and staying involved in family financial decisions.



## Members Participate in Poverty Simulation

Dozens of members of the Junior League of Tulsa took part in a poverty simulation to learn what it is like for the thousands of Oklahoma families who are living near or under the federally-mandated poverty line. Each attendee was randomly assigned to a different role in a family unit. Attendees played out roles taken from real life families, which consisted of children, teenagers, young adults, middle-aged adults, and senior citizens.

Within the simulation, each attendee experienced what it would be like to live one month in poverty. Erica Kumar, a member of the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for JLT, described her experience. "My goal was to be able to better empathize with those facing situations I haven't had to face." She continued, "It really demonstrated how difficult it can be for those with limited





resources to do their regular job and take care of all these extra obligations to receive the help they need.”

Victoria Hui Holloman, Chair of Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for JLT, played a young 19-year-old mom with an infant during the simulation. “I was unemployed and my boyfriend lived with me in a mobile home. Towards the end of the simulation, our utilities were turned off due to lack of pay, and we were evicted, since we hadn't paid the mortgage,” she said.

The challenges presented during the simulation were eye opening to those in attendance. During the debriefing following the exercise, participants found out that all of the simulated families were considered to be above the federal poverty line, which surprised a lot of people. “Many of us did not eat during the entire simulation,” said Holloman. “We could not afford to.”

### JLT Members Learn Self-Defense

Members honed their self-defense skills at Escape to Gain Safety, a women’s self-defense course. Instructor Barry McDonald presented the class with a slideshow on crime statistics, information on awareness, and how to physically handle an assault if necessary. The attendees then partnered up and practiced self-defense maneuvers, before

talking about different weapons that can be kept on hand or improvised if necessary.

Member Anna Dowell attended the session and said, “I have a false sense of security having grown up in Tulsa, but the crime statistics that our instructor shared really caught my attention.” While the hope is to never need the skills in the class, McDonald thinks everyone - regardless of gender - should take the course and learn to protect themselves. He also said that although the course is titled for women, he would use the same tactics to defend himself if he were attacked. JLT member Lindsey Bull came to the workshop to learn easy ways to protect herself. “What stood out the most to me was how easy it is to protect yourself if you have the right knowledge.”



# Ladies of the League: Leading Change and Changing Communities

*Junior League of Tulsa provides women the opportunity to connect and build bonds with other women. Members support one another and encourage individual passions and goals, both personal and professional. JLT members are always working together to build a better community. Recently, three members of the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) were honored for their career achievements.*



**Lauren Landwerlin** - *Recently named one of Tulsa World Magazine's Women to Watch*

**Where are you from?**

New Orleans, Louisiana

**Do you have any pets? What are their names?**

I have a parrot named Doc. And yes, he talks.

**What is your current occupation? Why did you choose this profession?**

I've been with Saint Francis Health System for more than 17 years. For the past seven years I've had the pleasure of serving as our Executive Director of Corporate Communications. I didn't necessarily choose communications, marketing, and PR as my profession, but I knew I wanted to do something in the healthcare arena.

**What contributions to your profession have you made that are most meaningful to you?**

Within my organization, one of the contributions that I am most proud of is the work I have done around culture building and brand awareness within the organization. Generally, we spend more than half of our time at a place of employment - the environment, culture, and reputation of that company should add to your life, not just be part of it.

Instilling the awareness that every employee—or for Junior League, every member—is an ambassador of the brand is an important strategy. Marketing guru, Seth Godin, said, “A brand is the set of expectations, memories, stories, and relationships that, taken together, account for a consumer's decision to choose one product or service over another.”

**What experiences from your career have made an impact on your life?**

Where do I begin? I feel like if your career doesn't have some impact or influence on your life, you may not be in the right one. Where and who we choose to spend our time with for 8+ hours of each day should enrich our lives. Over the past 17 years I feel like my career has taught me to be more self-aware and how to slow down and assess the big picture before making even small moves. It has also taught me that kindness isn't weak, influence isn't aggressive, and leadership isn't loud.

