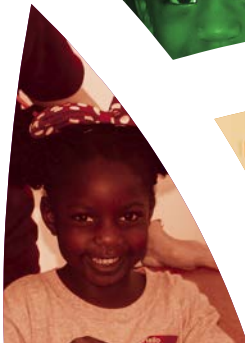



2018-2019

# MATTERS

Annual Report of the *Junior League of Jackson*








## Mission

The Junior League of Jackson 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.



## Vision

The Junior League of Jackson will make a measurable impact by enriching our community through building partnerships and inspiring shared solutions.



## Purpose

The Junior League of Jackson is a charitable organization whose purpose is to improve the quality of life of those in our community.



## Diversity and Inclusion Statement of Purpose

The Junior League of Jackson is dedicated to comprehensive diversity and inclusion. The League is committed to having a membership that reflects the rich diversity of the communities it serves. The League welcomes and values the unique backgrounds and perspectives of all members and endeavors to be an environment in which no member will be advantaged or disadvantaged because of race, religion, national origin, or any other real or perceived differences. We are confident that diversity and inclusiveness within our League will enhance the quality and reach of our programs in the community.





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## 2018-2019 JLJ Matters

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Meredith Aldridge



What a year we have had **Creating Connections**! Brené Brown defines connection as “the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued; when they can give and receive without judgment; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship.” Throughout the **2018-2019 League year**, we have created connections with our fellow members, our corporate and community partners, and our greater community. In addition to forging connections, we have advanced our mission of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action of trained volunteers.

We started our League year by focusing on training and service. In partnership with the Women’s Foundation of Mississippi, we hosted the first-ever “**She’s on Board**” program, an all-day training opportunity for women throughout the community. Our commitment to training continued in 2018-2019 with the addition of a new **Training and Organizational Development** board position and leadership team, mission-based General Membership Meetings, and a **strategic member feedback campaign** designed to enhance future training and planning.

Our service in the community ranged from multiple summer camps to year-round projects centered around advancing the impact areas of **early literacy, children’s health**, and the **social development** of children and youth. From packing backpacks with nutritious snacks to reading one-on-one with children each week, our volunteers poured their time and energy into the children and youth of the Jackson metro area. With more than **30 projects and initiatives**, our members—and partners—made huge strides in connecting with our shared community.

The League’s emphasis on service took a new form in early 2019 with our inaugural **Connecting Communities Day of Service**. For one day, we invited our families, our corporate supporters and community partners, and members of our community to serve with us in **10 simultaneous half-day projects**. Not only did we meet real needs in real time, those who participated in the day of service made genuine, lasting connections.

All of our mission-based efforts were made possible through the generous support of our corporate and individual supporters at our three fund development events: **Mistletoe Marketplace, Junior League Jumble**, and **Touch A Truck® Jackson**. Collectively, these businesses raised more than \$1.2 million to support the mission of the League. Jumble and Touch A Truck® included significant community components, including Jumble’s Pile O’ Pants collection and community partner donations and Touch A Truck®’s Field Trip Friday and UNPLUGGED, our newly-implemented quiet hour for children facing sensory sensitivities.

As the 2018-2019 League year came to a close, we celebrated the signing of **Senate Bill 2955**, which will provide the League with a sales tax exemption beginning July 1. This legislation will allow the League to make a **significantly larger impact** in our community through estimated savings of \$55,000-60,000 annually. Not only can we buy more and do more with these savings, we can connect more.

Reflecting on this year, my favorite moment was pausing to enjoy the connections being made on our day of service, knowing that we were **building up our communities and creating future leaders**. To those who support us and help us advance our mission, I thank you. To our members, I will cherish all we have done together to support one another and improve our shared community.

Here’s to **creating connections**!

Meredith M. Aldridge

Meredith Aldridge  
2018-2019 President





JUNIOR LEAGUE OF JACKSON IS THE  
**6<sup>th</sup> largest Junior League**  
OUT OF **291** JUNIOR LEAGUES IN **4** COUNTRIES

NEARLY  
**2,400**  
MEMBERS  
TOTAL

**55,000**

VOLUNTEER HOURS  
CONTRIBUTED TO SUPPORT  
OUR COMMUNITY



UP TO **175** PROVISIONAL MEMBERS EACH YEAR  
MORE THAN **750** ACTIVE MEMBERS  
ALMOST **1,500** SUSTAINING MEMBERS

### Areas of COMMUNITY IMPACT

- EARLY LITERACY
- CHILDREN'S HEALTH
- SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**9,000**

HOURS OF LEADERSHIP  
TRAINING FOR JLJ  
MEMBERS EACH YEAR



### Our Mission

The Junior League of Jackson 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.

### A Few of Our Recent Accomplishments:

**923** CHILDREN **IMPACTED** BY JLJ SUMMER PROJECTS

**608** PAIRS OF NEW **UNIFORM PANTS** AND **SHORTS**  
DONATED TO JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

**5,400** BACKPACKS FILLED WITH **FOOD** GIVEN TO STUDENTS  
TO TAKE HOME OVER THE WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS

**480** BACKPACKS FILLED WITH **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**  
GIVEN TO JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

2018 RECIPIENT OF **Diversity & Inclusion Award**  
FROM THE **ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR LEAGUES INTERNATIONAL**

IN 2017, OUR FUNDRAISERS RAISED  
OVER **\$1.2 million**

**100%** OF OUR FUNDRAISING  
STAYS IN METRO JACKSON



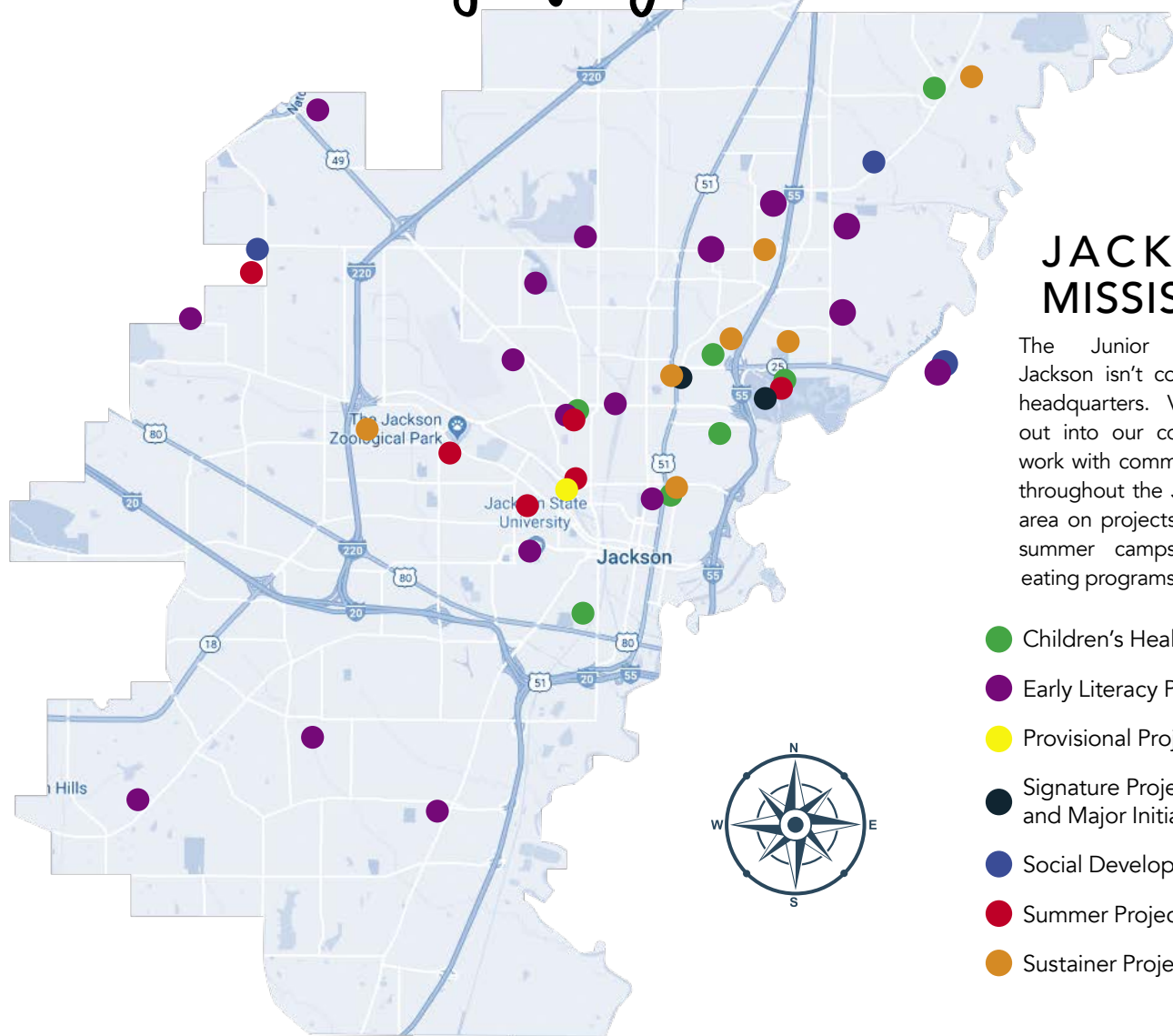
**\$2.8 million**

IN GRANTS AWARDED TO OTHER  
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS  
SINCE 2013



# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF JACKSON

## Community Projects



### JACKSON MISSISSIPPI

The Junior League of Jackson isn't confined to our headquarters. Volunteers go out into our community and work with community partners throughout the Jackson metro area on projects ranging from summer camps to healthy-eating programs to mentoring.

