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The Junior League of Houston, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

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CONTENTS
THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF HOUSTON, INC.

06  LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

08  LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

12  PASSING THE GAVEL

14  ADELAIDE LOVETT BAKER AWARD RECIPIENT
     DOROTHY ABLES

18  FOCUS AREA EVENTS

22  HURRICANE IDA RELIEF ASSISTANCE AND
     DONATION DRIVE-THRU

24  THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE UNVEILS
     THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY LOGO

26  DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION UPDATES

30  2021 - 2022 COMMUNITY PROJECTS

32  FEATURED COMMUNITY PARTNER: SEWELL

34  PROVISIONAL TRAINING & ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

36  100 YEARS LATER: THE 1940s

40  CELEBRATING THE LEAGUE'S 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY WITH
     HOUSTON ARBORETUM AND NATURE CENTER

42  GROUP MEETING SPOTLIGHT: HELPING FORMERLY
     INCARCERATED WOMEN TO BUILD BETTER LIVES

44  FALL TEA ROOM SPECIAL EVENTS

48  GROUP MEETING SPOTLIGHT:
     CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH WITH DEI

50  MEMBERSHIP EVENTS: ONE MEMBERSHIP

52  THE ROAD HOME: THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF HOUSTON
     CHARITY BALL SPONSORS

54  WHEN GOOD WORKS COME FULL CIRCLE: A FORMER TCH
     PATIENT GENEROUSLY DONATES TO JLH

56  ADVERTISER INDEX
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LETTER FROM THE
PRESIDENT

“Each new day is an opportunity to start afresh, to see each new day as an opportunity to embrace life’s events not fear what lies ahead.”
- BYRON PULSIFER

When we lived in Malaysia, my family lived on the 36th floor of a high-rise with floor to ceiling windows in all the rooms. From our living room, the constantly bright Petronas Towers and the hustle and bustle of the city down below poured through the windows at all times. From our kitchen on the other side of the high-rise, the view was more serene and contrary to the sight from the living room. Rolling hills were off in the distance and one-story embassies and low-rise condos filled the horizon.

It was my favorite place in the mornings. As my children were waking up for school in the darkness, the light would begin to break apart that black sky with the most gorgeous rays and colors. As I was hustling around getting kids dressed and backpacks packed, I would walk in and out of the kitchen and a sense of peace and calm would flow over me. I would stop for a moment and just take in the beauty of the sun rising to begin a new day. The beginning of a new day communicates hope that we can begin again. It is a fresh start and a positive mind shift that we can continue to take ONE step forward to becoming the person we strive to be.

Each new day is an opportunity to start afresh, to see each new day as an opportunity to embrace life’s events not fear what lies ahead.
- Byron Pulsifer

In March 2020, even though the sun did rise each day, for many of us, it felt like the darkness was still there. Children were learning from home, people were adjusting to working remotely, businesses were closed and toilet paper became a valuable commodity. Over the last 22 months, members of our community have adjusted differently, but this pandemic has definitely taken a toll on everyone.

Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened.
Happiness never decreases by being shared.
- Buddha

A glowing flame of a candle has the same effect of providing hope and optimism as the breaking rays of the sun at dawn. Each member of the League is serving as a candle this year shining its light and warmth throughout the Houston community and defying the darkness of the pandemic. Whether it is through the 33 community projects where our members our volunteering their time and the League is providing financial resources or through the Care & Concern Group where members are shining their light on other members struggling, the League is a beacon of hope as we all continue to take that ONE step forward.

The theme of the year is Power of ONE which exemplifies the exponential POWER we all have to affect someone else’s life through ONE act of kindness. As you peruse the stories in this magazine, you will appreciate the multiple examples of how our members have become the candle for others. By sharing this light with other members and our community, we solidify the foundation from which the League will build upon its values to serve and support each other coming out of this global pandemic.

It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve as the 98th President of the Junior League of Houston. As we approach our Centennial anniversary, I look forward to the year ahead with positivity, enthusiasm and the conviction that our members are the light affecting lasting change in the Houston community and beyond.

Jennifer Scheifley Roberts
President
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For more information about becoming an Ambassador, visit TexasChildrens.org/Ambassadors or call 832-824-6900.
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

“It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.”
~ Eleanor Roosevelt

It is fitting that Eleanor Roosevelt, a fellow Junior League member, would emphasize the idea of a simple, optimistic action illuminating the surrounding environment. This timely observation is descriptive of how the Junior League of Houston has navigated the challenges of the recent past and emerged stronger to enter the 2021 – 2022 League year.

I am proud of how the League has begun its 96th year in an optimistic spirit. In June, President Jennifer Scheifley Roberts challenged us to remember that we are ONE League with ONE mission. Her words were a welcome reminder of unity as members returned to gathering at the League building after spending much of the prior year meeting virtually and serving the Houston community by correspondence. As the year progresses, I am inspired by how the Junior League continues to stay the course in “Building A Better Community” by supporting 33 community projects.

This fall, the League contributed to this year’s focus area of Child Abuse/Neglect by hosting three events: a Childspree online back-to-school shopping event benefitting Child Advocates, a virtual diaper and sock donation drive for BEAR...BE A Resource for CPS Kids and a letter writing campaign where 10,000 handwritten notes of encouragement were distributed in backpacks at the Mayor’s annual Back to School Fest.

The League was called to action in September when Hurricane Ida made landfall in Louisiana. No strangers to hurricanes ourselves, League membership felt compelled to host a donation drive-thru event where necessary supplies were collected and distributed to our neighbors impacted by the storm.

This issue includes inspirational memories from the League’s past. The “100 Years Later” article series continues with an account of League members’ bold acts of national service during the trying war years of the 1940s. The Adelaide Lovett Baker Award story reflects on recipient Dorothy Ables’ innovative contributions to our League and to the Greater Houston community. Finally, this issue ends with a testament to the enduring legacy of the League’s Texas Children’s Hospital volunteers.

It is my honor to lead this publication from Singapore, where my husband and I have been seconded on a work project for the past two years. This issue has relied on exceptional communication across time zones from an outstanding team. Thank you to Melissa Midori Matsu, Sustainer Advisor, who is always available with wisdom, and to Kaylen Olwin, Assistant Editor, who went above and beyond to support this publication day and night. I would be remiss not to mention my appreciation for the constant encouragement offered by League leaders Elizabeth Roath Garcia, Sara-Nell Van Lant and Jennifer Scheifley Roberts.

This issue is dedicated to hope. Through a challenging time, the League has displayed determination and strength in the face of adversity by continuing to donate time and energy to worthy causes in the Greater Houston community. We have endured to gather again, more resilient with a future full of possibility.