At work, I know that very few people that I encounter in our halls and walls are at the hospital because they are having a good day. With the exception of occasions such as the birth of a child or routine visit, the people I meet are often suffering, mourning, or anxious—for themselves or a loved one. I always go out of my way to make them feel seen and valued.

## **Katie Groke** - *Named to Oklahoma's NextGen Under 30 - Nonprofit Category*

**Where are you from?**

I'm originally from Newport Beach, California. I went to college in San Antonio, Texas and ended up in Tulsa after graduation.

**Do you have any pets? What are their names?**

Back home in California, I have a dog named Gus. Here I get my doggie cuddles from my boyfriend's dog, Gann.

**What is your current occupation? Why did you choose this profession?**

I am the Communications Manager for Pathways Adult Learning Center. We are a small nonprofit that serves adults with special needs. We help them continue their education,

volunteer in their community, stay active with fitness classes, and more. I volunteered a lot with this population in high school and this position was a chance to go back to my roots serving a largely under served population.

**What contributions to your profession have you made that are most meaningful to you?**

Since joining the Pathways team, I have helped significantly increase our fundraising to help serve more students. I launched a mentorship program that matches our students one-on-one with a volunteer mentor who helps students reach their individual goals and have matched half of our 65 students with mentors since the launch of the program in 2018. It has been amazing helping this population learn and grow and become the best versions of themselves.

**What experiences from your career have made an impact on your life?**

Since working at Pathways, I have seen myself become

more patient and aware of the challenges that other people face. It is so much fun coming to work and knowing that I have a room full of friends excited to see me.





Loree O'Sullivan - *Recently named to Oklahoma's NextGen Under 30 - Media Category and Leadership Tulsa's Class 63*

Where are you from?

Originally born in New Orleans but I've lived in 14 places.

Do you have any pets? What are their names?

I have a large half-Great Dane / half-Weimaraner named Jupiter

What is your current occupation? Why did you choose this profession?

Currently, I am the Marketing Manager at Zeeco, Inc. I chose marketing because it allowed me to be creative and fast-paced while also being a good anchor for my ambition.

What experiences from your career have made an impact on your life?

I've gotten to speak publicly on topics I love: customer delight and retention, social media for sales, and bringing digital marketing to a more "traditional" industry.

Failure. It is so crucial to be in a place where you are able to fall down, scrape your knees, and pick yourself back up to learn and to grow.

## Board Fellows Provides Training & Board Experience for Members

The Junior League of Tulsa is giving its members the opportunity to learn how to become active, productive, and effective members of a nonprofit's Board of Directors. The Board Fellows Program trains League Members with a dual approach that includes a year of classroom training by community leaders and another year of hands-on training with each participant serving as an intern with a Tulsa area nonprofit Board of Directors.

The community leaders who work with the Board Fellows program address topics such as responsibilities, governance and legal duties, financial planning and budgeting, fund development, and many more. These topics lay the groundwork for what members will need to do to be effective board members.

Elaina Osteen, who now serves as Financial Council VP, participated in the 2017-18 Board Fellows class. "The Junior League of Tulsa Board Fellows Program gave me the opportunity to gain important information regarding how non-

profit boards function in our community and to explore what sitting on an active, hard-working non-profit board is like through my Board Fellows Internship." She continued, "I believe this two-year program made me a stronger volunteer leader because I now have a knowledge base of how a non-profit Board of Directors can work effectively to improve the community. I've already applied what I've learned to the way I lead my JLT Council Meetings and to how I participate in JLT Board Meetings." Osteen now feels confident to seek out and accept non-profit board positions.

There are currently five League members in the Board Fellows program. Interns previously served on boards for Restore Hope Ministries, The Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Tulsa Children's Museum Discovery Lab, Domestic Violence Intervention Services (DVIS), YWCA Tulsa, and Resonance Center for Women.

# JLT Receives YWCA 2020 Pinnacle Award



The Junior League of Tulsa is honored to be named the YWCA's 2020 Pinnacle Award Corporate Champion. JLT has played an important role in the Tulsa community by providing volunteer leadership to more than 100 community projects. The projects have focused on healthcare, education, domestic violence, incarceration, food insecurity and more. The Pinnacle Awards celebrate the important contributions women have made in Tulsa and around the world.