- Children's Health Projects
- Early Literacy Projects
- Provisional Project
- Signature Projects and Major Initiatives
- Social Development Projects
- Summer Projects
- Sustainer Projects

## Connecting with Our Community

### ENDURING IMPACT

The Junior League of Jackson is a volunteer organization consisting of women committed to improving and enriching the community by supporting projects and opportunities that provide better health, education, welfare, and safety for children and youth. We do this by building partnerships with community organizations and by working together to develop solutions and concepts to improve the quality of life of those in our community.

We want our efforts to have measurable impacts and to make a true difference. To do that we have focused on an Issue Based Community Impact Model for the selection and evaluation of all community projects.

The ultimate goal of the Issue Based Community Impact Model is to improve the high school graduation rate in our community. To do this, the League has identified the following three community areas that need our support:

Early Literacy • Children's Health • Social Development



2018-2019  
JUNIOR LEAGUE OF JACKSON

# Community Projects

JUNE  
4-8  
2018

## Imagination Celebration

Community Partner:  
**Mississippi Children's Museum**

Provided a memorable, interactive, and educational summer experience that fostered leadership skills for rising elementary students at Jackson Public Schools



## Arts Explosion Camp

Community Partner:  
**HIS Heart Ministries at Calvary Baptist Church**

Engaged children, ages 5 to 10, in activities centered around art, music, movement, dance, and drama

JUNE  
11-15  
2018



## Language of Art

Community Partner:  
**Magnolia Speech School**

Taught phonological awareness and vocabulary development through art projects, rhyming games, shared book experiences, and conversation



## Camp Connections

Community Partners:  
**Various**

JUNE-AUG  
2018

Assisted with several different initiatives throughout the summer, including Stewpot's Lunch-n-Learn, Operation Shoestring's Summer Reading Program, Backpack Buddies, and all of the JLJ-hosted summer camps





## BGCCM Makeover Project

Community Partner:  
**Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Mississippi**

Renovated the library at the Boys and Girls Club on Raymond Road

**JUNE-SEPT  
2018**



## Public School Mini-Grants

Community Partners: **Community Foundation for Mississippi  
and JPS Partners in Education**

Evaluated grant proposals and awarded 18 grants to 10 different Jackson Public Schools, including eight school-wide grants

**JUNE-APRIL  
2018-2019**

## R.E.A.C.H. (Recreation, Enrichment & Assistance for Children's Health)

Community Partner:  
**Children's of Mississippi**

Provided activities, crafts,  
and companionship to  
children receiving extensive  
medical care at Batson  
Children's Hospital and  
supported their families

**JULY  
9-13  
2018**

## Camp Junior Leadership Jumpstart (Camp JLI)

Community Partners:  
**Woodward Hines Education  
Foundation/Get2College and  
Operation Shoestring**

Increased participants' awareness  
of the college admission and  
financial aid processes, as well  
as explored potential career  
opportunities and fields



## JPS Summer Camp

Community Partner:  
**Jackson Public Schools**

Provided enrichment activities for  
rising third and fourth-grade Jackson  
Public School (JPS) students at Pecan  
Park Elementary School



**JULY  
16-20  
2018**

## Arts in Motion Camp

Community Partner:  
**Mission First**

Exposed children to all  
types of arts experiences,  
including crafts, drama,  
music, and fitness activities

**JULY-MAY  
2018-2019**

## Helping Hands

Community Partners: **Various**

Provided extra support and  
volunteers for a variety of  
community partners, including  
Mississippi Children's Museum,  
Canopy Children's Solutions,  
and Stewpot's HeARTworks

## SUSTAINER PROJECT:

### Feed-A-Family

Community Partner:  
**Ronald McDonald House**

Planned, prepared, and served  
quarterly meals for families staying  
at Ronald McDonald House



JULY-MAY  
2018-2019

## SUSTAINER PROJECTS:

### *Rockin' Mamas*

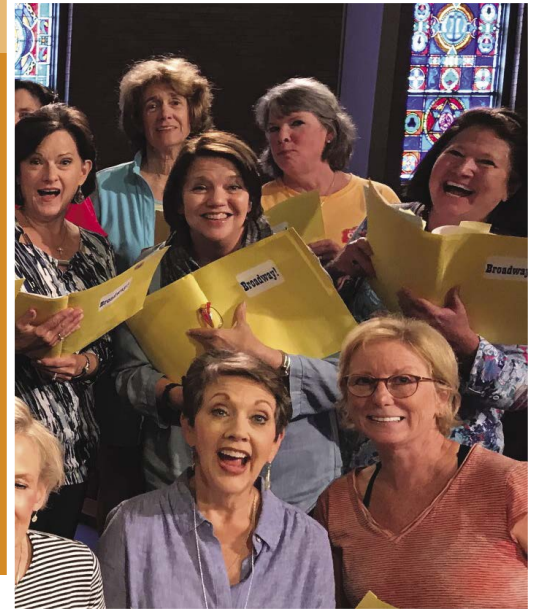
Community Partner:  
**Winfred L. Wiser Hospital  
for Women and Infants at UMMC**

Held and rocked babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), ensuring that each NICU baby is provided the opportunity to be nurtured and given interactive attention

### *Joyful Noise*

Community Partners:  
**Various nursing homes  
and senior living facilities**

Performed weekly song and dance numbers at senior living facilities and nursing homes in the Jackson metro area



### *Arts Alive*

Community Partner: **Hope Hollow**

Provided interactive activities focused on art, music, and motion to special needs students during this fun-filled after-school program

AUG-DEC  
2018

AUG-MAY  
2018-2019

### *I Read More with My Buddy (Book Buddies)*

Community Partner:  
**Jackson Public Schools**

Hosted one-on-one reading sessions at Oak Forest Elementary with second and third-grade students to help build fluency and comprehension skills

### *McClean Fletcher Center Outreach, Grief Support and Food Projects*

Community Partner: **McClean Fletcher Center**

Provided a safe and hopeful environment for children and their families who have experienced the death of a significant person in their lives

### *Wholesome & Healthy*

Community Partner:  
**Operation Shoestring**

Developed innovative and engaging curriculum that combats the myth that eating healthy is expensive and works to prevent childhood obesity



## Sensory Fun and Learning

AUG-MAY  
2018-2019

Community Partner:  
**The Little Light House**

Provided sensory activities for children, ages 6 weeks to 6 years, with special needs to help develop skills and advance educational development



## Play, Eat, Learn

Community Partners:  
**UMMC's Center for Advancement of Youth (CAY), Mississippi Children's Museum, and St. Andrew's Episcopal School**

Assisted with monthly events by welcoming families, facilitating dinner, and entertaining children while their parents and guardians attended educational programming presented by CAY



## G.R.A.C.E. (Girls Rule! Accepting, Caring, Empowering)

Community Partner: **Methodist Children's Homes of Mississippi**

Mentored middle and high school-aged girls in order to build up their self-esteem, self-respect, and values to promote healthy choices and to encourage steps toward independent living



## Midtown Backpack and School Pantry Program

Community Partner:  
**Mississippi Food Network**

Maintained a food pantry and provided JPS elementary school students with backpacks filled with nutritious food to take home over the weekends and holidays during the school year

## Making Connections and Rewarding Success (CARES)

Community Partner:  
**Canopy Children's Solutions**

Helped operate the merit store and recognized and rewarded students, ages 6 to 18, working to achieve individual behavior and therapy goals

MAY  
4  
2019

## PROVISIONAL PROJECT

### Destination Education: A Passport to Literacy, Health, and Development

Community Partner:  
**HIS Heart Ministries  
at Calvary Baptist Church**

Students visited different activity stations focused on one of the League's three impact areas and received vouchers for their summer reading books



# Early Literacy

**Management Team Chair:** Lacey Bergin    **Member-at-Large:** Yolanda McElroy    **Sustaining Advisor:** Wendy Polk

Early Literacy volunteers work primarily with elementary school students, exposing them to language and print resources to help students read at grade level. Along with our community partners, we also provide support to teachers. This support ranges from tutoring students to awarding grants for classroom needs.