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Houston News Editor
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The 2020 – 2021 year afforded the Junior League many opportunities to pivot in the face of challenging circumstances, while also embracing meaningful traditions, as exemplified by the May General Meeting. On Monday, May 26, 2021, the League held its first in-person general meeting since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, during which Rachel Podsednik Regan passed the gavel to Jennifer Scheifley Roberts, who became the 98th President of the Junior League.

Rachel and Jennifer served alongside each other over their many active years in the League. Reflecting on the momentous shifts that had to take place for her to lead the League during a global health crisis, Rachel noted that working alongside Jennifer was “one of the greatest blessings of [her] presidency” and is confident Jennifer will lead the Junior League with thoughtful intention and tremendous grace.

Likewise, Jennifer admires the positivity, care and strength in leadership that Rachel demonstrated while guiding the League.
through the COVID-19 pandemic. Rachel embraced her theme of “Imagine” to transform all aspects of the League from “business as usual” to innovative ways to connect members while continuing to serve the needs of the Greater Houston community.

Through the 2021 – 2022 theme “The Power of One—One Membership, One League, One Mission,” Jennifer is focusing on purposeful re-engagement of members and with the community. This theme highlights the exponential power that we all have to impact someone else’s life through one act of kindness. The cumulative effect of these individual efforts will enable the League to continue “Building A Better Community.”

Jennifer’s husband, Steve, has always been supportive of her steadfast commitment to the Junior League. Jennifer is also a mother to three daughters: Jordan (15), Blakely (13) and Kipling James (8). She believes her many years of service to the League, capped off by her presidency, will serve as an example for encouraging her daughters to give time and financial resources generously to organizations that matter to them. With her years of active service behind her, Rachel looks forward to more time with her husband, Tom, and children, Wynne (11) and Ella (8), while continuing to stay involved in the Houston community.

Rachel received a silver tray to acknowledge her dedication and service to the League. Rachel presented Jennifer with a custom-designed pendant commissioned by Tenenbaum Jewelers.
She is a shining light,
a proven leader
and a very worthy recipient
of the
Adelaide Lovett Baker Award
Since 2002, the Junior League of Houston’s Adelaide Lovett Baker Award has been given to a sustainer member who continues to make a broad-based impact on the community, and it is easy to see why Dorothy Mathias Ables has been named the 2020 – 2021 recipient. Following her presidency of the Junior League of Houston in 1998 – 1999, Dorothy has devoted her energy, caring heart and considerable leadership skills to a diverse array of Houston organizations including the Houston Methodist Foundation, Center for Houston’s Future, Greater Houston Community Foundation, Rice University’s Shepherd Society and Glasscock School of Continuing Studies. Several local groups have honored Dorothy with their highest awards for outstanding community service including Collaborative for Children, Bo’s Place and the United Way of Greater Houston. Change Happens! (formerly Families Under Urban & Social Attack) even founded an award in her name – the Dorothy Ables Making Change Happen Award.

“Making Change Happen” is a fitting description of Dorothy’s lasting legacy at the Junior League of Houston. Her presidential term made three innovations that League members still enjoy today: the annual Charity Ball came home to the League building, the League’s vital community endowment was established and the SuperKids Mobile Pediatric Unit for Texas Children’s Hospital was chosen as the League’s 75th anniversary gift to the community.

While acting as the Community Collaborations Chairman early in her League career, Dorothy’s committee identified an opportunity to support Families Under Urban & Social Attack or FUUSA (now Change Happens!) by providing safe, educational activities in neighborhoods in need. Her leadership through this initiative supported FUUSA’s mission to transform the lives of families and children in high-risk communities, such as Houston’s Third Ward. The League’s relationship with FUUSA continued for several decades.

Anna Babin, former CEO of United Way of Greater Houston (UWGH), worked closely with Dorothy for more than 15 years. Anna says about Dorothy, “I’ve never met anyone more tenacious. She is all in with hands and feet.” Choosing to invest her time and energy with UWGH because of its broad spectrum of funding for programs in the community and its self-created initiatives like Bright Beginnings, Dorothy has served on United Way’s Board since 2008 and its...
Dorothy was only the second woman in UWGH’s 100-year history to chair its annual community campaign during 2012 – 2013, which achieved record-setting results of more than $81 million. Dorothy also chaired and significantly expanded the UWGH’s major donor group called the Alexis de Tocqueville Society. In a clear demonstration of her fellow Board members’ respect, Dorothy was given the ultimate responsibility of leading the search committee for CEO Babin’s replacement. Reflecting on her experiences with Dorothy, Babin lauds Dorothy’s business acumen and analytical skills, calling her “a quick thinker and a problem solver,” and also emphasizes Dorothy’s compassion for the staff “who became part of her extended family.”

Frances Jeter met Dorothy when they were fellow League provisionals, then worked with her at Duke Energy and Spectra Energy during Dorothy’s 32-year tenure. Frances points out that Dorothy’s corporate career and her League career intersected to the mutual benefit of both, “The League was better, the company was better and the whole community was better.” With the company’s full support, Dorothy was one of the first League Presidents to serve in this leadership role while employed full-time. Frances notes, “It takes a unique individual who can balance all that and excel while bringing tremendous value to both organizations.”

Dorothy credits the Junior League with offering opportunities that benefitted her professionally sharing, “Training from the Junior League helped me succeed in my career. I did strategic planning for the JLH before I did it for the company. I basically received my MBA for free as President.” In Dorothy’s professional life, she was named by Houston Woman magazine as one of Houston’s most influential women, by the National Diversity Council as one of Texas’ most powerful and influential women, and by Texas Executive Women as a Woman on the Move. She also received Houston Business Journal’s Women in Energy Leadership Award. Dorothy retired as Spectra’s Chief Administrative Officer in 2017 and now serves on the corporate boards of Martin Marietta Materials and Cabot Oil & Gas.

“Dorothy is not just an astute businesswoman, she’s the whole package,” says Ann Stern, President and CEO of the Houston Endowment. “I have known Dorothy since college. We first worked together when she served as President-Elect and I was JLH President. She’s been a valued colleague and thought partner ever since. Dorothy is the real deal. She is smart, insightful and driven. She is also a caring, relentless optimist with a sly sense of humor. It’s a rare combination – and helps explain why so many people want Dorothy on their team.” Regarding Dorothy’s impact on the community, Stern notes, “Dorothy sees the big picture and she thinks long term. That’s why she’s so focused on early childhood education. She understands that children deserve a strong educational foundation in order to reach their full potential.”

