

Junior League of Jackson Community Projects

The Junior League of Jackson carries out its mission of improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers through its community projects. This service to the community shapes the Junior League of Jackson.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF JACKSON

In collaboration with its community partners, the Junior League of Jackson places trained volunteers in a variety of community projects focused on improving the welfare of children and youth in our community in the focus areas of Arts & Education, Health, and Social Services.

This year, the Junior League of Jackson will place over 500 Active members and over 145 Provisional members as volunteers in 32 projects in the Metro Jackson community. These volunteers will provide over 33,000 hours of community service to children and youth. The joint and committed efforts of our volunteers and our community partners improve and enhance all of our lives.



Junior League of Jackson Fund Development Businesses

The Junior League of Jackson, through its three thriving Fund Development businesses and the newly created Keystone Fund, is able to provide financial support to 32 community projects and over 33,000 community volunteer hours.



These efforts are led by remarkable women, taking to heart our mission: promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving our community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.



Bargain Boutique is the Junior League's upscale resale shop that opened on November 24, 1994. Its purpose is to provide funds for the Junior League and also to serve the community by offering top-quality, second-hand clothing and accessories at affordable prices.



Junior League of Jackson Publications boasts two nationally acclaimed cookbooks. *Southern Sideboards*, published in 1978, is now in its 17th printing with 480,000 copies.

Come On In!, our award-winning companion cookbook, was first published in 1991. It is now in its second printing with over 75,000 copies sold.

In November 2006, we released our children's book, *The Year of the Stars*. This book was written by a team of JLJ Active members and illustrated by Mississippi's own Wyatt Waters.



The Keystone Fund is the newly established endowment fund for the League. It is intended to function as the League's "rainy day" fund. The fund will provide the opportunity for members to give gifts in honor of or in memory of someone special. In addition, future or deferred gifts (gifts as a part of the donor's estate, insurance policies, etc.) can be made to the Keystone Fund, offering long-term support for the League.



Mistletoe Marketplace is the largest charity fundraising event in Mississippi. Mistletoe Marketplace brings together over 160 merchants across the U.S. and over 35,000 shoppers for a shopping and special events extravaganza! Since 1980, Mistletoe Marketplace has been the primary fundraiser of the Junior League of Jackson that supports the projects and work of the League.

Junior League of Jackson Arts & Education Focus Area

In keeping with the Junior League of Jackson's primary focus on children and youth, Arts & Education Area volunteers work with students from elementary school to high school. Along with our community partners, we also provide support to teachers. This support ranges from tutoring students to awarding grants for classroom needs.



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We were thrilled to celebrate with one of our schools this past year when that school was promoted to a “Level 4” rated school. For the past several years, our volunteers have read with students at that school.

In schools throughout our community, we facilitate information sessions with parents during the school year to share ideas for improving and sustaining growth in their children's academic performance. We conduct ACT preparation sessions, assist students in creating and performing plays and musicals and oversee a back-to-school week at one of the schools to prepare students for their return to the classroom after summer break.

Thank you to each of our volunteers and community partners for investing time, talent and resources in our community's children.

Arts & Education Project Descriptions

Arts In Motion (AIM)

Twenty-seven (27) volunteers will conduct an arts camp on the campus of Mission First and in various outings, exposing the children to all types of arts experiences, including crafts, drama and music. Volunteers will also coordinate an end of camp celebration on Saturday to showcase the artwork and experiences from the week to parents of the participants.

Book Buddies

In partnership with Jackson Public Schools, 16 volunteers conduct reading sessions with third-grade students at Van Winkle Elementary School. The Barksdale Reading Institute provides training on their curriculum to the volunteers, who work one-on-one with children as reading role models to improve fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Additionally, volunteers conduct book drives to furnish the waiting rooms to benefit children visiting UMC Clinics.

CLASS/ACT Prep

Eleven volunteers assist Jackson-area high school students in gaining access to higher education by providing ACT preparation workshops at Millsaps College in specific ACT subject areas, as well as general test-taking skills.

JPS Summer Camp

In partnership with Jackson Public Schools, League volunteers (27) provide enrichment activities for approximately 60 rising third and fourth grade JPS students at Pecan Park Elementary to help prepare them for the Mississippi Curriculum Tests.

