

The Impact

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From the President

Dear Corporate Sponsor,

Over the course of the year, I have challenged the membership to "Be the Difference" in our work with JLJ, whether in the community or within the League. As I look at the work we have done, I am proud of the ways we have made a difference in the community around us and it is all made possible through your continued support of the Junior League of Jackson.

Our members were the difference in the community as we used the League's resources to work in our three impact areas of early literacy, children's health and social development to further our goal of increasing high school graduation rates in our community. Each project, aligned with one or more of the identified areas, strives to make the most of our efforts and resources to make a measurable impact on our community. From planning field trips and celebrating birthday parties for children with special needs, to redesigning living spaces, tutoring students living in foster care and serving up boxes of fresh foods to families in need, together we have made a tangible and lasting difference in the lives of those served.

In addition to improving our community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers, the Junior League of Jackson strives to develop the potential of women. We take pride in being the difference here

at home, in Jackson, and within our membership.

The Junior League of Jackson is one of the largest Leagues in the world thanks to our diverse and talented members. In an effort to be mindful and respectful of differences among our membership, and also among those we serve, the League has spent time and effort this year educating members to practice cultural competence. Our members also learned new skills through our series of Education and Training opportunities. Programs included topics from leadership opportunities within the League to sharing lessons in life skills and networking opportunities.

None of these opportunities to enrich our community or the lives of our members would be possible without your commitment and generous monetary sponsorships and services. The fundraising efforts of Mistletoe Marketplace, Junior League Jumble, Touch a Truck® Jackson, and Junior League of Jackson Productions directly support the mission of the League. Thanks to your commitment and over 50,000 volunteer hours, we were able to support over 30 community projects and touch countless lives. Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to strive to be the difference in our community. We could not do it without your support.

Gratefully,

Melanie Hataway, 2016-2017 JLJ President



Reach Night



Reach Day



Rockin' Mamas



Helping Hands



Food for Thought

A MESSAGE FROM A COMMUNITY PARTNER

Angela Compere, University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) Volunteer Coordinator, said the following about the Junior League of Jackson and its impact on UMMC: "Reach Day, Reach Night, Helping Hands, Rockin' Mamas II and Food for Thought are projects established by the Junior League of Jackson to serve families of Batson Children's Hospital. Volunteer Services is proud to have these ladies volunteer their time by interacting with children, rocking babies, hosting parties and providing special programs for our patients and families. If there is a supply need in the project area, we can count on them to provide necessary items. The impact these ladies have on the lives of others is immeasurable."

MIDTOWN BACKPACK AND SCHOOL PANTRY PROGRAM

Midtown Backpack & School Pantry Program's main goal is to relieve weekend hunger in children who live in the Midtown area of Jackson. We currently

retrieve their filled backpacks. The other children have no idea what is in the backpacks and assume it is books and homework. Once a month we also provide personal

"The backpacks are sent home with these elementary aged children each Friday, so they have food to help them make it through the weekend," says Chair Jean Bertas.

provide 100 backpacks to children at Brown Elementary and 50 to Johnson Elementary. Next year, we are adding an additional 50 backpacks to Johnson Elementary. These backpacks are filled weekly with nutritious food items, including fresh fruit, on Fridays during the school year. These children go to the nurse's office of their school at the end of the school day each Friday and

care items such as tooth brushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, brushes, socks, winter hats and gloves. We also try to include a fun treat for holidays: glow sticks for Halloween, Christmas coloring books, Valentine suckers, and chocolate bunnies for Easter.

We also launched a Pantry Program at Brown Elementary this year, added to meet the needs



for all family members of those children who receive backpacks, as well as allow our volunteers to interact with those we are serving. The Pantry aims to provide a fun, health-fair feel and is held on the first Tuesday of each month for all families of Brown Elementary students. It provides nutritional education as well as fresh produce and shelf-stable items such as beans, pasta, and canned goods. The Pantry has been a huge success and with plans to expand, which will include more League volunteers in the Pantry Program next year. Our community partner, MS Food Network, supplies the shelf-stable foods and the JLI volunteers provide fresh produce. For our last Pantry, in May, we are planning a big end of school party/ Pantry. There will be a photo booth for the kids, face painting, household items such as soap, detergent, sewing kits, first aid items provided along with the food. On average about 50 families come each

month, a number expected to increase next year

"The backpacks are sent home with these elementary aged children each Friday, so they have food to help them make it through the weekend," says Chair Jean Bertas. "That's tough to process, especially in this day and age where food seems so readily available. These are all our children and the future of Jackson, so I feel a great responsibility towards them. It is so rewarding to know that our project is making such an impact in the lives of these children. As long as there is the need, we will strive to meet it. None of our children should go hungry."



