

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF HOUSTON, INC.


# HOUSTON NEWS

SPRING 2021



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## HOUSTON NEWS STAFF

### EDITOR

Alle Crouch Houstoun

### ASSISTANT EDITOR

Sarah Davidson

### WRITERS

Dolores Lozano  
Catherine Watkins

### SUSTAINER WRITERS

Laurie Bruce Maddox  
Judy Fernbach Simon  
Melissa Cisneros Strathman

### SUSTAINER ADVISOR

Melissa Midori Matsui

### COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Alexandra Spencer

### COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Emily Marietta

### DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Emily Faber Vechan

### FINANCE COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Sameka Wood

### MEMBERSHIP COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Blaire Pittman Burdine

### TEA ROOM COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Michael Ann Young Singleton

### AD SALES CHAIRMAN

Amy Renz

### AD SALES ASSISTANT CHAIRMAN

Julie Stephen

### PHOTOGRAPHY CHAIRMAN

Kalinda Campbell

### PHOTOGRAPHY ASSISTANT CHAIRMAN

Katie Carlisle Gonzales

### PHOTOGRAPHERS

Beth Hernandez de Tejada  
Talia Luu-Thai

### COMMUNITY PARTNER CHAIRMAN

Bethany Michiels Buchanan

### LEAGUE ARCHIVES CHAIRMAN

Sarah Brents Dennis

### CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY CHAIRMAN-ELECT

Kolbi Blanchette

### DESIGN

Limb Design

### PRINTING

Bayside Printing

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2020/2021

## CONTRIBUTORS



Sarah Davidson  
Assistant Editor



Dolores Lozano  
Writer



Catherine Watkins  
Writer



Laurie Bruce Maddox  
Sustainer Writer



Judy Fernbach Simon  
Sustainer Writer



Melissa Cisneros  
Strathman  
Sustainer Writer



Melissa Midori Matsui  
Sustainer Advisor



Alexandra Spencer  
Communications Director



Emily Marietta  
Community Communications  
Manager



Emily Faber Vechan  
Development  
Communications Manager



Sameka Wood  
Finance Communications  
Manager



Blaire Pittman Burdine  
Membership  
Communications Manager



Michael Ann Young Singleton  
Tea Room Communications  
Manager



Amy Renz  
Ad Sales Chairman



Kalinda Campbell  
Photography Chairman



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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



"EVERYTHING YOU CAN IMAGINE IS REAL." – PABLO PICASSO

As we began this year, I challenged us to "*Imagine*" what we could accomplish together, navigating new and uncharted waters. I can still vividly remember the distress of the unknown. How would we find ways to serve our community in a time of such unrest, without a script or roadmap to show us the way?

In this issue of the *Houston News*, you will read stories of resiliency, innovative initiatives the League pivoted to create, and individual journeys of heroism from members who utilized their extensive League training to serve our community in extraordinary and selfless ways. Collectively there have been tremendous triumphs for our League this year, and I am grateful to have witnessed the strength, determination and courage of our members as we focused our efforts on *Imagining* new ways to serve our community.

**Imagine the Impact.** There is nowhere across the city of Houston that provides the depth of trained volunteer leadership than the Junior League of Houston. Understanding volunteer support would look different during this inimitable time, the League created the volunteer **IMPACT** placement, temporarily altering our volunteer service model for the year. This innovative program proved vitally important, as League members served more than 75 unique nonprofit agencies with more than 20,000 hours of immediate and trained volunteer support.

**Imagine the Possibility.** The Junior League Community "SUPER" Market Focus Area Events are a testament to what Junior League volunteers have done for almost a century, constructing collaborative initiatives to address a critical need in our community. The three **Community "SUPER" Markets** were developed to respond to the vast basic needs across our city due to the ongoing pandemic. The League provided food, clothing and healthcare to more than 1,500 children and over 4,000 individuals.

In response to Winter Storm Uri, the Junior League again stepped forward to help by providing food and water to hundreds of families in the Houston community through the League's **Crisis Food & Water Drive**.

**Imagine Resilience.** The League reimagined



how to educate and engage our members with the creation of virtual meetings and member engagement events. The Tea Room Special Events Committee found ways to remotely engage members and patrons, and the Charity Ball team upheld the beloved and time-honored tradition of celebrating the League's service to our community by creating the Junior League's first virtual Charity Ball, **Illuminate**. This reimagined evening was a beautiful reflection of the light and hope Junior League

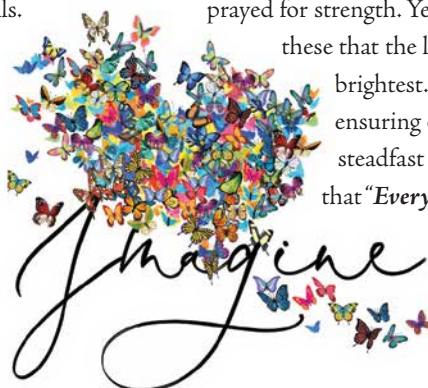
volunteers brought to our community during this unprecedented year.