## EARLY LITERACY PROJECTS

### BGCCM Makeover Project

**Impact:** 120-140 children

**Number of volunteers:** 17

**Chair:** Laura Elizabeth Tate

**Co-Chair:** Lindy Brown

### Camp Connections

**Impact:** 750 children

**Number of volunteers:** 15

**Chair:** Katie Banks

**Co-Chair:** Jennie Eichelberger

### Helping Hands

**Impact:** 500 children

**Number of volunteers:** 25

**Chair:** Ann Howard

**Co-Chair:** Sarah Sterling

### I Read More With My Buddy (Book Buddies)

**Impact:** 25 students

**Number of volunteers:** 15

**Chair:** Kristen Lynn Doty

**Co-Chair:** Tina Wells

### Public School Mini-Grants

**Impact:** 18 grants to 10 schools totaling \$100,000

**Number of volunteers:** 17

**Chair:** Lydia Holloway

**Co-Chair:** Tonitric Wicks

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHT:

### Boys and Girls Club Makeover

JLJ volunteers worked throughout the summer and fall to renovate the library at the Boys and Girls Club Walker Unit. League volunteers were tasked with the job of designing a calm, nurturing, and educational space for the Boys and Girls Club members.

"As the director opened the classroom door and flipped on the lights, four features stood out: bright yellow walls, mismatched worn carpet squares, broken bookcases, and cramped work stations. With a team of hardworking and dedicated JLJ volunteers, we established a design plan and got busy," said project chair Laura Elizabeth Tate.

The team worked with Early Literacy Management Team Chair Lacey Bergin and Community Vice President Katie Browning to hire contractors to repair a severely damaged section of wall and build a custom unit of bookshelves and cabinets for use by the children and instructors. Since the makeover volunteers had no interaction with the children who would benefit from their work during the project, the Reveal Party was a particularly special time for the makeover volunteers. "Seeing the joy and wonder in each child's reaction to their new classroom made the project's impact real," said Tate.

*"We lived the JLJ mission by developing each volunteer's potential. Every woman on our team had a unique skill set and perspective. Makeover projects are an outlet for us to learn from each other and build each other up."*

-Laura Elizabeth Tate,  
BGCCM Makeover Project Chair



**Laura Elizabeth Tate, Kelty Puckett, Haley Gregory, Jennifer Crawford, Jill Nichols, Caroline Smith, and Kelly Steinwinder are part of a 17-member volunteer team whose renovation efforts benefited more than 120 Jackson-area children.**

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHT:

### Camp Connections

Fifteen JLJ volunteers served more than 750 children this year through the League's new flexible project, Camp Connections. They assisted the JLJ summer camps and worked with five additional initiatives focused on early literacy, including Stewpot's Lunch-n-Learn, Operation Shoestring's Summer Reading Program, Backpack Buddies, and the Mississippi Children's Museum's Readers to Leaders program.

With the Stewpot Lunch-n-Learn initiative, JLJ volunteers provided lunch and educational activities for Stewpot's children and adolescent camp participants during two weeks of the summer.

Likewise, Operation Shoestring's Summer Reading Program allowed volunteers to equip rising kindergarten, first and second-grade students with important reading comprehension skills, in addition to two books that participants were able to take home to practice their new skills.

Making sure that Jackson Public School students have the tools needed for a successful school year was the primary goal of the Backpack Buddies initiative. JLJ volunteers purchased the school supplies and packed backpacks for elementary school students; this year, 400 students from four area JPS schools received a backpack stocked with essentials.

Camp Connections volunteers also assisted with the Mississippi Children's Museum's "Readers to Leaders" program, which rewards JPS students who met their summer reading goals.



**JLJ volunteer Chrissy Cheshire delivers a backpack full of school supplies to a student in August 2018 as part of the Camp Connections Backpack Buddies initiative.**

*"I felt our project and work was especially important as we were able to impact multiple areas of the community through one League project. I would encourage others to volunteer for this project so they can experience not just one project but multiple initiatives that our League provides to the community."*

**-Katie Banks,  
Camp Connections Project Chair**



**Camp Connections volunteer Kelli Hart leads a group of students in a reading comprehension exercise as part of the Operation Shoestring summer reading initiative, which was held at Galloway Elementary School.**



# Children's Health

**Management Team Chair:** Christine Polk **Member-at-Large:** Precious Malembeka **Sustaining Advisor:** Dorothy Young

The Children's Health impact area focuses on engaging families and youth in their health experience. Projects use strategies that provide access to nutritional foods and increase knowledge on the benefits of healthy eating and being physically active. Efforts in this area include a pantry program, education series, and activities that promote movement and provide access to physical fitness, emotional support, and activities for those in hospital environments.

## CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROJECTS

### McClean Fletcher Center Outreach, Grief Support and Food Projects

**Impact:** 96 children  
**Number of volunteers:** 33  
**Chair:** Lee Herrin  
**Co-Chairs:** Tonya Malone, Alex Cooper

### Midtown Backpack and School Pantry Program

**Impact:** 5,400 backpacks, 1,500 pounds of food each month  
**Number of volunteers:** 35  
**Chair:** Kim Mackey  
**Co-Chairs:** Jennifer Dukes, Nicole Benson

### Play, Eat, Learn

**Impact:** 500 adults and children  
**Number of volunteers:** 21  
**Chair:** Amanda Woodruff  
**Co-Chair:** Sallie Marie Campbell

### R.E.A.C.H.

**Impact:** 175 children  
**Number of volunteers:** 35  
**Chair:** Rebekah Moulder  
**Co-Chairs:** Pamela Franklin, Elizabeth Ring

### Wholesome & Healthy

**Impact:** 152 children  
**Number of volunteers:** 23  
**Chair:** Mallory Hemphill  
**Co-Chair:** Allilia Price

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHT:

### R.E.A.C.H.

The hospital can be scary, especially for children, but one Junior League of Jackson project is doing its part to make it a happier, more comfortable place for Batson Children's Hospital's pediatric patients.

*"The playroom is such a respite for the children; their eyes light up with the chance to play games or do crafts. It's also a chance for parents to take a much-needed break to grab dinner or even take a shower when they know their children are being cared for."*

-Rebekah Moulder,  
R.E.A.C.H. Project Chair

The Recreation, Enrichment and Assistance for Children's Health (R.E.A.C.H.) project is an opportunity for JLJ volunteers to enrich the lives of children receiving extensive medical care at Children's of Mississippi at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. JLJ volunteers staff the hospital's third and fourth-floor playrooms and play games with the children, throw

parties, and participate in other fun activities, enriching the lives of the patients and making their hospital stay a little less stressful. In addition to providing companionship to the children, volunteers also support the families, who are often unable to stay with them at all times.



**JLJ volunteer Heather Hines works on an arts-and-craft project with a Batson Children's Hospital patient as part of the R.E.A.C.H. program.**

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHT:

### McClean Fletcher

A common misconception is that the McClean Fletcher Center Outreach, Grief Support and Food Projects is a sad placement, but volunteers continue to find joy in serving.

"As a volunteer you make such an impact here," said project chair Lee Herrin, who's been actively volunteering with the center for five years. "Yes, there are children there dealing with sad things, but this is a place where they come to belong to a group, and our volunteers get the honor of being a small part of that."

Skilled professionals at the McClean Fletcher Center train JLJ volunteers to provide grief support to families who have experienced the death of a loved one. Volunteers then work to encourage caregivers and children, ages 4 to 18, in positive ways to process their grief and grow through their experiences.

The center, a division of Hospice Ministries and Mississippi's only grief center geared directly toward children, provides counseling for children in a group environment that Herrin describes as nonintimidating and even fun. The children can talk about their loved ones and keep their memory alive in this place without judgement from peers, because everyone there has lost someone.

"I've seen families drive for hours to get their kids to the center because they love it so much. Every child there has lost someone, and it bonds them together in a meaningful way," Herrin said.



**JLJ volunteers Abby James, Miriam Prince, and Mary Shelton Gamblin help prepare meals for families who have experienced the death of a significant person in their lives.**

*"I can honestly say that the center has made me a better person. I pray that my children never face a tragic loss of a close relative, but I assure you that the center will be the first place I call if they do. There is such a need for this place."*

-Lee Herrin,  
McClean Fletcher Project Chair



**Miriam Prince is one of 33 JLJ volunteers for the McClean Fletcher Center Outreach, Grief Support and Food Projects.**



# Social Development

**Management Team Chair:** Sabrina Ruffin **Member-at-Large:** Amorya Orr **Sustaining Advisor:** Beverly Fulcher

The Social Development impact area employs strategies designed to improve problem-solving skills, coping skills, and to build self-esteem in children and youth. Projects provide access to information that will support positive life choices and help promote team building and socialization.

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

### Arts Alive

**Impact:** 10 children  
**Number of volunteers:** 8  
**Chair:** Sidney Ferris  
**Co-Chair:** Casey Creasey

### G.R.A.C.E. (Girls Rule! Accepting, Caring, Empowering)

**Impact:** 20 girls  
**Number of volunteers:** 15  
**Chair:** Michelle Simon  
**Co-Chair:** Emily Sanford

### Making Connections and Rewarding Success

**Impact:** 75 students  
**Number of volunteers:** 23  
**Chair:** Quinn Kellum  
**Co-Chair:** Sophia Azordegan

### Sensory Fun and Learning

**Impact:** 96 children  
**Number of volunteers:** 17  
**Chair:** Dorothy Wofford  
**Co-Chair:** Bethany Gough

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHT:

### Making Connections and Rewarding Success

Connections are key to the success of the Making Connections and Rewarding Success project.