SHARE A BOOK WITH ME

Share a Book with Me aims to improve fluency, vocabulary and comprehension of third-grade students by conducting one-on-one reading sessions at Oak Forest Elementary School. The weekly interaction between the volunteer and the student is what makes this program successful. Reading aloud provides the student with new information and a positive role model, introduces rich vocabulary and a broader variety of books, and reinforces good grammar. In partnership with the Barksdale Reading Institute, volunteers are trained to work with students to improve reading skills for third grade students who began the school year reading below their expected grade level abilities.

Share a Book with Me (now known as Read More With My Buddy) is currently conducting a League-wide book drive so that students can be sent home with books. Many do not have access to reading material outside of school. The JLJ values early literacy and will continue to make strides in impacting the lives of children in Jackson. In May, a celebration was held to honor the students and all they achieved throughout the project. The children played games and made ice cream sundaes with the volunteers, and each child received two books to take home. The teachers were also given books for their classroom libraries.



“Research has shown that education is at the root of ending generational poverty. It is so important for women in our community to invest in the lives of the children so that they may live up to their potential. The time our volunteers spend with the students makes a huge impact on not only their education, but also over their self-esteem and well being.”
- Kaitlyn Vassar, Share a Book With Me Chair



JUNIOR LEAGUE JUMBLE

The Junior League of Jackson's third annual Junior League Jumble was held February 9-11, 2017. The event is one of the League's newest fund development events and community projects offered by the Junior League of Jackson.

The event involved 50 full-placed volunteers who collected, sorted and staged all donations for the Jumble. Donations to the Junior League of Jackson help raise money to support the mission of the League, as well as make items available at an affordable price to our community.

Jumble is an extremely heartwarming event where patrons can not only contribute to the fund raising by purchasing treasures during the events, but also witness individuals purchase necessary items that would otherwise not be available to them. Truly the ULTIMATE rummage sale, the Junior League Jumble includes furniture, appliances, home decor, adult and children's clothing and so much more. With over 61,000 square feet of space, an entire warehouse section was dedicated to furniture and the 'luxury Corner' added a new element to the event offering brand new items from local businesses at discount prices.

"This year's event was a great success," said Chair Angie Stallings. "We had a record number of items and attendees and were able to raise funds to support the mission of the Junior League of Jackson."



TOUCH A TRUCK® JACKSON

The Junior League of Jackson has had another successful year with Touch A Truck® Jackson! This year's event welcomed over 2,500 school children for Field Trip Friday, an event established in 2016. Field Trip Friday offers an opportunity for school groups to attend a pre general admission event with a JLJ volunteer who serves as a learning resource guide. The Handy Helper Program allows sponsors to donate admission for one classroom or student group of 25 children from the Metro Jackson area that might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend. Fifteen-hundred students, selected based on need, geographic location and transportation, were able to enjoy Touch A Truck® Jackson free of charge.

This year's Touch A Truck® Jackson was comprised of 47 exhibitors and 83 vehicles available for climbing and exploring throughout the two-day event. Touch A Truck® Jackson also hosted nine birthday parties on Saturday in the Farm Bureau Grill, located in the Mississippi Braves stadium. Cloudy Saturday morning skies gave way to sunshine, and crowds of families and children enjoyed this fun-filled experience.

"This event reaches so many people throughout the Jackson Metro community," said Patty Ann Bogue, 2016-2017 Touch A Truck® Jackson Promotions Chair. "Seeing the happy children and families was a reminder of the potential we have as League members to impact others by providing fun, unique outlets for exploration and learning all while advancing our mission as the Junior League of Jackson."



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A Message from the Incoming President



HEIDI NOEL 2017-2018 JLJ PRESIDENT

"The Junior League of Jackson is a committed group of women who are not content to sit still! We are already diligently planning and implementing plans for vital work we will continue into the 2017-18 League year," said Noel.

"We could not make such an impact in our community without your continued support. Thank you. We are truly grateful for you and excited to see all that we can continue to accomplish together!"