Listening, Learning & Leading

At five area elementary schools, 31 volunteers provide education, resources and encouragement to enable and empower JPS parents to play an active role in the lives of their children. Our community partners are the Parents for Public Schools and Jackson Public Schools.

Public School Mini-Grants

In partnership with the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson, the Junior League of Jackson (11 volunteers) awards the JPS Education Foundation Trust grant money in conjunction with the JLJ Public School Mini-Grants funds. The grants are awarded to teachers in elementary, middle, and high school to enhance, enrich, and support the JPS educational curriculum. Often the resources provided through mini-grant projects are enjoyed and used by students long after the grant year is over.



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Junior League of Jackson Health Services Focus Area

At the center of the Junior League's mission is the commitment to improve our community through service to others.



Consistent with that mission, the Health Services Area focuses its efforts on serving the most fundamental needs of children and their families who are struggling with health problems in the Jackson community. The projects range from helping local schools with programs to identify children with physical disabilities to the care of critically ill premature babies.

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Through the projects, our volunteers are given the opportunity to encourage those who are facing health difficulties. The projects are diverse and innovative and provide a variety of opportunities for service to our volunteers while meeting the needs of those who are experiencing some of life's greatest challenges.

Health Services Project Descriptions

Feed-a-Family

Twenty-six (26) Feed-a-Family volunteers feed, support, and interact with families of UMC patients staying at the Ronald McDonald House (RHM) on the UMC Campus. Each week they purchase, prepare, deliver and serve meals for approximately 25 people at the RMH on Thursday night. They can also be found participating in activities with the patients and their families.

McClean Fletcher Center

At the McClean Fletcher Grief Center, 19 League volunteers are trained by the center to help provide a safe and encouraging environment for grieving children, their families, caregivers, schools and other agencies in the state. They assist the center's professionals to engage children in appropriate activities to allow them a place to grieve and grow through their experience.

REACH Day

Seventeen (17) REACH Day volunteers provide a craft activity for children waiting to be seen in the Cancer Clinic at The University of Mississippi Medical Center. They offer entertainment and fun activities such as games, stories, music, arts and crafts, and seasonal parties to young patients and their siblings.

REACH Night

Forty-four (44) REACH Night volunteers staff the playrooms on the third and fourth floors of the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children. Their companionship enriches the lives of children receiving extensive medical care at UMC and supports their families, who are often unable to stay with them at all times. Through play, parties, games and activities, volunteers make the patients' treatments more tolerable.

Rockin' Mamas

Eighteen (18) dedicated volunteers rock and stimulate infants in the NICU at Winfred L. Wiser Hospital for Women and Infants at UMC. This project, celebrating its 30th anniversary, ensures that each child is provided the opportunity to be rocked, nurtured and given interactive attention seven days a week.

Screening for Success

At five area elementary schools, 14 volunteers conduct hearing and vision screenings in partnership with the Mississippi Society for Disabilities and Jackson Public Schools. These screenings help to identify any hearing or vision deficiencies for children in grades PK-5. Early detection increases a child's opportunities for successful learning.

Kids in the Kitchen

In partnership with the Mississippi Children's Museum, *Kids in the Kitchen* promotes good nutrition and a healthy, active lifestyle for area children. Nine volunteers plan special events with featured special guests. The Junior League's *Kids in the Kitchen* is sponsored nationally by Bon Appetit, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the American Diabetic Association and the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI).



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Junior League of Jackson Social Services Focus Area

Every project in the Social Services area makes its own impact on individuals and organizations in the community of Jackson. Although the Social Services area focuses mostly on children, the differences made in these children's lives will impact their whole family.



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The projects range from improving the environments in which children live or are educated to giving these children experiences of a lifetime. Through these projects, children are taught how to develop new interests and hobbies, how to stay healthy and how to achieve their goals. A variety of skills are needed to accomplish the goals of Social Services area projects.

Whether someone is an artist, a builder, a teacher, an athlete, or a mentor, every volunteer can find a place to serve in this area of impact in our community.

Social Services Project Descriptions

Encouraging Youth Merit Store

Ten (10) Volunteers operate a merit-based store at the C.A.R.E.S. campus of the Mississippi Children's Home Society, giving the students an opportunity to earn rewards based on treatment goals. Volunteers also recognize each student's birthday and welcome new students with a care package.