League volunteers serving at the CARES School, supported by Canopy Children's Solutions, operate a merit-based store for the benefit of students, ages 6 to 18, to encourage positive behavior and decision making. Volunteers forge connections with the students, encourage them to meet and exceed their personal behavior and therapy goals, and consistently offer positive reinforcement. In addition to running the store, JLJ volunteers welcome new students with care packages and assist with holiday gatherings.

"I love watching the students work hard and have good behavior in order to make 'money' to spend at the store," said Quinn Kellum, project chair. "It's also fun to see when a child saves up for a few weeks for an item that they have put on their wish list. For these kids, it can be a bright spot getting something to call their own that they earned."

*"This project is heartwarming in so many ways. I have lots of good memories, but one stands out. A boy, who had trouble earning enough per week to buy much—if anything—in the store, finally had a good week. That first week when he had earned enough to shop, he chose to 'purchase' lotion for his mother!"*

-Quinn Kellum, Making Connections and Rewarding Success Project Chair



**Making Connections and Rewarding Success project volunteer Marjorie Sauer works with students to encourage and reward their academic and behavioral achievements.**

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHT:

### *Sensory Fun and Learning*

There is no shortage of opportunities for fun or learning in the League's newest social development community project: Sensory Fun and Learning.

JLJ volunteers provide sensory activities for children with special needs, ranging from 6 weeks to 6 years of age, at the Little Light House during this school-year project. Volunteers incorporate various learning experiences into play and fun projects, allowing the children to focus on social, emotional, and educational development.

Because the children have special needs, extracurricular activities are not always readily available. The Sensory Fun and Learning project fills that void, creating a connection between the Junior League of Jackson, the Little Light House, and its students, said Social Development Management Team Chair Sabrina Ruffin.

"This project is important on several levels: first and foremost, to provide a safe and comfortable place for these children to come while their parents attend meetings or have a respite night," said project chair Dorothy Wofford.

Education is a key component to this particular project. Volunteers are trained in performing sensory-integration projects tailored to the children's individual needs in order to give them an appropriate level of stimulus, while their parents and guardians attend an education and training series organized by the school.

"We have had so many great memories. The little ones are the biggest, though: the students that just want to be cuddled and rocked, the incredible joy in their eyes from one-on-one attention during a game of peek-a-boo, or the times when the parents take an extra second to thank us with a slight enough pause that makes you know how much it meant to them," Wofford said.



***JLJ volunteers, like Joey Sessums, participate in developmentally appropriate sensory activities with children whose parents and guardians attend educational meetings at the Little Light House.***

*"I love this project for our League volunteers because it will bring you slightly out of your comfort zone but reward you a thousand times over."*

*-Dorothy Wofford,  
Sensory Fun and Learning Project Chair*



***Kate Boerner is one of 17 volunteers who works with Little Light House students on weeknights during the school year on various social, emotional, and educational development activities.***



# Summer Projects

**Management Team Chair:** Kristen Mason **Member-at-Large:** Rebecca Gilbert **Sustaining Advisor:** Kim Porter

***"Serving as summer projects chair for the Junior League of Jackson was a truly memorable experience. It was wonderful to partner with the six summer project chairs to plan and execute camp experiences that met the needs of our community partners and made a huge, positive impact on the children in our community."***

*-Kristen Mason, Summer Projects Management Team Chair*

## SUMMER PROJECTS

### **Arts Explosion Camp**

**Impact:** 60 children  
**Number of volunteers:** 15  
**Chair:** Allison Weems  
**Co-Chair:** Melinda Stringer

### **Arts in Motion Camp**

**Impact:** 55 children  
**Number of volunteers:** 28  
**Chair:** Lee Ann May  
**Co-Chairs:** Emily Feathers,  
Bonney Spaulding

### **Camp JLJ**

**Impact:** 10 children  
**Number of volunteers:** 16  
**Chair:** Sarah Dill  
**Co-Chair:** Heather Wise

### **Imagination Celebration**

**Impact:** 40 children  
**Number of volunteers:** 30  
**Chair:** Amy Burns  
**Co-Chairs:** Lindsey Armstrong,  
Eden Travis

### **JPS Summer Camp**

**Impact:** 60 children  
**Number of volunteers:** 22  
**Chair:** Allison Young  
**Co-Chairs:** Virginia Hollingsworth,  
Sarah Ulmer

### **Language of Art**

**Impact:** 68 children  
**Number of volunteers:** 24  
**Chair:** Tamika Wray  
**Co-Chairs:** Whitney Harris,  
Jennifer Heard

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHT:

### Arts Explosion Camp

It is always exciting when we can expand on an already-existing project to make an even bigger impact. The League was able to do just that with Arts Explosion Camp, which expanded this year from a Provisional project to a project for Active members, as JLJ volunteers more than

doubled their investment in these young campers. The camp, which is offered at Calvary Baptist Church, gives volunteers an opportunity to engage children, ages 5 to 10, in an explosion of educational and interactive activities.

This year, Arts Explosion was a hit with a Dr. Seuss-themed week, and volunteers also helped teach nutritious eating habits and served breakfast and lunch to each camper. Sixty campers participated in educational activities centered around art, music, movement, dance, and drama at the weeklong summer camp. Camp ended with a Seuss-tacular showcase for parents and guardians to attend.

"I loved seeing the children shine," said project chair Allison Weems. "They worked all week on their performance, and they had such joy getting to perform for their parents and show off their displayed artwork."

According to Weems, the camp not only impacted the children but also the League volunteers. "These children will touch your heart," Weems said. "They love being at camp, and this camp gives them an opportunity they may not otherwise have."

*"Arts Explosion is a weeklong camp, but the impact it had on me lasted long after that week ended."*

*-Allison Weems,  
Arts Explosion Camp Project Chair*



**JLJ volunteer Marquita Wilkins leads a group of Arts Explosion campers in an art rotation during the weeklong summer camp.**

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHT:

### JPS Summer Camp

Most children count down the days until school is out for the summer, but thanks to the Junior League of Jackson's JPS Summer Camp, 60 rising third and fourth-grade students looked forward to returning to the classroom.

"There was a huge transformation in the children, from the moment they timidly walked through the door of Pecan Park Elementary School for camp Monday morning, to Friday afternoon when those sweet little souls were hugging our necks so hard because they didn't want camp to be over. You could literally see the changes taking place in the week we got to spend with them!" said project chair Allison Young.

After feeding the campers breakfast, JLJ volunteers led the group in supplemental math, reading, language arts, STEM, and social studies lessons. Each day at lunch, the campers enjoyed a different speaker, including Dorian the magician, the health and wellness team (and Zumba dancers!) from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Mississippi, and representatives from the Jackson Zoo. A camp favorite was water day, when students got to cut loose and make a splash on inflatable water slides during a PE session.

Young says the campers helped her see the deep impact the camp has on them.

"I was talking to one little boy one morning and asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up. The camp theme this year was 'Superheroes in Training' and, with the boy's age, I expected him to reply 'Superman,' 'Spiderman,' or one of the other exciting superheroes. I was surprised when he answered 'teacher,'" explained Young.

"He said, 'I want to be a teacher when I grow up so I can come back and teach this camp like you.' It hit me then that we, as JLJ volunteers, make more of an impression on these young minds than we realize."



***Yolanda McElroy, one of the League's JPS Summer Camp volunteers, incorporates art into the reading and language arts lesson for the camp's 60 participants.***

*"Out of the seven placements I've completed during my years in the League, this project has been the most meaningful by far."*

*-Allison Young,  
JPS Summer Camp Project Chair*



***Volunteers, like Sandra Triplett, engage the rising third and fourth-grade Jackson Public School students in activities centered around reading, language arts, math, science, and social studies skills to help prepare them for the Mississippi Curriculum Tests.***



# Our Provisional Class

**Chair:** Allison Simpson   **Co-Chair:** Ashley Young   **Sustaining Advisors:** Christine Bridges and Cheryl Miller

*Each year, the Junior League of Jackson invites up to 175 women to join its ranks. A new member's first year is called her Provisional year and is designed to provide an educational overview of the League, its mission, and its approach to service. Guided by a group of experienced League members, Provisionals attend a series of training sessions and also serve our community through an introductory community project.*

## NEW MEMBERS

128 Provisional Members  
15 Provisional Steering  
Committee Members  
17 Provisional Project Advisors

## PROVISIONAL PROJECT

### Destination Education

**Number of volunteers:** 160

**Project Chair:** Bea Tolsdorf

**Co-Chairs:** Anna Kendall Thames,  
Rashida Warren, and Lea Browne

## Super Saturday

On August 18, 2018, the Junior League of Jackson hosted Super Saturday, a full day of training for our newest JLJ members. For the first time, Super Saturday was held in the late summer instead of the spring.