"The Junior League of Tulsa is honored to receive the Corporate Champion award by the YWCA and the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women," remarked Jennifer Porter, 2019-20 Junior League of Tulsa President. "To be recognized alongside the city's best and brightest female leaders is a true honor for our organization as for over 95 years the Junior League has striven to build women leaders in the community by supporting the women and children in our city. We are thrilled to support the work that the YWCA does to empower women and invest in their success."

Since 1923, JLT has prepared its members to accomplish one vital mission – to improve the Tulsa community through volunteer service. League members have contributed more than 1.6 million volunteer hours and have raised more than \$5,000,000 for community projects. The Junior League of Tulsa has fostered a number of local organizations and helped to start a variety of projects in the Tulsa area including a domestic violence program later known as Domestic Violence Intervention Services (DVIS), Ronald McDonald House, Oxley Nature Center, and the Child Abuse Network (CAN). The League also organized Mayfest and published Tulsa Art Deco and Tulsa History: A to Z.

Each year, the Tulsa YWCA, in partnership with the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women, selects six women and one organization for their outstanding accomplishments and impact on women empowerment and the Tulsa community. Pinnacle Award honorees were celebrated at The Pearl Party on Thursday, March 5, 2020 at the Mayo Hotel.

# Junior League of Tulsa Receives Distinguished Service Award

The Child Abuse Network presented the Junior League of Tulsa with its annual Distinguished Service Award on June 27, 2019. The Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) was instrumental in the development of the Child Abuse Network in 1989, collaborating with community partners in law enforcement, medicine, child welfare, and the legal community to develop a vision for what was then the Children's Advocacy Center. JLT convened the early collaborations with partner organizations and developed, implemented, and staffed the volunteer program during its early years.



Maura Guten, President and CEO of the Child Abuse Network and Junior League of Tulsa sustaining member, presented the award. "Many years ago I sat on a chartered bus with 60 other women as we toured some of Tulsa's treasures as Provisional members of the Junior League of Tulsa," she noted. "The stories we heard of the League's involvement in developing those treasures was impressive but none as much as the story of the Child Abuse Network. I am honored to present my dear, fellow volunteers from the Junior League of Tulsa with the 2019 Child Abuse Network Distinguished Services Award."

When asked about the honor, Jennifer Porter, JLT President 2019-20 remarked, "We are humbled and honored to receive the Child Abuse Network's 2019 Distinguished Service Award, as our focus

area is women and children in transition. Through service, advocacy, and a devotion to children in our community, CAN shares this focus and JLT's mission to build a better Tulsa. We value our 30 year partnership with CAN and look forward to a future of shared voluntarism."

The Child Abuse Network brings multiple agencies together in a single, safe, and comforting environment for children and their families. CAN provides collaborative intervention services to child abuse victims. CAN enables medical, mental health, investigative, and legal professionals to work together under one roof for a less traumatic investigation. To date, CAN has given hope to over 40,000 children in the Tulsa community. Today, the Junior League of Tulsa is proud to continue its relationship with CAN through board member and volunteer support.

# Affinity Groups: Everyone is invited!

The Junior League of Tulsa is committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers, but its members are also committed to having fun. In addition to serving on their respective committees, members are encouraged and welcomed to join a JLT affinity group. The affinity groups are not official committees, and there is no official commitment required. Currently, there are at least eight affinity groups meeting once per month, or as often as a member proposes a get together with no obligation to attend. These groups include Supper Club, Book Club, Social Society, Movie Mates, Bachelor/Bachelorette Watch Party, Bunco, Fantasy Football, and the newest group, The Mommy Club. Taylor Manes, Membership Development Chair, coordinates the club memberships and connects interested members with the appropriate affinity group coordinator. Members can also create a new affinity group focused on a topic that interests them.

This past summer, JLT member Taylor Love Tate came up with the idea for the Summer Socials Group. She explained, "I wanted to continue getting to know more people and to build and cultivate friendships during the summer break. I am very thankful for affinity groups since I have made some very true and lifelong friendships from attending them." Summer Socials Group was originally created to keep members in touch over the summer break through social activities. The group was so popular that it has now changed its name to Social Society

and is a year-round group. Some of the events the group attended together over the summer included a First Friday Art Crawl in downtown Tulsa, Glacier Bean to Bar's one year anniversary event, a fun brunch, a 5K run, and a rooftop Barre class.