Dorothy continues to be committed to the League and its mission by her willingness to be a mentor, advocate and role model for so many of its members. She is a shining light, a proven leader and a very worthy recipient of the Adelaide Lovett Baker Award.
If your time is better spent leading your charitable foundation than trying to administer it, then your schedule just opened up.
Child Advocates trains everyday people to advocate for the best interests of these children in court so they can find safe, permanent homes as quickly as possible. Child Advocates mobilizes court-appointed volunteers to break the vicious cycle of child abuse, speaks up for abused children who are lost in the system and guides them into safe environments where they can thrive.

Every August, in partnership with local Target stores in the Greater Houston Area, the Childspree event is held. Volunteers have the unique opportunity to assist the children served by Child Advocates with back-to-school shopping at a Target store serving as personal shoppers to help the children select school clothes and supplies.

Per CDC guidelines, Childspree pivoted to a virtual event this year. Starting the week of August 16, 2021, League volunteers were provided with a wish list and were able to shop online for the children. With the help of the League, CenterPoint Energy, Constellation and other sponsors, hundreds of children impacted by abuse or neglect received back-to-school clothes and a backpack full of school supplies for the 2021 – 2022 school year.

For more information on Child Advocates, visit www.childadvocates.org.

----- continued
DONATION DRIVE FOR BEAR...BE A RESOURCE FOR CPS KIDS

The number of children under the care of Child Protective Services (CPS) continues to rise in Harris County. In fact, at any given moment, there are 16,000 children involved in CPS-related cases, over 1,000 of which are removed from their homes under emergency situations.

This year, the League partnered with BEAR, a non-profit organization that provides emergency items to abused and neglected children under the care of CPS in Harris County. Many of the children are removed from their homes under emergency conditions with only the clothes on their backs. BEAR offers clothing, shoes, diapers, car seats, air mattresses and more to meet the immediate needs of these children. Last year alone, BEAR provided over 14,000 children with resources through this program.

In the League’s continued efforts to prioritize the health and well-being of our members and continue to provide comfort to children during uncertain times, the decision to offer a virtual donation opportunity for BEAR was made. The League collected diapers for children newborn through size six and socks of all sizes. Items were collected through Thursday, October 14, 2021, in the League building and during the September General Meeting.

For more information on BEAR, visit bearesourcehouston.org.

MAYOR’S BACK TO SCHOOL FEST

The Mayor’s Back to School Fest is designed to help economically-disadvantaged Houston-area elementary school students and their families as they prepare to return to school.

Following CDC guidelines, this year’s event was a drive-thru distribution of 25,000 backpacks filled with supplies to families in need. In addition to the backpacks, the Mayor’s Office and the Houston Food Bank provided food and face masks to families and students.

League members wrote 10,000 handwritten cards filled with words of encouragement and placed them into the backpacks before the event. This thoughtful surprise for students offered a show of support as they return to school during this challenging time.
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Over the years, the city of Houston has faced its share of natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods and winter storms, and our neighbors in Louisiana have always shown their support for us. When Hurricane Ida hit Louisiana, Junior League of Houston members knew it was our time to give back to a community that has supported us during our own hardships.

On Saturday, September 18, 2021, the League hosted the Hurricane Ida Relief Assistance and Donation Drive-Thru event. The event gave members the opportunity to donate personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, paper goods and first aid kits. IMPACT volunteers painted banners and helped decorate the breezeway with balloons. Donors were welcomed with music and smiles as volunteers unloaded donations, including hurricane preparedness kits provided by the League’s Community Partner, Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital. Provisionals, actives and sustainers stopped by to contribute items and shared stories on the importance of giving back and how thankful they were that the League was hosting the event. Members who were unable to attend the drive-thru event ordered items from the Amazon Wish List.

For this event, the League partnered with Houston Responds, a disaster response coalition that focuses on providing compassionate care and home repair for disaster survivors and helps to support long-term recovery efforts. All of the items donated in the drive-thru event and Amazon Wish List were collected by Houston Responds for distribution to impacted areas in Louisiana.

The reaction and implementation of the Hurricane Ida Relief Assistance event by our members is a testament to the League’s value of encouraging innovative responses to the needs of members and the community. Thanks to the generosity of our membership, we were able to provide support and comfort to our friends in Louisiana during this difficult time.
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Rebecca, inspiring mom, actress and fertility warrior

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1925 marked an exciting time of change. That year, Calvin Coolidge started his first full term as president, Charlie Chaplin was entertaining America and The Great Gatsby was published. Waistlines disappeared in fashion with the rise of shift dresses, women could now vote and Ma Ferguson was elected as the first female governor of Texas. The average life expectancy for a woman was 60 years.

Houston was bustling with the recent openings of Hermann Park, the Houston Zoo and Memorial Hermann Hospital. Recognizing this environment for opportunity and the burgeoning need for societal support for women and children, 12 women joined together to form the Junior League of Houston.

Since its founding in 1925, The Junior League of Houston, Inc. has built an exemplary record of charitable achievement. The founding women had the foresight to create something lasting and impactful for the next century and beyond – something meaningful for both the Houston community and the individual members.

In 2025, the Junior League of Houston will celebrate its Centennial Anniversary and “A Century of Building A Better Community,” a milestone that deserves to be celebrated in a big way. The Junior League of Houston has established a tradition of
honoring important anniversaries with a balance of celebration and philanthropy and plans to commemorate this occasion are underway.

The 2021 – 2022 Centennial Anniversary Committee is charged with planning centennial year celebrations as well as identifying a large gift to the community. The gift will align with the League’s mission and provide a strong community impact. After a rigorous selection process, the centennial gift will be announced at the May 2022 General Meeting.

To commence celebrations for the League’s big anniversary, the Centennial Anniversary Committee hosted a social hour before the September General Meeting on Monday, September 27, 2021. The occasion marked the official launch of the Centennial website and celebrated the unveiling of the Centennial logo, generously designed by Limb Design.

The logo design pairs the traditional Junior League logo, a tribute to those women who have guided the League over the last hundred years, with the modern infinity symbol. The infinity symbol represents how the League’s past, present and future are linked, with no limit to what the League and its members are able to accomplish. The bold red reflects strong action taken throughout the history of the League, affecting change across generations and the love that League members hold for the Houston community.

Over light bites, provisionals, actives and sustainers had the opportunity to socialize and reflect on the League’s upcoming milestone. The Tea Room was decorated with red and white flowers with gold balloons, custom napkins and incredible archival photos from across the decades featuring key events, community gifts and local Houston community contributions.
“We are thrilled to officially kick off celebrations for the League’s upcoming Centennial Anniversary,” said Mary Lee Wilkens, Centennial Anniversary Chairman. “Throughout the remainder of the League year, the Committee will focus on the significant task of identifying a Centennial Community Gift and mapping out a public engagement and fundraising campaign to launch in 2022.”