During the kick-off, the Provisional class learned about the history and mission of the League, membership benefits, service and fund development commitments, the League's governance structure, and training opportunities. Also, Provisionals had the opportunity, via bus tour, to learn firsthand about the League's community projects throughout the Jackson metro area.

"Super Saturday was a great way to introduce our Provisional members to the League and prepare them for what to expect in the year to come," said Provisional Steering Committee Chair Allison Simpson. "Our team worked hard to ensure that our Provisional members felt comfortable, got to see the 'big picture' of the League, and received a good baseline of knowledge on which we could build throughout the coming year."



*Provisional members get to know one another while learning about the League and what is in store for their Provisional year.*

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHT:

### Destination Education

On May 4, 2019, the Provisional class participated in the League's first-ever joint Provisional project, "Destination Education: A Passport to Literacy, Health, and Social Development."

Holding one large joint project at the end of their Provisional year allowed the League's newest members to serve in the community after completing a year of training and learning about the mission and structure of the League. A departure from years past when Provisionals completed their service component through a series of mini-projects, many of which occurred before their League training began, this change to the Provisional timeline was made in an effort to better equip Provisionals with the knowledge they needed before their service to the community commenced.

The Provisional project's goal was to bring awareness to and support local community partners and, more importantly, positively impact the children who attended the event. Visitors to the Destination Education event received a "passport" that was stamped as they participated in interactive stations focused on the League's impact areas of early literacy, children's health, and the social development of children and youth. At the end of the event, children with a filled passport were rewarded with summer reading books for the upcoming school year.



*"As part of the League's Strategic Plan and in response to member feedback, we modified the Provisional experience in 2018-2019 to incorporate a single project with small group opportunities. Having the project in the spring allowed our Provisional members to learn more about the League, its mission, and our service model prior to planning and executing a project. Our Provisional members were able to see the 'why' before the 'how,' as well as end the year with a fun project that exemplifies our mission."*

*-Meredith Aldridge, JLJ President*



**Provisional members Renee Beckum, Rashida Walker, Sydney McCullar, Sara Harper, and Jasmine Smith prepare to begin the day and welcome visitors to "Destination Education."**



**Provisional members read to local children at one of the interactive stations focused on early literacy.**



**The 2018-2019 JLJ Provisional class hosts "Destination Education: A Passport to Literacy, Health, and Social Development" on May 4.**



# Our Sustainers

**Chair:** Pat Goodman Ammons **Chair-Elect:** Sara Byrd Williams

***"The women who participate in our community projects give of their time and talents, and they surely reap the benefits of giving to others. We are proud of each and every one of them."***

*-Pat Goodman Ammons, Sustainer Steering Committee Chair*

## SUSTAINING MEMBERS

**1,477** Sustaining Members  
**15** Sustaining Steering Committee Members  
**31** Sustaining Advisors

## SUSTAINER PROJECTS

### Feed-A-Family

**Impact:** 60-150 family members  
**Number of volunteers:** 33  
**Chair:** Sue Clayton Russ

### Joyful Noise

**Impact:** 1,000 senior citizens  
**Number of volunteers:** 50  
**Chair:** Victoria Baugher Clark

### Rockin' Mamas

**Impact:** 18 infants  
**Number of volunteers:** 6  
**Chair:** Beth Young Hosey

Following seven years of Active service in the Junior League of Jackson, members have the opportunity to become a Sustaining member. As Sustainers, they continue to support the League but leave most of the day-to-day work and governance of the League to the Active membership. There are many opportunities, both social and service-oriented, for Sustainers to remain involved in the League, and the nearly 1,500 Junior League of Jackson Sustaining members have had a busy, fulfilling year.

"Our three community projects were supported by a record number of Sustainers, and we had quite a successful year," said Pat Goodman Ammons, Sustainer Steering Committee Chair. "We rocked babies at UMMC through one of the League's oldest projects, Rockin' Mamas. Sustainers took over Feed-A-Family at the Ronald McDonald House this year, and it was a fabulous success. Joyful Noise continued its mission to bring music and joy to local area retirement and nursing home residents."

In addition to the Sustainer community projects, there are numerous Sustainer interest groups, including several popular book clubs and cooking clubs. Ammons encourages Sustainers to get involved, whether by working on a community project, participating in an interest group or club, or serving as a Sustaining Advisor or on the Sustainer Steering Committee. "Every aspect of Sustainer involvement is organized, spearheaded, led, or encouraged by a member of the Sustainer Steering Committee," Ammons said.



## PROJECT HIGHLIGHT:

### Joyful Noise

"Through music, we make an energetic effort to connect with our audience, brighten their day, and awaken all of our hearts to love and fellowship," said Joyful Noise volunteer Carol Mann.

And it's true—through the group's 19 performances throughout the League year, nearly 1,000 senior citizens' days were brightened.

Joyful Noise is made up of 50 Sustaining members—they call themselves Noisettes—who perform at senior living facilities in the Jackson metro area once a week. During the spring, their performances consisted of 30-minute Broadway scores, including snippets of 59 songs from 41 different musicals. Approximately 30 Sustainers performed at each performance. Through singing and dancing to various Broadway musicals, Sustainers hoped to evoke happy memories throughout the senior living facilities.



*The Noisettes practice Broadway showtunes for one of their 19 performances throughout the year.*

*"Being a Noisette is so fun and filling. As Noisettes, we receive far more fulfillment by giving than by receiving."*

*—Michelle Loftin, Joyful Noise Volunteer*

### Sustainer Events



*Melanie Morgan, Heidi Noel, Cindy Dunbar, Lorraine Boykin, and Lisa Bemis were among more than 200 JLJ Sustainers who attended the Sustainer Fall Brunch on September 19.*

**Sustainer Fall Brunch** – The League year for Sustainers kicked off with a Sustainer Brunch on September 19, 2018, at the Country Club of Jackson. The guest speaker was former JLJ member Debra Henry Hewitt of Debra Hewitt Designs in Birmingham. Debra, a self-taught artist who has made a name for herself throughout the Southeast, is well known for her faith-based art. She shared her art and gave an uplifting message on the importance of sharing God-given gifts and living life with purpose. Debra also designed a limited-edition piece that was available for purchase at the event. More than 200 Sustainers attended the brunch.

**Golden Girls Gathering** – The Golden Girls is an exclusive group of women who have been Sustainers for at least 25 years. This year, the Golden Girls were treated to a delightful event in the home of Lawana McLennan on October 11, 2018. The gorgeous fall afternoon and the inviting setting contributed to a wonderful opportunity for friends to gather.

**February Fresh Cooking Event** – The February Fresh cooking and gardening luncheon was held on February 28, 2019, at the Farmer's Table Cooking School in Livingston. Seasonal foods blogger and former JLJ member Roben Mounger and Farmer's Table Chef Connor Wolf entertained and demonstrated how to make extraordinary meals with ordinary ingredients.

**Laurel Day Trip** – On April 2, 2019, Sustainers enjoyed a day trip to Laurel, home of the hit HGTV series "Home Town." Participants toured the Rogers-Green House, a Prairie architectural-style home that houses the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, enjoyed a catered lunch, and viewed other beautiful, stately homes of historic Laurel on a guided driving tour. They finished the day shopping in the vibrant downtown area.

**Spring Social** – The last Sustainer event of the League year was held on April 16, 2019, at the home of Kathleen Geary. The Spring Social was the largest Sustainer event of the spring and a great opportunity for Sustainers to enjoy the fellowship of friends and reflect on the successful League year.



# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF JACKSON Fund Development



Keystone Fund • Junior League Jumble • Mistletoe Marketplace • Touch A Truck® Jackson



## Making Our Connections Possible

The Junior League of Jackson operates three fund development businesses and has established a permanent fund as a means of generating the dollars necessary to support the League's mission. Thanks to the funds raised by Junior League Jumble, Mistletoe Marketplace, and Touch A Truck® Jackson, the League is able to implement its more than 30 community projects and initiatives. Funds raised by the League's businesses were also crucial to the success of the League's two signature projects: the Children's Cancer Center at the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children and the Mississippi Children's Museum.

"Our fund development businesses provide the monetary resources needed to support our community partners, increase our community outreach efforts, and provide valuable leadership training for our members," said Fund Development Vice President Staci McNinch. "We are thankful for the connections created within our community through your continued support of these businesses."

## Keystone Fund

The Keystone Fund serves as the bedrock for JLJ projects yet to come and is something to build upon for the future—not only for the Junior League of Jackson, but for the future of each life the League will touch. The fund ensures that permanent funding exists to support the League's work. The ultimate objective is to grow a fund that will be substantial enough to help support the League in the event of a decline in sponsorships or a shortfall in the League's fund development businesses.

A donation to the Keystone Fund is an ideal gift in honor of Active or Sustaining members or for others whose lives have been touched by the Junior League of Jackson. Donations to the Keystone Fund can be made by clicking on the Keystone donation link at [www.jljackson.org](http://www.jljackson.org) or by contacting 601-948-2357.