Tate is also in charge of one other group called Movie Mates. It is a group for people who like to watch movies. Members post in the group about a movie they are interested in, vote on a time to go and then everyone who can attend will go together. A meal before or after is also an option as well as any member hosting a movie night in their home if they would like to offer. It is strictly a no spoiler zone!

Mary Grace Marshall also started a new Affinity group this year, the Bunco Group, which was able to get together for their first game night on October 9. Mary chose to lead an affinity group because "I wanted to put myself out there and get to know more League members in a fun way." The Bunco group currently has around 30 members and is still growing.

JLT member Chara Cate enjoyed events with affinity groups such as meeting up at Chimera to discuss a book for Book Club and later meeting the group to watch the corresponding movie. Chara loves the sense of togetherness in all the affinity groups and created the Bachelor/Bachelorette group. Group member Kimberly Butts explained, "The group started because we would all discuss the "tea" of the shows so we decided that it would be more fun to watch them together. It is a chance to cut loose and not be on a timeline. We can hit pause when we want, as well as get a chance to catch up with one another." Everyone enjoys chatting about the current episodes on the GroupMe chat as well. There are around 40 members in the Bachelor Watch Party Group which started last October.

Fantasy Football offers the ability for members to connect remotely, as well as does the new Mommy Club with a messaging board for com-



municating needs such as nannies and family inclusive activities. Many women have been recruited to join the Junior League of Tulsa after having been invited by a friend to one of the affinity groups. So, don't just ask to join, bring a friend!

Supper Club is a long standing JLT affinity group and meets once per month. JLT member and Provisional Chair, Ashley Whitby, organizes Supper Club which currently has about 200 members, though anywhere from five to 25 members attend the dinner each month. The only rules are to come hungry and bring a dish. Hostesses are decided before the year starts at the December dinner, where members volunteer to host for each month in the new year. The hosts pick their date and theme of dinner they want and all the members who can attend bring a dish. "The monthly themes happened by accident, but thankfully the tradition has continued," explained Whitby. "I love how creative the hosts and members are with their contributions." Past dinners include picnics, hat parties, dinner and a movie on the Guthrie Green Lawn, and wine pairing dinners.

For more information about JLT affinity groups, contact the Membership Development Chair at [membership@jltulsa.org](mailto:membership@jltulsa.org).



# JLT COOKS!

*Members of the JLT Supper Club shared their favorite recipes with gusher*

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## *Atomic Salad*

3 or more large garlic cloves (minced)	2 tablespoons grated Parmesan
1/4 teaspoon (or more) dry mustard	1/2 cup vegetable oil
1 teaspoon of salt	Fresh spinach leaves
1 teaspoon of pepper	Tomatoes
2 tablespoons of lemon juice	Croutons

Combine garlic, mustard, salt, pepper, lemon, cheese, and vegetable oil in a large salad bowl and whisk until well blended. Adjust garlic or dry mustard for a spicier flavor. Arrange desired amount of spinach over the top of dressing; do not mix. Chill, covered, for 8 hours. Add tomatoes and croutons at serving time and toss to mix well.

---

## *Candied Bacon Smokies*

1 (12-oz.) package little smokies	1/2 tsp. garlic powder
1 lb. bacon, cut into thirds	1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
1/2 c. packed brown sugar	

1. Preheat oven to 400° and line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. Wrap each little smokie with a piece of bacon and secure with a toothpick. Place on prepared pan.
  2. In a small bowl, mix together brown sugar, garlic powder, and cayenne. Sprinkle over little smokies.
  3. Bake until bacon is crisp, 30 to 35 minutes.
- 

*The Atomic Salad and other JLT recipes can be found in the Junior League of Tulsa's "Oil & Vinegar" cookbook. The cookbook can be purchased online at [www.jltulsa.org/store/](http://www.jltulsa.org/store/)*

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# Olympian Shannon Miller Inspires Guests at Mentorship Luncheon