The Centennial Anniversary Committee is also collecting stories and visual memories about its members’ time with the organization. Whether recounting memories formed, connections made, experiences lived or lessons learned, the Centennial Anniversary Committee invites you to share how the Junior League of Houston has impacted you. These stories will be communicated to League members and within the Houston community, the AJLI community and beyond. To share your Centennial story, please visit www.jlh.org/centennial/.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

Mary Lee Wilkens, Centennial Anniversary Chairman, at centennial@jlh.org.

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DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION UPDATES

by: Angie Walker Curtis, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Communications Manager and Wendy Lewis Armstrong, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director

LET’S INTRODUCE THIS AMAZING TEAM OF MEMBERS WITH A PASSION FOR CONTINUING TO ADVANCE THE LEAGUE’S EFFORTS FOR INCLUSION.

Have you heard about the Junior League of Houston’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) updates and activities happening this year? In case you missed it, in January 2021, the Board of Directors voted to approve the Strategic Planning Committee’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Study, including 31 recommendations. Highlights include elevating the DEI Chairman role to Director, adding four DEI Managers (Community, Communications, Training and Development), adding a Workgroup, including two sustainers and two actives to review League policies with a DEI lens and establishing inclusive policies.

Everyone loves a good theme to help guide the idea and goals of an initiative! The 2021 – 2022 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director, Wendy Lewis Armstrong, chose the theme, Open Hearts, Open Minds, for League members to reflect on for the year. The goal is to encourage leadership and members to challenge DEI to be relatable (Open Hearts) and understandable (Open Minds).

When asked why she accepted this role, Armstrong said, “We are products of our diverse life experiences and, as League members, we want to feel welcomed, heard, valued and respected. I accepted this role for personal development and the opportunity to work with other women in the DEI space. Learning to be inclusive leaders and members is a journey and I hope to cultivate a safe space for continuous development. Life is complicated enough, so when we volunteer, just remember to be kind to each other.”
THE DEI WORKGROUP IS TAKING THIS YEAR TO ASSESS THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FORMULATE ACTIONABLE, ACHIEVABLE MILESTONES FOR THE FOLLOWING 17 RECOMMENDATIONS:

2020-2021 DEI STUDY
ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVED RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTED IN THE STUDY, AS SUMMARIZED BELOW:

+ Active members acknowledge policies
+ Review Code of Conduct with DEI lens
+ Review Values and Diversity and Inclusion Statement
+ Creation of a Non-Discrimination Policy & Standards Policy
+ Establish an incident response process
+ Elevate DEI role to Director and addition of four DEI Manager Roles:
  = Communications
  = Community
  = Development
  = Training
+ Establish DEI Workgroup with noncredit positions for actives (2) and sustainers (2)
+ Implement additional DEI training for councils, provisionals, transfers and leaders
+ Thoroughly review/revise & train members on the updated League’s Cultural Competency Guidelines
+ 1 General Meeting dedicated to a DEI topic
+ 4 - 6 Alternative Group Meetings on DEI topics
+ Incorporate DEI in Leadership Institute Training
+ League participation in 1+ external community-based cultural event(s)
+ Recruitment activities with DEI lens
+ Acknowledge religious and cultural holidays
+ Create member interest groups
+ Establish a “wellness room”

“INCLUSION IS THE ACT OF CREATING ENVIRONMENTS IN WHICH ANY INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP CAN BE AND FEEL WELCOMED, RESPECTED, SUPPORTED AND VALUED TO FULLY PARTICIPATE.”

Taking a step back, it is key to reference the following definitions noted on page 22 of AJLI’s 2017 document, Advancing Diversity and Inclusion By Design: A Guide for Building Vibrant Junior Leagues.

Diversity refers to differences among people based on race, ethnicity, age, culture, religion, systems of thought and approaches, ability, experience, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status and other characteristics.

Equity is the fair treatment of all people, ensuring that everyone has access to the resources and opportunities that they need in order to thrive. Equity (as distinct from “equality,” or treating everyone the same way) recognizes that barriers have prevented the full participation of some groups, and strives both to eliminate those barriers and to address their effects, by increasing the fairness of policies and resource distributions within institutions and systems.

Inclusion is the act of creating environments in which any individual or group can be and feel welcomed, respected, supported and valued to fully participate. An inclusive and welcoming climate embraces differences and offers respect in words and actions for all people. It’s important to note that while an inclusive group is by definition diverse, a diverse group isn’t always inclusive. (Source: Independent Sector)

People tend to use Diversity and Inclusion interchangeably, but it is important to note the difference. As Dr. Steven Jones, a recognized leader in diversity, equity and inclusion, puts it, “Diversity is counting heads; Inclusion is making heads count.”
COMMUNITY PROJECTS

by: Natalie Varela Bennett, Community Communications Manager

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF HOUSTON CONTINUES ITS MISSION OF “BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY” BY COMMITTING VOLUNTEERS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ITS COMMUNITY PROGRAM.

THE LEAGUE’S COMMUNITY PROGRAM COMPRISSES COMMUNITY PROJECTS, COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS, EMERGENCY/CONTINGENCY GRANTS AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS.

T he ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has continued to present challenges during the 2021 – 2022 League year. As the Delta variant made waves in the area, a number of agencies continued to limit volunteers onsite, while others required that volunteers provide proof of a COVID-19 vaccine. Despite these obstacles, the Junior League remains dedicated to the community by proactively making adjustments allowing volunteers to make an inspiring impact.

The League remains in contact with each of the agencies and has determined a number of community placements, such as Ronald McDonald House Houston and Bo’s Place, to transition to IMPACT placements for the 2021 – 2022 year. Renamed “IMPACT” in the 2020 – 2021 League year, this placement was formerly known as Done In A Day and Ready Hands. This placement grew exponentially during the pandemic as it gave members the opportunity to support community placements with flexible volunteer shifts.

While a handful of community agencies have converted to IMPACT placements, Pen Pals is excited to welcome three new schools for the 2021 – 2022 League year. Adding Pen Pals at Wesley Elementary, Red Elementary and Woodsend Elementary allows the League to increase the number of volunteers in this placement.

As a community, the Junior League of Houston continues to pave the road to a new normal and the Board of Directors understands the importance of flexibility for its members. While the provisional requirements were reduced to 21 hours for the 2020 – 2021 year, for 2021 – 2022 it has increased to 24 hours, while active members complete 40 hours, an increase from the 30 hours required last year.