### 2018-2019 KEYSTONE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meredith Aldridge  
*President*

Walter Neely  
*Community Trustee*

LaKeysha Greer Isaac  
*President-Elect*

Jeff Wilson  
*Community Trustee*

Jia Scott  
*Treasurer*

Margaret Cupples  
*Sustaining Trustee*

Missy Heidelberg  
*Treasurer-Elect*

Tish Hughes  
*Sustaining Trustee*

Staci McNinch  
*Fund Development  
Vice President*

Pamela Prather  
*Chair and Sustaining Trustee*

Heidi Noel  
*Immediate Past President*



## Junior League Jumble

The Junior League Jumble was held January 31 and February 2, 2019, at the Metro Jackson YMCA. This marked the fifth year the League has held the "ultimate rummage sale," which was chaired by Ellie Word and co-chaired by Kirke Chamblee. This year, Jumble featured a Thursday-night VIP Hour and Reveal Party, where special event ticket holders could take advantage of exclusive access to the best items before general shopping opened. Before general shopping hours on Saturday morning, the Peek & Purchase event also provided early access to steals and deals.

Jumble is unique in that it is both a fund development business and a community project of the League. This year, Jumble raised more than \$52,000 to support the League's mission, and also afforded attendees the opportunity to purchase high-quality merchandise at bargain prices. Following the sale, the League's community partners were invited to pick up remaining furniture, household items, and clothing.

*I was honored to lead such a fabulous, hardworking group of ladies and to watch them learn, grow, and develop their potential in ways they never imagined. We forged friendships that will last for years to come, but most importantly, we made a direct and effective impact on the community.*

*-Ellie Word, Jumble Chair*



### Chair

Ellie Word

### Co-Chair

Kirke Chamblee

### Number of Years

5 years

### Impact

**\$52,000** raised

**603** uniform pants and shorts donated to JPS students

### Volunteer Hours

**2,200+**

### Committee Volunteers

**14** steering committee members, **6** co-chairs, and **18** full-placed volunteers

### General Admission Tickets

**462**

### Special Event Tickets

**555**

### Corporate Sponsors

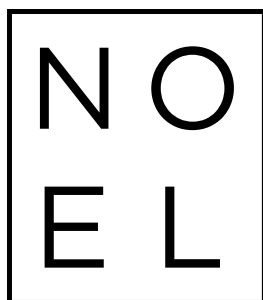
**42**

## File O' Pants

For the second year in a row, the Junior League Jumble collected new uniform pants and shorts at the League's September General Meeting. League members answered the call and donated more than 600 pairs of new uniform pants and shorts, which Jumble team members presented to Jackson Public Schools at a September event.







MISTLETOE MARKETPLACE 2018

#### Chair

Allison Muirhead

#### Co-Chair

Amanda Fontaine

#### Number of Years

**38** years

#### Impact

**\$1.16 million** raised

#### Volunteer Hours

**10,000+**

#### Committee Volunteers

**16** steering committee members and **41** full-placed volunteers

#### General Admission Tickets

**12,000+**

#### Special Event Tickets

**8,714**

#### Number of Merchants

**152**

#### Number of New Merchants

**30**

#### Corporate Sponsors

**112**

## Mistletoe Marketplace

The 38th annual Mistletoe Marketplace was held November 7-10, 2018, at the Mississippi Trade Mart in Jackson. For over a year, the Mistletoe Marketplace steering committee planned and later executed every aspect of this four-day, million-dollar fund development business. This year's Mistletoe Marketplace, chaired by Allison Muirhead and co-chaired by Amanda Fontaine, delivered a holiday shopping extravaganza like no other and, most importantly, raised more than \$1.16 million to directly support the mission of the Junior League of Jackson.

*The Junior League of Jackson has such a rich history of giving back to the community, and I am proud to have played a small part in that history. Not only do the funds raised directly support the League's mission and go back into the community, but the tax revenue from the event helps to boost the Jackson economy. We have many out-of-town shoppers, vendors, and guests all pumping dollars into the city and surrounding areas the week of Mistletoe.*

*-Allison Muirhead, Mistletoe Marketplace Chair*

"League members volunteer tens of thousands of hours each year to support our community through projects and initiatives that focus on early literacy, children's health, and the social development of children and youth," said Fontaine. "We are so fortunate to have special moments happen throughout the year as a direct result of the amount of funds raised at Mistletoe Marketplace."

## Special Events

### NOEL PREVIEW GALA

Guests walked the red carpet at the November 7 event and enjoyed early shopping with more than 150 merchants. The ever-popular kickoff to Mistletoe Marketplace featured French décor, dance music, and a New Orleans-inspired second line led by the Southern Comfort Brass Band, live and silent auctions, and the sold-out Present Pick, sponsored by Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry.



## **A TIME TO BRUNCH & BROWSE: MISTLETOE MORNING**

Sponsored by Trustmark, this November 8 breakfast gave attendees another opportunity to beat the crowds and shop early. Shoppers had a chance to brunch, enjoy soothing live music, and browse more than 150 merchants.

## **MISTLE-TEAUX: A GIRLS' NIGHT OUT**

With its newly added dueling piano bar and specially crafted beverages, it is no wonder Mistle-TEAUX was a sold-out event. When they weren't dancing or dining on the New Orleans cuisine, guests enjoyed a night of shopping with their girlfriends.

## **A MORNING OF JAZZ & SHOPPING: MARKETPLACE BRUNCH**

Presented by Regions, this November 9 event combined soulful jazz music with a delicious brunch and three hours of crowd-free shopping.

## **CONNECT WITH KIRK CAMERON: LUNCHEON & STYLE SHOW**

The annual Friday luncheon and style show, sponsored by Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, featured nationally recognized actor and speaker Kirk Cameron. While they dined, guests were entertained by a runway of on-trend fashions by Renaissance.

## **SOMETHING'S BREWING! A NIGHT TO LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL**

Southern Beverage Company sponsored this event, which featured classic brews and new craft beers. Dr. Zarr's Amazing Funk Monsters played 70s and 80s hit songs, while guests dined, danced, and—of course—shopped!

## **LET'S GLOW CRAZY! TWEEN FASHION SHOW**

As one of two Mistletoe Marketplace special events geared toward children, Let's Glow Crazy! combined tween fashion with glow-in-the-dark fun. This annual runway event was sponsored by the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

## **OH, WHAT FUN! A CHILDREN'S EVENT**

Presented by Ergon, the Saturday morning children's event was full of s'more-building, pajama-wearing, smiling little ones. Mistletoe Marketplace's youngest guests were treated to arts and crafts stations and pictures with Santa at the November 10 event. Touch A Sleigh," Touch A Truck® Jackson's promotional activity at the event, was a crowd favorite.





# TOUCH A TRUCK



JUNIOR LEAGUE of JACKSON



## Chair

Jen Cornett

## Co-Chair

Mimi Arthur

## Number of Years

6 years

## Impact

\$66,000 raised

## Volunteer Hours

4,000+

## Committee Volunteers

12 steering committee members, 7 co-chairs, and 26 full-placed volunteers

## General Admission Tickets

4,631

## Special Event Tickets

200

## Number of Exhibitors

51

## Number of Vehicles

58

## Corporate Sponsors

55

# Touch A Truck® Jackson

Adults and children alike had a "wheelie" good time at the Junior League of Jackson's sixth annual Touch A Truck® Jackson, held March 29-30, 2019, at Trustmark Park. The family-focused community event featured hands-on exhibits, such as emergency response vehicles, heavy machinery and other equipment, for children to explore, climb and touch. Over two days, more than 7,200 people attended the event, which raised more than \$66,000 in support of the League's mission.

Among the event highlights were the new STREAM (science, technology, reading, engineering, art, and math) interactive stations located throughout the event, including the popular Reading & Art tent, which featured local celebrity readers and a collaborative art project, and hands-on STEM activities offered by Bricks 4 Kidz. Additionally, 51 exhibitors provided interactive opportunities for children to "dig in" as they explored the vehicle and equipment exhibits. More than 1,000 local students, parents, and chaperones attended Field Trip Friday, and the Big Wheel VIP Breakfast on Saturday was sold out with 400 adults and children in attendance!



*"We knew that our hard work and more than a year of planning had paid off when 900 local, hard hat-wearing students' eyes lit up at the sight of a real-life excavator on Field Trip Friday, when our first-ever UNPLUGGED event found a new way to connect with guests with sensory sensitivities, and when on Saturday morning, not one but two lines for general admission stretched from our gate through the parking lot to the opposite entrance of Trustmark Park."*

-Jen Cornett, Touch A Truck® Jackson Chair

## Touch A Truck® UNPLUGGED

In partnership with the Mississippi Community Education Center and the Spectrum Academy at New Summit School, approximately 130 guests attended UNPLUGGED, Touch A Truck® Jackson's new sensory-friendly event.