The Junior League of Tulsa hosted its eighth annual Mentorship Luncheon on Friday, January 31, 2020 at Southern Hills Country Club. More than 270 guests heard from U.S. Olympic Champion Shannon Miller about her gold medal mindset and experiences on the U.S. Olympic gymnastics team and battling ovarian cancer. Miller is the most decorated U.S. Olympic gymnast and is the only female inducted into the Olympic Hall of Fame two times – as an individual in 2006 and with her team in 2008. She won five medals at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, making her the most successful athlete of any sport on the U.S. National Team that year. In 1996, she led the Magnificent Seven to the first-ever U.S. Women's Gymnastics team gold medal and captured individual gold on the balance beam, another first for America.

“Shannon was truly an inspiration to learn from! Despite her incredible achievements, she was humble, genuine, and kind to everyone in attendance,” said Meredith Bartlett, Mentorship Luncheon Chair. The morning also featured a VIP reception with Shannon Miller before the luncheon began and a raffle that featured four exciting packages for winners to shop, recharge, and enjoy some family fun.

The 2020 luncheon marked an opportunity for the Junior League of Tulsa to recognize its annual scholarship recipients. Proceeds from the luncheon help the League's scholarship program and support its mission of training and developing women leaders and effective community volunteers. The Scholarship Committee awarded two Founders' Scholarships to graduating high school women who demonstrate an exceptional commitment to academics and voluntarism, as well as two Mrs. W. Albert Cook Scholarships to nontraditional

students. The 2020 Founders' Scholarship recipients are Madeline Addis and Vung Lian. Addis is a Union High School senior who has been accepted to Colorado School of Mines, where she plans to pursue a degree in chemical engineering. Lian is a Jenks High School senior and is a Distinguished Service Graduate having completed more than 222 volunteer hours. Shannon Fincher and Leslie Mattax received the 2020 Cook Scholarship. Both Fincher and Mattax are balancing education, motherhood, and full-time employment and will be pursuing graduate studies at OU-Tulsa.

In reflecting on her Olympic experience, Miller shared her four steps to a gold-medal mindset: setting goals, working as a team, staying positive, and committing to excellence. Miller encouraged guests to visualize their successes as positive thinking can help anyone achieve their goals. “You cannot go wrong with a positive attitude,” she continued. “A negative attitude is one of the worst things you can have as a teammate or an individual, but it is one of the easiest things to fix!”

Miller also discussed her diagnosis of ovarian cancer at age 33 and how her gold medal mindset helped her to stay positive, even during that scary time. “What you do today matters,” she declared. “A gold medal is not won that day at the competition. It's won in the days leading up to the competition through your commitment and hard work.” Miller left guests feeling empowered and motivated to succeed. “We were so honored to welcome Shannon Miller as our keynote speaker as we heard her story of hard work, perseverance, and having a gold-medal mindset through life,” said Jennifer Porter, 2019-20 JLT President. “She truly inspired the audience that day and made our luncheon this year so special.”



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# Looking Back: Junior League Galas Through the Years



Christmas Ball 1923



1965 Candlelight Ball



1963 Candlelight Ball Committee



50th Anniversary Ball 1973



Junior League Ball 1955



Holly Ball 1975



Denim and Diamonds 2011



# GEM GALA

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TULSA

HONORING COMMUNITY GEMS

*Lucia O'Connor*

*JLT Sustainer and Community Partner*

*Hawthorne 2nd Grade Art Program*

*JLT-led community program fostering creativity  
and self-esteem through the arts*

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*2020*

**VIP COCKTAILS** 6:00 P.M.  
**GALA** 7:00 P.M.  
**AFTER PARTY** 9:30 P.M.  
*The Penthouse Bar*

***black tie attire with tourmaline twist***

**GALA TICKET \$250**  
*includes admission to After Party*

**AFTER PARTY TICKET \$100**

***for event details and to purchase tickets, please visit [www.jltulsa.org/gem-gala](http://www.jltulsa.org/gem-gala)***



*Proceeds of Gem Gala fund the Junior League of Tulsa's mission to promote voluntarism, develop the potential of women, and improve the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.*