The League currently supports 33 community projects. Each project falls within one of five Community Impact Committees – Culture and Enrichment, Education and Mentorship, Family Support, Health and Well-Being and Neighborhood Outreach.
### CULTURE AND ENRICHMENT
- Children’s Museum of Houston
- Holocaust Museum Houston
- Houston Arboretum & Nature Center
- Houston Museum of Natural Science
- Houston Zoo
- The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

### EDUCATION AND MENTORSHIP
- Books Between Kids
- ChinquaPals – Chinquapin Preparatory School
- DePelchin Children’s Center
- Pen Pals
- Picture Pals – The Westview School
- Star of Hope

### FAMILY SUPPORT
- BEAR…BE A Resource for CPS Kids
- Bo’s Place
- Casa de Esperanza de los Niños
- Child Advocates, Inc.
- Houston Area Women’s Center
- Kids’ Meals
- Ronald McDonald House Houston

### HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
- AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc.
- Baylor Teen Health Clinic
- Camp for All 2U
- Camp Janus
- Camp Rainbow – American Diabetes Association
- Texas Children’s Hospital
- The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

### NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH
- CPR
- Dress for Success Houston
- Houston Food Bank
- IMPACT
- Project C.U.R.E.
- Sing Along with Seniors (SAWS)
- VIEW (Volunteers In Evening Workshop)

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**OUR SUCCESS IS BANKING ON YOURS.**

We take pride in being a part of this community and are truly invested in your success.

Houston Private Banking Team

[From L] Jennifer Hart, Anne O’Conor, Hank Holmes, Mary Katherine Franklin and Susan Lawrence
Sewell Automotive Companies is proud to support the Junior League of Houston’s commitment to community service, voluntarism and the advancement of leadership opportunities for women.

Sewell has been a community partner to the Junior League of Houston for over 10 years. Over the years, the monetary contributions provided by Sewell Automotive Companies have helped to fund the extensive outreach that League members provide to the Houston Community. In addition to its financial support, Sewell Automotive Companies hosts an educational group meeting as part of the Junior League’s Training and Education Program and is a steadfast supporter of the League’s largest fundraising event, Charity Ball.

Sewell represents Audi (3), BMW (2), Buick, Cadillac (4), GMC, INFINITI (3), Jaguar, Land Rover, Lexus (2), Mercedes-Benz and Subaru, with locations in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Grapevine, Houston, McKinney, Plano, San Antonio and Sugar Land.
THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF HOUSTON INC.
WOULD LIKE TO
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The Woman’s Hospital of Texas
HCA Houston Healthcare

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Presenting Automotive Partner

Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital

COMMUNITY CHAMPION
KENDRA SCOTT
When a career opportunity brought provisional member Bonnie Tibbs to Houston, she found the Junior League of Houston appealing for several reasons, “I liked that the Junior League has connections with organizations across Houston, offering varied experiences and opportunities to empower myself, grow, learn, mature and explore new skill sets,” she said. “Also, being new to Houston, the opportunity to network and make Houston feel more like home was appealing.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered the way this year’s provisional class will experience their introduction to the League. Despite the changes and with the help of Provisional Chairman Michelle Esparza and Provisional Mentors, connections are being made and provisional members’ desire to get plugged into the League and to serve Houston remains strong.

Though this year may not look like others, one thing is certain; the League has continued to display an ability to adapt and provisionals continue to find a place to belong and serve their community. While the coming year may hold uncertainties, Michelle strives to achieve one thing for the provisionals, “My goal for the year more than anything is for people to have confidence that where they are spending their time is valuable. I hope they find that value in the Junior League of Houston and in the time they commit to this endeavor.”

Meeting other new members has always been a critical part of the provisional experience. As a result of the past 18 months, the prospect of connection to others has been something that provisionals have been the most excited about. Over 100 provisional members were in attendance at the Summer Engagement Event which was held
simultaneously in-person and virtually. Provisionals participated in a craft activity that helped them envision a path forward and discussed a set of prepared questions. The signs of success were apparent to Michelle as she observed provisional members eagerly exchanging contact information and solidifying new friendships.

Bonnie attended the event virtually and described similar successes, "On the Zoom call, we were broken out into small groups to discuss questions. Everyone was committed to being involved with the activity and the questions." She feels that authentic connections were made virtually and while the hybrid meeting model is still relatively new, attitudes are positive. Bonnie looks forward to seeing those she met at the virtual event in person and mentioned that she is proud of the flexibility she has observed from the League.

Provisional Mentors like Yemi Brown volunteer for this role in addition to their League placement and are ready to assist and guide provisionals. Yemi describes the role of a mentor as being available for those who may be struggling to build a League network and "[helping to] facilitate a better connection and [therefore] a better provisional year for that person [to] ensure that they can fulfill their passions within the League."

Yemi attended the Summer Engagement Event to provide "a friendly face and familiar voice" for her mentees as the event was the first time for them to visit the League building. Thanks to the efforts of League leadership and the Provisional Mentors, the provisional class will continue towards a successful year with a foundation of new friendships and support beneath them.

...the League has continued to display an ability to adapt and provisionals continue to find a place to belong and serve their community."
League members in the 1940s epitomized the Junior League of Houston’s mission statement of “promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.” In the fall of 1941, it was becoming increasingly likely that the U.S. would enter the Second World War. Just one year before, Congress passed the Selective Service and Training Act, the nation’s first peacetime draft. League members were bracing for the possibility that their husbands and brothers would be pressed into military service, and they would fill their days with important civilian service.

In her final column, 1940 – 1941 League President Laura Kirkland Bruce had called on members to be a steadying and helpful presence, “We must keep our heads while war hysteria grows daily….Some of our tasks seem neither noble nor glorious, but they are part of a program planned to be of service to people around us….and we will respond” (Junior League News, June 1940). Just as present-day League members have responded to catastrophic storms and a global pandemic by volunteering our time and resources, League members of the 1940s answered the call.

For most, it meant pitching in with the Red Cross and other initiatives to support drives and relief efforts in Houston. Quite a few members took full-time jobs with the federal Office of Price Administration, Hughes Tool Company and Reed Roller Bit. Many League members volunteered their time to the Red Cross Motor Corps and Production Room, women’s division of county-wide defense bond drives, and famously, the Women’s Army Corps (WAC). For one League member, Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, it would mean taking on a national leadership role.

The first article, aptly titled, “Oveta Culp Hobby” from the October 1941 edition of Houston News, describes Hobby’s role in the early part of the war. Admitted as the League’s first professional member in 1933, Hobby trained provisional members on parliamentary procedure during the 1930s and delivered speeches to Leagues throughout the region on the political process. Hobby gained national accreditation as the head of the Women’s Interest Section in the War Department’s Bureau of Public Relations and later, Colonel of the WAC. Through this corps and Hobby’s steadfast nature to the cause, WAC volunteers often were able to complete the same amount of work as two men in certain tasks (Texas State Historical Association, 2021). Hobby’s efforts and wide-spread backing from women looking to support the troops filled over 239 jobs, over 185 more than what was originally slated by Congress (Texas State Historical Association, 2021). As such, Hobby was the first woman awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for outstanding service in the Army.