"It was an absolute delight to hear that the 2019 Touch A Truck® Jackson event chose to be inclusive by adding a special time for children with sensory challenges to come out and enjoy the trucks, books, and fun," said Heidi Noel, Director of Development at Canopy Children's Solutions. "As if that was not enough, the League delivered complimentary tickets for our children and families in our Autism Solutions program to attend the event! Our kids had a blast and our families felt special and included. Our biggest thanks to JLJ for making sure all kids had an opportunity to have a 'wheelie' good time!"



# WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE *Connection* THAT YOU HAVE MADE DURING YOUR TIME WITH THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF JACKSON?



**Anna Crawford**  
*Active member*

"Picking my favorite connection in the League is like picking my favorite ice cream—I can't! In my League experience, I have made many connections, and all of them continue to shape who I am today. Embracing and practicing this year's theme of 'Creating Connections,' I have

been able to step outside of my comfort zone and take advantage of opportunities and relationships the League presents. Having the confidence to put myself out there and say 'yes' continues to strengthen the foundation of my League story. The connections I have created in the League are with women who are leaders, role models, and cheerleaders, and have become like family. These treasured connections allow me to lean in, and like Brené Brown said, 'We don't have to do all of it alone. We were never meant to.'"



**Frances Croft**  
*Sustaining member*

"My favorite connections have been with the Jackson community. There are so many people and great organizations throughout our city that are doing wonderful work to make our community stronger. I'm so thankful for the chance to learn and to serve together."



**Laurie Cutrer**  
*Active member*

"My favorite connection that I have made in the League is the ability to use the self-confidence, determination, and motivation I have gained in so many different areas of my life. JLJ strives to implement their mission to help women grow into effective leaders and to

develop and promote the potential of women, all while improving our communities. The confidence, motivation, and positive energy our existing leadership displays encourages our rising leaders to do the same. Motivation gets you moving, determination keeps you going!"



**Ashley Garavelli**  
*Active member*

"When I became a member of the Junior League of Jackson, I never really thought that I would want to be in a leadership position. This past year I became a part of the League's Community Council. It's been so rewarding to see all of the connections that the League has

within our community and to see all the good that we are doing in the Jackson metro area! A year ago, I went through something that I never imagined I would go through. I am so thankful that I made connections with ladies within the League because the League was there for me through this tough time. I am so thankful to be a part of this organization that not only helps the community but also is there for its members."



**Rachel Hughes**  
*Provisional member*

"My favorite connection that I have made in the League can't be defined as just one person or thing. The experience this year of walking alongside women in vastly different seasons of life was eye-opening for me, making me realize that we are not so different after all.

Something happens when women get together—we learn from one another, we pass along life experiences, we build stronger bonds, and we grow together. What makes this experience even better? We also volunteer together, serving our community and making it a better, more beautiful place!"



**Torri Martin**  
*Active member*

"My favorite connection in the Junior League has definitely been with community partners. When I first joined JLJ, it was because of the impact JLJ projects had on the Jackson community. I saw the programs that had been in existence for years and how they

had effectively changed certain aspects of the community. What surprised me in my Provisional year was the opportunity to foster relationships with community partners. Through service, I have built relationships with partners that have blossomed into both personal and professional relationships. I like completing service projects, but I love when the project turns into a real friendship with partners in the community. It makes my heart happy to know that JLJ has broadened my connection to the community in a meaningful way."



**Kristen Mason**  
*Active member*

"I formed many wonderful connections within our League, but my favorite connections have been in-house among the women of JLJ. I now have beautiful friendships that began while packing backpacks for a summer camp or painting at the Annex in the hot summer months preparing for Mistletoe.

It's simply amazing what strangers with the same love for service can accomplish, and I'm so thankful for the small talk that led to big connections."



**Rita Wray**  
*Sustaining member*

"My favorite connection made in the League is the legacy connection from mother to daughter... from mother to daughter creating an infinitesimal pool of diverse, informed women who exponentially positively impact our communities."



# TRAINING AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## Connecting with Our Members

While voluntarism and civic engagement are the lifeblood of the Junior League of Jackson, also at the heart of the organization is its commitment to developing the potential of its members and encouraging and facilitating leadership and training opportunities. The League offered a number of leadership and training opportunities throughout the year, including Membership Training and Development sessions on topics such as women's health, organizational tips, and personal finance.

In addition to League leadership opportunities made available through the Early Leadership Interest Indicator (ELII) and the Final Leadership Interest Indicator (FLII), the League actively encouraged leadership in outside organizations. During the 2018-2019 League year, the League participated in the inaugural "She's on Board" event, a women's board training program; hosted two community roundtables; and engaged members on leadership and training topics through a feedback campaign. The League further affirmed its dedication to developing the potential of women by creating a board position for the express purpose of enhancing and increasing membership training opportunities.

### New Training VP Position

This year, the League added a new position, Training and Organizational Development Vice President, to its Board of Directors. The League's five-year Strategic Plan identified a need for the new position, and Extended Active Katherine Bryant served in the inaugural role. Nicknamed the "TOD VP," the Training and Organizational Development Vice President's job is to streamline and enhance existing training programs, identify opportunities for growth, and craft a curriculum to strategically develop leaders for the League and beyond.

### Connecting at General Meetings

As part of the year's focus on creating connections, the League used its General Membership Meetings as an opportunity to reconnect members to the League's mission. Mission-based General Meetings gave members the opportunity to hear from a number of renowned speakers. In September, Dr. Jimmy Abraham, former director of enrollment at Mississippi State University and former executive director of the MSU Alumni Association, discussed the individual and collective impact we can make through service. Members heard from Tycely Williams, Vice President for Development for the YWCA and the first woman of color to serve as the president of the Junior League of Washington, D.C., at our February meeting. In April, members were treated to an encore presentation by Dima Ghawi, our community roundtable speaker. In addition to hearing from local and national leaders, members had opportunities to share connections in small group settings at the League's October and December General Meetings.



### Training Our Emerging Leaders

The Emerging Leaders program is a year-long intensive leadership training program for up-and-coming leaders in the League. This year, 13 women participated in the program, which was led by chair Stacey Carter and co-chair Leann Stamper and guided by sustaining advisor Rita Wray. Selected by the Nominating Committee following an application process, our Emerging Leaders committed to a year of leadership training and development, with a curriculum covering everything from our community impact model to cultural competencies. The program followed a business school approach, with lectures from experts followed by real-world application. The group also participated in a mini-makeover of the JPS Partners in Education (PIE) Store.



## She's on Board

In 2018, the Women's Foundation of Mississippi, in partnership with the Junior League of Jackson and Balch & Bingham LLP, introduced a new leadership program for all Mississippi women interested in board service. This board governance and training program's goal was to equip women with the tools they need to succeed and lead in the boardroom. More than 120 women attended the day-long training at Junior League Headquarters on June 8, 2018, where a panel of experts covered topics ranging from the duties and responsibilities of board members to an introduction to nonprofit finance.

"The feedback from the training was overwhelmingly positive, and there is definitely an appetite for this type of offering," said Frances Croft, JLJ Sustaining member and director of strategic initiatives for the Women's Foundation of Mississippi. "Women came away feeling confident to step into a board role—or more confident in one they already had."

*Save the date! The second-annual "She's on Board" training program will be held June 21, 2019, at JLJ Headquarters.*

## Community Roundtables

The League traditionally invites its community partners and supporters to two community roundtables each year, in an effort to connect leaders in the community and facilitate important conversations. The League's fall outreach event, "Finance 101 for Nonprofits," was held October 5, 2018, at JLJ Headquarters. Panelists Gates Elliot, Michelle Stonestreet, and Michelle Lewis discussed various financial aspects of nonprofit corporations, including fundraising, accounting, and management. Hannah Orlansky, JLJ Community Outreach Chair, emceed the event and asked thoughtful questions of the panel, which spurred great discussion and participation from the audience. Guests shared their experiences as well, which helped build on the collective knowledge of the attendees.

The spring community roundtable, "Connecting to Your Leadership Strengths: Breaking Through Barriers and Overcoming Fears," featured dynamic keynote speaker, award-winning author, and leadership coach, Dima Ghawi. The April 9, 2019, event was an emotional combination of personal stories and inspiring messages. Attendees left the event encouraged to shatter their "vases" of expectation and perfection and to embrace the beauty of their "cracks," the experiences and decisions that make them who they are.

## Diversity and Inclusion Training

This year, the League continued its focus on diversity and inclusion by further integrating D&I training into its meetings and existing training requirements. As part of its mission-based General Membership Meetings, the League focused on embracing inclusion and learning from individual experiences. From member testimonials to a trailblazer series, members heard how individuals can create opportunities for inclusion and overcoming biases. As a tangible reminder of the League's continued commitment to equipping its members to better serve in the community, the League increased cultural competency training through its community partners and instituted the requirement that all members participate in an annual training designed to ensure cultural competence. Finally, the League established a scholarship fund to confidentially assist those members for whom dues could serve as a barrier to continued membership.