**VIP COCKTAILS • LIVE AUCTION • SILENT AUCTION • AFTER PARTY**

# Thank you to our 2019-20 President's Society Sponsors!

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Sarah Abuali	Claudia Fields	Stephanie Madsen	Rachael Romeo
Meredith Bartlett	Marianne Guenther	Macey Martin	Sarah Shaw-Dressler
Madison Bradford	Amy Harrison	Eutonia Moseley	Celia Silk
Amy Brown	Miriam Hi-Flores	Kayley Nammari	Allie Stites
Kimberly Butts	Natasha Hnazdo	Laurie Nation	Jenny Thai
Mattison Carter	Alex Holder	MaryBeth Nesser	Micah Tjeerdsma
Shar Carter	Juell Homco	Tamara Noel	Tarynn Venable
Kristin Chauret	Kiren Koshal	Elaina Osteen	Julie Vicena
Allison Christian	Andrea Kulsrud	Loree O'Sullivan	Courtney Wayland
Julia Dixon	Tiffany Landry	Camenae Patrick	Jessica Yoon
Marissa Douma	Ericka Laroche	Taylor Pettit	
Megan Ellwood	Ashley Lastinger	Jennifer Porter	
Julie Etchison	Jamie Ledbetter	Tina Rainwater	

## Leaders

Ashley Cockerham  
 Jessica Engelbrecht  
 Kendall Mordhorst  
 Lisa Saxon

## Jewels

Brooke Parisek  
 Piper Raffle  
 Maggie Rosene-Robinson  
 Elizabeth Warren

## President's Society 2020-21

Jewel Level	Leader Level	Trailblazer Level
<p><b>\$1,200</b></p> <p>Gem Gala: 2 tickets + recognition in program &amp; website            Mentorship Luncheon: 2 tickets + recognition in program &amp; website            Trivia Night: 2 event tickets            \$200 towards JLT Dues            \$100 to Endowment Fund            \$100 to Building Fund</p>	<p><b>\$800</b></p> <p>Gem Gala: 1 Ticket            Mentorship Luncheon: 1 Ticket            Trivia Night: 1 ticket            \$200 towards JLT Dues            \$75 to Endowment Fund            \$75 to Building Fund</p>	<p><b>\$400</b></p> <p>Gem Gala After Party: 1 Ticket            Mentorship Luncheon: 1 Ticket            \$200 towards JLT Dues            \$30 to Endowment Fund            \$30 to Building Fund</p>

*All President's Society members receive recognition in JLT promotional materials including gusher, social media and e-Blasts.*

# ANNUAL REPORT

## FINANCIALS

Current Assets \$458,196

Investments & CDs \$128,774

Property & Equipment \$926,980

JLT Endowment \$1,045,449

**Total Assets \$2,447,780**

Current Liabilities \$56,465

Net Assets \$2,391,315

**Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$2,447,780**

## VOLUNTEER

**1.6M hours** contributed over the last 97 years

**16,494 hours** from JLT each year

**\$40,688,000** worth of volunteer time over the last 97 years

**\$419,442.42** worth of volunteer hours contributed each year

## 2018-19 FUNDRAISING

**GEM Gala** \$206,698

**Mentorship Luncheon** \$24,264

**Holiday Market** \$55,923

**HQ Rentals** \$21,529

## 2019-20 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma

Food on the Move

Hawthorne Elementary School

Poetic Justice

Resonance Center for Women

Street School Culinary Club

## Join JLT

We are in the process of recruiting our 2020-21 Provisional Class. If you know of a woman who would make a great JLT member, please contact the Recruitment Committee by emailing [joinjlt@jltulsa.org](mailto:joinjlt@jltulsa.org).

### Membership Criteria

- Must be at least 21 years old as of August 2020 (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 complete the Membership Interest Form at [www.jltulsa.org/membership/become-a-member/](http://www.jltulsa.org/membership/become-a-member/) or contact the Recruitment Committee at [joinjlt@jltulsa.org](mailto:joinjlt@jltulsa.org).



Junior League of Tulsa, Inc.  
3633 S. Yale Ave. Tulsa, OK 74135  
918-663-6100