Once relieved of her Army duties, Hobby resumed her career as director of Houston’s KPRC radio and KPRC-TV
Junior League Members Strive Earnestly to Do More Than Their Part

Society—by Grace Callow

While War Time Duties Occupy Larger Part of Women's Time, Social Events Continue to Lend Interest

A committee of 11 Houston women met Thursday at the Houston Club to plan for the opening of the air raid warning service center now being established in Houston. Also attending the meeting was Lt. James L. Whitcomb, officer in charge of the center here. Shown, left to right, are Mrs. George Bruce, Jr., Miss Nina Callinan, Mrs. W. G. Safford, Mrs. Robert A. Hill, Mrs. Telford Jones, Lieutenant Whitcomb, Mrs. Henry Lee Barfield, Mrs. Alan Callaway, Mrs. Frederick B. Asche, Mrs. W. H. Leslie and Mrs. Otto Hart.
and executive vice president of the Houston Post. She also served on the boards of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Houston Symphony Orchestra and co-chair of the local Armed Forces Day. By 1953, she was back in Washington, tapped by President Eisenhower to serve as the first Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, a cabinet level position.

Throughout her career, Hobby promoted women and diversity, writing “The rule of thumb is a simple one. Regard each man, each woman, as an individual…Like or dislike a person for his own intrinsic qualities, not because he belongs to a different race or subscribes to a different religion. Dignify man with individuality.” (Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson, 2012). Hobby is quoted in the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. stating, “Women who stepped up were measured as citizens of the nation, not as women. This was a people’s war and everyone was in it.”

The second article titled, “Our Versatile Members,” was a semi-regular column in Houston News used to highlight League members who were going above and beyond their placements to serve the community. The January 1942 edition describes just a few of the efforts by League members in the Houston area. Three League members who volunteered with the Red Cross Motor Corps, Frances Heyk, Lennie Hunt and Madge Hight, drove an average of 75 to 100 miles per day transporting the sick and wounded, moving supplies and delivering volunteers and nurses to and from their posts. These three women also completed advanced first aid courses and an auto mechanics course to make automotive repairs on their own. The Red Cross organization covered over 61 million miles answering nine million calls during the war effort (The American Red Cross, 2021).

In addition to work with the Motor Corps, 50 League members pitched in to help with the Red Cross
War Relief Drive. League members also volunteered for the Red Cross Production Room where they focused on making or repairing clothing, preparing surgical dressings and assembling comfort kits. Beyond the Red Cross, League members served in leadership roles with the Civil Defense Volunteer Office and organized numerous war bond drives. In hearty agreement with Hobby, the Junior League of Houston mantra was, "Let us act. Let us as women enlist for the duration....

Count the day lost which you have not shared with the defense effort."  

Citation:


The Junior League of Houston is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its partnership with Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, which has been dedicated to providing free education about the natural environment to the community since 1967. Starting in 2011, nature-loving League members have enjoyed community-focused placements at the Arboretum which have evolved over the years to reflect its changing needs.

League member Kate Pagel enjoys the Arboretum placement so much that she served as Chairman twice during 2013–2014 and 2019–2020. Pagel related how the League was fortunate to continue its partnership with the Arboretum through the pandemic. “Our year was cut short by the pandemic, but we were able to help with Arboretum events. The Arboretum is an absolute gem to work with, and they love teaming with our volunteers. It is very rewarding work to share the great outdoors with kids that do not get a lot of exposure to nature and science,” she said.

The Arboretum utilized downtime during the pandemic to renovate its building. Visible changes to the center include the opening of a new volunteer lounge and the renovation of the Discovery Room. “The Discovery Room has historically been a popular volunteer location for Junior League members,” said Arboretum employee Christine Mansfield.

The 2021–2022 League year offers more opportunities to volunteer with the Arboretum than any previous year before. Current Arboretum Chairman Kelley Stair has been involved with the Arboretum placement for four years and notes that League members in this placement have a variety of options when selecting shifts. “The Arboretum has activities almost every Tuesday through Friday from 8 to 11 a.m. and many events on the weekends. There are weekly events throughout the year and many summer programs,” she said.
Our Pediatrix subspecialists located throughout Houston are proud to provide a coordinated and individualized plan of care for each patient’s unique diagnosis. We deliver a multidisciplinary approach from a team offering expertise and experience in providing care for children with common or complex conditions.

Our specialists partner with the patients and their families entrusted to our team, provide exceptional patient care and strive to achieve the best possible outcome. We look forward to the opportunity to provide care for your child.

“...I developed an interest in pediatric surgery during my embryology lectures in medical school, where I was able to see how an issue with development in pregnancy could be fixed with a surgical procedure in infancy. I love that the field of pediatric surgery involves a wide range of patient experiences, from the infant with an anatomic anomaly that needs correction to the teenager with more common surgical problems. I can meet some of my patients the day they are born and follow them as they recover from their surgeries and grow into bigger babies and then older children. The ability to help children and their families navigate both minor surgical issues and complex conditions that may require multiple operations is incredibly rewarding.”

Sara Fallon, M.D., MS
Pediatric Surgeon
Pediatrix Surgeons of Houston

Learn more about our multiple pediatric subspecialty practices throughout Houston

Pediatrix Surgeons of Houston
PediatrixHouston.com

Children’s ENT of Houston
ChildrensENTHouston.com

Children’s Cardiology Associates of Houston
CCA-Houston.com
Did you know that nearly half of formerly incarcerated women in Texas will return to prison within one year? It is a staggering statistic that local organization Angela House has been working to change for two decades by empowering ONE woman at a time.

In August, The Junior League of Houston, Inc. hosted a group meeting where attendees learned about the challenges formerly incarcerated women face as they re-enter society. Kristin Guiney, a representative of Angela House, discussed the rehabilitative services the organization provides to help its residents build better lives for themselves.

Angela House, a transitional living facility, provides a safe, homelike atmosphere along with clothing, employment training, mental health and substance recovery programs, as well as other resources to empower the women to be self-sufficient members of society. “We believe there’s a direct correlation between the length of stay at Angela House and preventing recidivism. We are showing them we care and teaching them the tools they need to have a productive life,” said Guiney.

Residents are required to commit to the program for four months, but most stay for nearly a year, and the program has an 83 percent success rate at preventing reincarceration. “Everyone has a deep desire to be valued. The power of one is impactful, but when individuals come together, they have the power to change outcomes,” said Guiney.

