

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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