# Connecting Communities

## DAY OF SERVICE

Chair: Ashley Wicks   Co-Chair: Lori Marshall



Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

On January 21, 2019, more than 500 volunteers donated their time and energy to the cause of serving others at the Junior League of Jackson's inaugural Connecting Communities Day of Service. In collaboration with Jackson Public Schools, Revitalize Mississippi, Operation Shoestring, HIS Heart Ministries at Calvary Baptist Church, Canopy Children's Solutions, and Stewpot, volunteers participated in 10 half-day projects throughout the Jackson metro area on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Unlike most League projects, where volunteers must be League members, the Connecting Communities Day of Service was designed to engage our greater community and provide service opportunities for our corporate sponsors, community partners, friends, family, and supporters. For those who could not volunteer their time, the League provided opportunities to donate money and supplies in support of the Day of Service.

*When I think of the Day of Service, the word 'impactful' comes to mind. Seeing the amount of donations made and the number of people willing to volunteer reminds us that most people want to help when and where they can. Watching our youngest volunteers deliver thank you notes and boxes of goodies to first responders was impactful. Hearing volunteers from several of the projects say, 'Next year we...' was impactful. The smiles, hugs, and seeing virtual strangers work together to improve the lives of others was impactful. The tears in the eyes of the Executive Director of Catholic Charities when we opened the U-Haul and she saw how much love was in our luggage donations—now, that was impactful.*

*-Ashley Wicks, Connecting Communities Day of Service Chair*

*"Our hope for this day was that our members, partners, and supporters would have an opportunity to create connections with one another while serving our community. In just one day, we were able to meet 10 specific needs in our community, but the connections made will last well beyond this one day of service."*

*-Meredith Aldridge,  
JLJ President*

**THANK YOU, FIRST RESPONDERS** – Approximately 130 volunteers as young as 5 years old wrote thank you notes to first responders. Children and teenagers then decorated boxes used to store almost 4,000 snacks for first responders, and the boxes and handwritten notes were delivered to police precincts and fire stations throughout the Jackson metro area.

**LUGGAGE OF LOVE** – Volunteers packed approximately 150 pieces of luggage with toiletries for foster children and victims of domestic violence in the Hinds County area. Additionally, nearly 900 bags of personal care items were packed and donated by volunteers.



**ART FROM THE HEART** – Volunteers as young as 12 cleaned the HeARTworks art studio and stocked and organized the art supplies. HeARTworks, an art ministry of Stewpot, provides Stewpot's clients with a creative outlet and opportunity to share their talents at an annual art show.

**KEEP DOWNTOWN JACKSON BEAUTIFUL** – More than 75 teenage volunteers cleaned the neighborhood surrounding Stewpot Community Services, which included landscaping, disposing of garbage, and cleaning building exteriors. Following the project, Stewpot teens had the opportunity to hear a message of perseverance and hope from Freedom Rider, Hezekiah Watkins.



**REVITALIZE WEST JACKSON** – Approximately 30 volunteers helped clean and landscape vacant lots near the Rosemont Community Park so that the area can later be converted to landscaped community space. Volunteers put out pine straw and participated in other gardening enhancements.

**FILL THE PIE** – Volunteers donated toiletry items and school supplies for the Jackson Public Schools' Partners in Education (PIE) store. Additionally, volunteers sorted and packaged school supplies and uniforms at the PIE store, which provides free classroom supplies to JPS teachers.



**POWER OF POSITIVITY** – Approximately 20 volunteers cleaned and painted the courtyard area outside the Jackson Public Schools District Office. JPS is one of the League's oldest community partners, and each year JLJ volunteers participate in multiple projects with JPS.

**SERVICE FROM THE HEART** – Volunteers cleaned, painted, and decorated the hallways and doors of the children's wing at Calvary Baptist Church. Volunteers also organized the tutoring and supply closets and made the spaces more functional and welcoming for children in the West Park Community.



**SPREAD A LITTLE SUNSHINE** – Volunteers painted inspirational messages on the walls at Canopy Children's Solutions, reinforcing the children's value and self-worth. Approximately 20 volunteers focused on personal, special touches to make a lasting impact on the Canopy residents' physical and emotional wellness. Canopy residents also received donated toiletry items.

**I WILL SURVIVE** – Designed just for JLJ volunteers, this project reinforced the notion that everyone has value and something to offer in support of our community. JLJ volunteers worked alongside local fourth and fifth-grade students to create survival kits and activity packs that were distributed to local community organizations.







## 2018-2019 Highlights

### SPRING LUNCHEON

The Junior League of Jackson's Spring Luncheon was held May 9, 2019, at the Country Club of Jackson. The annual event celebrated all of the work done by the League over the past year. As is tradition, at the end of the luncheon members watched the passing of the gavel from 2018-2019 JLJ President Meredith Aldridge to 2019-2020 President LaKeysha Greer Isaac.

The event also honored the life and legacy of the Amalie Fair Robinson Sustainer of the Year, Lori Ruffin Newcomb. Named in honor of the first president of the Junior League of Jackson, the Sustainer of the Year Award annually recognizes a Sustaining member who has visibly made a difference in the community through leadership and voluntarism. On hand to receive the award for Newcomb, a former JLJ Board member and Bargain Boutique chair who lost her battle with ovarian cancer earlier this year, were her husband Chris and three children, along with her parents and in-laws. Her daughter, Madison, accepted the award on behalf of the family.

### JLJ RECOGNIZED AS OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PARTNER

On January 24, 2019, the Junior League of Jackson received the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Mississippi's Volunteer of the Year Award. Specifically, the League was honored for its BGCCM Library Makeover Project. JLJ President Meredith Aldridge, along with project chair, Laura Elizabeth Tate, and co-chair, Lindy Brown, accepted the award on behalf of the League.

### CHAMPION OF DIVERSITY AWARD

In November 2018, the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Mississippi Chapter awarded the Junior League of Jackson with the Organizational Champion of Diversity Award. Accepting the award on behalf of the League was JLJ President Meredith Aldridge, who stated, "This award is a tangible reminder of the journey we have been on as an organization over the past few years that we hope—in fact, we know—is building a foundation for greater service, and a more meaningful impact on our members and our community."

### SALES TAX EXEMPTION

Each January, the Junior League of Jackson visits the Mississippi State Capitol to share its mission and accomplishments with our state's elected leaders. This year, Capitol Day had a special focus—the passage of a sales tax exemption bill. With bipartisan support, the bill passed the legislature, and on April 24, 2019, members of the JLJ Board of Directors attended a signing by Gov. Phil Bryant of Senate Bill 2955. Effective July 1, 2019, Senate Bill 2955 adds the Junior League of Jackson to a list of nonprofit entities that are exempt from state sales tax.

The League estimates that sales tax exemption will result in an average annual savings of \$55,000-\$60,000, which the League plans to invest directly back into the community. "We commend Gov. Bryant and the Mississippi Legislature for the passage of Senate Bill 2955," said JLJ President Meredith Aldridge. "The tax savings will allow the League to expand existing community initiatives and explore new opportunities to serve."



# Creating Connections Feedback Campaign

The Creating Connections Feedback Campaign was a multi-faceted opportunity for members to share feedback on a variety of governance and planning topics that affect the League and strengthen connections between members and planning. Feedback was used to implement the League's Strategic Plan and to plan for the future.



In preparation for year four of the five-year Strategic Plan, members were asked to share feedback on improved member engagement, sustainability of fund development efforts, and methods for effective community service. In keeping with the commitment to develop the potential of its members, the League solicited feedback on the tools, information, and training needed for leadership development, as well as ideas for promoting openness and transparency in the nominating and leadership selection processes.

To engage members, the League provided a variety of mediums to solicit feedback, including an online survey, two town halls with members of the League's Board of Directors, and real-time questions at General Membership Meetings using members' mobile devices, which was particularly popular. As a result of the feedback campaign, the League made a number of updates to its practices, policies, and Strategic Plan. Most notably, for the 2019-2020 League year, members will move from an hours-based placement requirement to a completion-based requirement, which the League hopes will create a more positive, effective impact on its membership by valuing members' time and commitments while promoting efficiency in the League's commitments to its community partners. Additionally, the League started a members-only blog for increased and diversified communication with its membership.

## Statement of Activities

### FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018

#### REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT

Membership Dues and Fines	\$137,404
JL Jumble	\$34,137
Mistletoe Marketplace 2017	\$1,176,632
Touch A Truck® Jackson	\$135,111
Other Revenue	\$79,015
Unrealized Gain on Investment	<u>\$58,141</u>

#### EXPENSES

Program Services	\$1,183,017
Membership Development	\$189,516
General and Administrative	\$238,292
Fundraising and Development	<u>\$108,908</u>

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u><u>\$1,719,733</u></u>
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<b>TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>	<u><u>\$1,620,440</u></u>
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<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<u><u>(99,293)</u></u>
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\*Figures reflect summarized amounts based on financial statements audited by Matthews, Cutrer and Lindsay, P.A. for the year ended May 31, 2018. A copy is available from the Junior League of Jackson.





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