You can learn more about Angela House and ways to get involved, including volunteering or purchasing items from the Amazon Wish List, by visiting their website at www.angelahouse.org.
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Meals with Malcolm

On Thursday, September 30, 2021, long-time Tea Room General Manager Malcolm Rowland welcomed Junior League members and patrons back into the Tea Room for one of the League's most cherished events - Meals with Malcolm. After being greeted with music upon arrival, Rowland took attendees' taste buds on a tour of food and wine from around the world, sharing descriptions along the route. The five-course meal, featuring food and wine pairings from France, Italy, Spain, Argentina and the US, included shrimp risotto with an Italian Pinot Grigio, braised veal with an Argentinian Malbec and a raspberry creme brûlée enjoyed with a glass of rosé champagne from the Napa Valley. It was a special evening as many came back to the League for the first time in over a year and celebrated being together at this beloved annual event.
Fall Festival

Junior League members, patrons and kids of all ages donned their favorite autumn attire and enjoyed cooler temperatures at the Junior League of Houston’s Fall Festival on Sunday, October 10, 2021. The Tea Room Garden and Ballroom were filled with games and activities, including coloring and crafts, while the courtyard was transformed into a pumpkin patch complete with pumpkins ripe for perfect fall photos. Attendees enjoyed a full menu with fall favorites such as pumpkin bread pudding, pumpkin cinnamon rolls and the famous JLH orange rolls. The music, food and pumpkins set the perfect atmosphere to step into fall at the League.
Over 18 months had passed since a Bubbles & Brunch was hosted at the Junior League of Houston as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The League favorite returned to its home in the Tea Room on Sunday, November 14, 2021, filled with friendly faces, laughs and JLH brunch favorites. As soon as the doors to the Tea Room opened, tables began to fill, champagne bottles were popped and mimosas were mixed as the joy of gathering over brunch was experienced once again. This fall’s Bubbles & Brunch featured an informal style show from Houston boutique: Tootsies. Join the Junior League of Houston for the next Bubbles & Brunch scheduled for Sunday, April 24, 2022, with reservations opening on Monday, February 3, 2022.
THE FAL LLC TEA ROOM MENU IS NOW AVAILABLE!

Join the Junior League of Houston for its remaining Fall Tea Room Special Events! To check for available reservations, call the Tea Room Front Office at 713.871.6673.

"THERE IS ALWAYS LIGHT. IF ONLY WE’RE BRAVE ENOUGH TO SEE IT. IF ONLY WE’RE BRAVE ENOUGH TO BE IT."
- AMANDA GORMAN

Please join us in the Tea Room to dine on familiar favorites like the J.L.H Taco Salad and Friday Fried Chicken.

Fabulous fall offerings include Chicken Schnitzel, Enchiladas de Espinaca and more!

Call 713.871.6673 for reservations
Wednesday – Friday 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Saturdays 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

VIEW THE NEW FALL MENU
The Junior League of Houston’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Workgroup kicked off the 2021 – 2022 League year with a celebratory commemoration of the newly recognized federal holiday, Juneteenth.

Juneteenth, which is a blend of June and 19th, marks the day that the Emancipation Proclamation was recognized in Texas – June 19, 1865. This date was two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the proclamation and two and a half months after the end of the American Civil War.

The League partnered with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Texoma Region and hosted a group meeting on Thursday, June 10, 2021, to watch their inaugural celebration. The event themed, Paying Tribute to The Journey, featured a keynote given by Kelly Elaine Navies, Museum Specialist Oral Historian with the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

The event focused on the historical context of Juneteenth as well as the significance of the battle for equality and justice for African Americans. Members were able to learn what Juneteenth means to different people and the history of the news of freedom arriving in Galveston, Texas. Members also enjoyed creative expressions of spoken word poetry and a celebratory montage of historic photos highlighting Juneteenth festivities and African American history.

Lastly, the celebration showcased Galveston’s new Juneteenth mural created by Houston native Reginald C. Adams. The landmark mural, entitled Absolute Equality, marks the spot where slavery was abolished in Texas.

Source: Reginald C. Adams

The event is available for replay and reflection on the historical elements at https://youtu.be/n7C4MW7BMuE.

In keeping with the same spirit of celebration, future group meetings will highlight the heritage and contributions of Hispanic Americans; Native American and Indigenous People; and Asian American and Pacific Islanders. Once posted, members can sign up for these group meetings on their Member Homepage. We hope to see you in attendance.

If you have any suggestions, comments, concerns or opportunities, please email inclusion@jlh.org. This is a direct and confidential way to provide constructive feedback, share ideas to shape the League’s future and to communicate with the DEI Workgroup.
DEI is a league-wide initiative as every member desires to feel welcomed, respected, supported and valued. Let’s all continue to strive to be respectful of others with open hearts and open minds.

Celebrating Juneteenth with DEI
By: Angie Curtis, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Manager - Communications and Wendy Lewis Armstrong, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director

The Junior League of Houston’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I) Workgroup kicked off the 2021 – 2022 League year with a celebratory commemoration of the newly recognized federal holiday, Juneteenth.

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COME ON BY THE PANTRY, Y’ALL!
The Pantry features frozen dinners and fresh bakery items prepared in the Tea Room Kitchen. Care packages and catering orders are also available.

Please call 713.622.5965 to check inventory or to place an order. The Pantry is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.
MEMBERSHIP EVENTS:

ONE MEMBERSHIP

by: Natalie Varela Bennett, Community Communications Manager

As the League embarks on a new year, members did not waste time embracing President Jennifer Scheifley Roberts’ annual theme, One Membership. On Thursday, June 10, 2021, the League kicked off the new year with the first membership engagement event, a Summer Soiree. Members were welcomed back into the League building to enjoy light bites and drinks while the 2021 – 2022 theme was revealed, Power of ONE. For many League members, this was the first time back in the building since the pandemic started, while others were experiencing their first in-person event. The Summer Soiree set the tone of One Membership by providing an opportunity for members to gather in-person. As the League moves forward, adjusting to our new normal, we must remember that we are stronger together and continue to be ONE Membership.

“THOSE WHO TAKE ACTION HAVE A DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT. THE POWER OF ONE IS TO MOVE MANY.”

- ELIZABETH MAY
SUCCULENT POTTING PARTY

On Thursday, July 29, 2021, members had the opportunity to grow their gardening skills by attending a Succulent Potting Party in the Ballroom. The second membership engagement event of the League year continued to draw on the theme of One Membership. The Succulent Potting Party was initially scheduled to be in the Board Room. However, due to strong interest, the event was relocated to a larger space giving League members a fun-filled night with other members while designing their succulent pot. The Membership Committee continues to plan events that allow its members to feel truly unified as One Membership.

The Junior League apologizes for any errors or omissions in this listing. This listing is as of November 11, 2021.