GRACE – Girls Rule! Accepting, Caring, Empowering

GRACE volunteers provide regularly scheduled educational and enrichment opportunities to girls ages 12-18 at the McRae Children's Home, in partnership with the Methodist Children's Home. The goals are to build the girls' self-esteem, self-respect and values, to promote healthy choices, and to encourage steps toward independent living.

Habitat for Humanity

From the foundation up, 22 volunteers recently completed its 14th three-bedroom Habitat House for a deserving family. They frame, caulk, paint, trim and stain and install cabinets. They also do roofing, siding and flooring work, completing the beautiful new home in two weeks time.

Home Away from Home

At the Mississippi School for the Deaf, 13 volunteers will organize and make over dorm rooms. The goal is to provide a more child-centered, warm and homey environment for the residents. Some repainting of the rooms and possible purchasing or sewing of new bedding may be included.

Super Troopers

Thirteen (13) League volunteers organize extra-curricular activities for the female residents (ages 6-12) of the Mississippi School for the Deaf. Girls are given the opportunity to participate in a Girl Scout Troop and other enriching activities.



Junior League of Jackson Provisional Projects

The 2009-2010 Provisional Class of the Junior League of Jackson is full of energetic and talented women making a difference in our community.

This summer and fall, these women will landscape, paint, remodel, and teach children through visual and performing art programs. They will organize a health fair, distribute school supplies, and build a Habitat house.



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The energy and enthusiasm of our newest volunteers is endless and inspiring and will ensure a bright future for the Junior League of Jackson.

Provisional Project Descriptions

Make-A-Wish Disney World (May) -- The Junior League of Jackson sponsored a child's wish to go to Disney World. Provisional members created the "Wish Reveal Party" for this child and aided the Make-A-Wish organization in fostering hope.

Make-A-Wish New Orleans' Saints (TBA) -- An Extreme Makeover! A teenager's long-time wish will come true when Provisional members transform his room into a New Orleans' Saints extravaganza!

Make-A-Wish Office Organization (TBA) -- Provisional members will assist the Make-A-Wish Foundation with administrative work, enabling the foundation more time to focus on bringing hope to sick children by granting wishes.

Habitat (May-June) -- What could be more exciting than to see a deserving person receive a house! Provisional and Active members of the Junior League of Jackson will celebrate our 14th anniversary with Habitat by building a new home this summer.

Stewpot Children's Lunches (June) -- Provisional members will join Stewpot Ministries and Calvary Baptist Church in sharing the world through lunch. The group will plan and provide lunch while educating these children about the world outside of Jackson.

Stewpot Teen's Lunches (June) -- The Junior League of Jackson will partner with the Stewpot Teen Center to educate teens on opportunities that await them. Provisional members will plan and provide healthy lunches, while teaching lessons to inspire these teenagers to continue their education.

School Supply Drive (June - July) -- Provisional members will join Jackson Public School administrators at targeted schools to determine their particular school supply needs for students and teachers. Supplies for the entire school year will be purchased and distributed to these classrooms prior to August.

Arts Explosion Camp (July) -- Provisional members will assist the Junior League of Jackson's longtime partner, Calvary Baptist Church, by providing a week-long summer camp for local elementary school children. This camp will introduce these children to various art forms -- including karate, gymnastics, ballet and visual arts.

Fondren Village Boys Home (July) -- Fondren Village Boys Home, established by law enforcement officers, is a residential, therapeutic environment instrumental in transforming the lives of young men in Mississippi. Provisional members will perform a garage makeover, transforming the area into a comfortable living space for the Home's House Parents.

UMC Premie Reunion (September) -- Provisional members will be in charge of planning the annual reunion party for the UMC staff, faculty and former patients of the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). The party's theme is to celebrate health and future.

Health Fair (October) -- Provisional members will provide a fun-filled day of free wellness and health education for area residents at Bargain Boutique, a community project of the Junior League of Jackson. This annual event is held in conjunction with Bargain Boutique's fall sale. Bargain Boutique is located in Colonial Mart Shopping Center.

Hope House (October) --The mission of the charitable organization, Hope House, is to provide housing for children and adults who are undergoing cancer treatment in the Jackson area. Provisionals will beautify the location with new landscaping and will help these individuals see the hope around them with the growth of new plants and flowers.



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