Southern Live Oak
CenterPoint Energy / Megan and Jason Ryan
Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital
Jennifer and Steve Roberts

Mossy Oak
CIEL Restaurant + Lounge

Willow Oak
The Kelye and Cynthia Stites Family Foundation
Walter Oil & Gas Corporation Charitable Fund
Winhoven Group

Post Oak
Amy Dunn Comiskey / Lauren Gates / Natalie and David Gonzalez / Elizabeth and Corey Kendrick / Amanda and Bill Pritchett / Laura Rickaway / Amy and Clint Strickland
Amy and Kevin Comiskey / Beth and Nick Zdeblick
Sarah and Cody Davidson / Lauren and Adam Freitag / Anne Sears and Bill Peltier / Mr. and Mrs. Edward Booth Shouse / Sara-Nell and John Van Lant
Ashlyn and Ryan Hanna / Courtney and Brian Huskinson / Chelsea Johnson / Anaam and Trey Zamorano
Kate and Peter Hays / Judy and William Peterson / Emily and Jonathan Shushtar / Margie and Daniel Sutton /

Overcup Oak
Shems “Mimi” and Patrick Blomberg / Blaire and Carson Burdine / Mariam Hejazi / Caitlin Olivia Karr
Blaire Burdine / Lauren Gates / Mary Gilbert / Carson Kelley / Amanda Jean Pritchett / Laura Rickaway / Amy Strickland
Amanda and Terry Boffone / Jayne and Garrett Johnston / Mary Lee and Richard Wilkens
Semmes and Will Burns / Liz and Seth Chandler / Megan and Luke Hotze
Kalinda Ilesha Campbell / Jenny Childers / Mr. and Mrs. Corey Eickenloff / Monica Gonzales / Emily-Frances McAdams

Lacey Oak
Michelle Esparza
Friend of the League
Laura Gerardi – Nan & Co. Properties
Nancy F. Haywood
Charlene Johnston
Linda and Patrick Magill

Sewell Automotive Companies
Presenting Automotive Sponsor
The Woman’s Hospital of Texas

Texas Children’s Hospital
Premier Community Partner
CCRM Fertility Houston

Lauren and Cameron Brown
Rathjen Consulting Group / UBS Financial Services Inc.

2021 – 2022 Fall Transfers
Akerman LLP
Ascension Consulting Team, LLC
Amanda and Michael Bayles / Mr. and Mrs. Fuller Blanchette / Randi and Charles Blaschke / Helyna Bedsoe and John Thompson / Mr. and Mrs. Justin William Ely
Megan and Jordan Brown / Danielle and Derek Gillespie / Stephanie and Austin Hoffman / Danielle and Blake McGregor / Pamela and Craig Varney
Jolie and Charles Campbell / J&S Easterwood Farms / Emily and Kolby Wahl / Mr. and Mrs. Darien Yarbrough
Sonya and Richard Coffman / Joanne and John Kelley
Comerica Bank

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In October 2020, Scott Newton reached out to the Junior League of Houston about donating to the organization. Scott was a Regional Manager for The Aaron’s Company, and his team had won a sales award for high performance that allowed them to choose where the award funds were directed. This unexpected and generous gift was just the continuation of a story that started 40 years ago.

When Scott was a young child, he spent significant time at Texas Children’s Hospital (TCH) battling illness. Both Scott and his mother remember the Junior League as a part of that experience. The Junior League Diagnostic Clinic was in the outpatient department at TCH, which included several highly specialized clinics. Scott chose to reach out to the League because of that connection from so long ago.

The League presented Scott with several donation options and the natural fit was the Texas Children’s Hospital Memorial Fund. This fund exists to serve as direct aid to individual patients for medicines, special tests, special equipment, transportation, etc. when insurance or other funding is not available. Scott felt strongly that putting the $5,000 award his team earned into this fund would be his way to “pay it forward” for ailing children, their caregivers and the League. Scott and members of his team visited the League building and met with League leaders to present the check. Hearing his story that day and getting to see first-hand the impact League volunteers and partnerships with entities such as TCH can have — even so long ago — was nothing short of amazing.

Shortly after Scott and his team visited the League, Scott’s health worsened. Unfortunately, he passed away in May 2021, leaving behind his wife Ashley, mother Rosa and three children.

In July 2021, the League learned of the sad news from Aaron’s when they reached out to ask about donating funds in Scott Newton’s honor. The group from Aaron’s came to the League to meet with League leadership and present a check. Stories and remembrances were shared — truth be told, there was not a dry eye in the house! Aaron’s gave $10,000 to the TCH Memorial Fund in memory of Scott Newton.

This full-circle story is one that the League will cherish and pass along. League President Jennifer Scheifley Roberts attended both meetings with the groups from Aaron’s and has this to say about the experience: “When I met Scott in November 2020 and heard the recollection from his youth of time spent at TCH and how interwoven the Junior League was in this experience, the donation from his team solidified the full-circle experience as Scott was now giving back to an organization that was so important to him when he was sick. In July 2021, when I heard of his passing, I was deeply affected. When I met with his coworkers at the League building and they began sharing stories of Scott, I began to understand that Scott lived his life with the same gratitude and generosity that he exhibited to the League in November. I am extremely grateful for the donation made by Aaron’s in Scott’s name as he exemplified the Power of ONE each and every day.”

Through Scott’s legacy, we all are reminded that the good works people do today might not seem like much to them, but they have the exponential power to affect the lives of others. Indeed sometimes these good works come full circle!
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ADVERTISER INDEX

Ambassadors for Texas Children’s Hospital .............................. 07
Ann Reeves Kids .................................................................. 56
Bo’s Place ............................................................................ 11
Cadence Bank ........................................................................ 31
Cammarata Pediatric Dentistry Group .................................... 56
CCRM Fertility ...................................................................... IBC
Central Market ....................................................................... 21
Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital ................................ 05
Geo. H. Lewis & Sons ............................................................ 10
Houston Racquet Club ............................................................. 27
Houston Trust Company .......................................................... 17
The Houstonian Hotel, Club & Spa ....................................... 53
JLH Tea Room Offerings ....................................................... 47
Katie & Co .............................................................................. 01
Kendra Scott ........................................................................... 09
Mariam Hejazi
Keller Williams Memorial ......................................................... 45
Mathilde C. F. Hoefer
Douglas Elliman, Real Estate .......................... 56
Menninger Clinic ...................................................................... 02
The Monogram Shop ............................................................... 09
Moss Landscaping .................................................................. 20
Obstetrix Maternal-Fetal Medicine Specialist ...................... 55
The Pantry ............................................................................... 49
Pediatrix Surgeons of Houston ............................................... 41
Sewell ....................................................................................... BC
Texas Children’s Hospital Heart Center ................................ IFC
The Vacation Wizards ............................................................. 26
The Woman’s Hospital of Texas .............................................. 23

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