**Imagine Generosity.** I could not be more grateful for the visionary women who have come before us. By establishing the Junior League of Houston Community Endowment, forward thinking League members created an avenue to allow the League's community service to continue in perpetuity, while also providing a safety net for times such as these. The Junior League Community Endowment provided over \$400,000 to help sustain the League's community efforts this year, inclusive of funding the 2020 – 2021 **Community Assistant Grants** awarded to 13 worthwhile organizations.

**Imagine Gratitude.** There are no words to describe my appreciation for the Executive Committee, Board of Directors and League members who held large leadership roles this year. No one could have predicted the longevity of this global crisis, or what would be asked of our volunteers during this year. Thank you for your unwavering commitment and for believing in our mission. You were the leaders our League needed at this moment in time.

**Imagine Success.** Reflecting on this year has allowed me to pause and appreciate the magnitude of what we have accomplished. Certainly, there were days that I questioned, sought answers and prayed for strength. Yet I can now attest, it is in times such as these that the light of the Junior League of Houston shines

brightest. A light that leads us to **reimagine** boldly, ensuring our service to the community remains steadfast and without fail, and proving to each of us that "*Everything you can Imagine is Real*."



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# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

"WHEN THIS ENDS, WE'LL SMILE SWEETLY, FINALLY SEEING.  
IN TESTING TIMES, WE BECAME THE BEST OF THINGS." – AMANDA GORMAN

We are living through history right now! The events from the last year are something our children will tell our grandchildren about. As the city of Houston recovers from Winter Storm Uri and manages the ongoing global health pandemic, the *Houston News* team has pivoted to address an ever-changing League year, by sharing the innovative solutions the League has created to serve our community during this unique time. The stories featured in the spring issue of *Houston News* will serve as a time capsule for future generations highlighting how the League overcame extreme obstacles and shined during this challenging year.

As the League sprints towards its 100th anniversary, the Junior League of Houston continues to live its mission, by imagining what is possible. There were many firsts for the Junior League of Houston in its 95th year.

The creation of the **Junior League of Houston "SUPER" Market** provided basic needs and support to hundreds of families from several longstanding League community partners and agencies. Many League members stepped up to volunteer and provided gifts, clothing, school supplies and activity kits to help make these events a success. The three focus area events supported over a thousand local families!

In response to Winter Storm Uri, and the unprecedented level of basic needs that remain across the city of Houston, the League hosted a **Crisis Food and Water Drive**. More than 250 families were welcomed to the Junior League in March, providing food and water for more than 2,000 individuals.

The Training and Education team seamlessly hosted both



in-person and virtual **Leadership Institute Training (LIT)** for 25 rising leaders. Over half of the LIT participants completed an optional SET by facilitating virtual office hours with League Leadership to answer members' questions around administrative positions. As part of the spring capstone project, LIT participants developed and presented solutions to address the digital divide among Houston children, utilizing existing League programs and resources that fit the League's mission.

The time-honored tradition of Charity Ball was completely reimaged by the Development team and turned into a one-evening virtual event to raise critical funds to support the mission of the Junior League of Houston. As the saying goes, "The show must go on!" And it certainly did during the **73rd Annual Charity Ball – Illuminate**, held Saturday, May 1, 2021, from members' homes.

League members were given flexibility on how they chose to complete their League requirements – either in-person adhering to social distancing guidelines, as well as virtually and at home. As an expectant mother (again), I'm personally grateful I could still actively participate in General and Group Meetings, Zoom Council calls and LIT all from my home office. I continue to be amazed how League leaders adapted and found alternative ways to continue serving our community.

I am excited to share many inspirational stories highlighting members' imaginative work on behalf of the League. The spring 2021 issue of *Houston News* is dedicated to highlighting those that have gone above and beyond supporting the Junior League of Houston.

Alle Crouch Houston

*Houston News* Editor





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# Sally Anne Schmidt

## SARA HOUSTOUN LINDSEY AWARD WINNER

*By: Blaire Burdine, Membership Communications Manager*

Since 2005, the Junior League of Houston has annually selected an active member who has furthered the League's mission by dedicating herself to the community's needs and who exemplifies those qualities through both League and non-League efforts to receive the Sara Hustoun Lindsey award. This year, the League is honored to recognize **Sally Anne Schmidt** as the 2021 recipient. Having almost 20 years of exceptional and inspirational service to the League and our community, she has made an impact both by living the mission of the League as a part of her everyday life and ultimately inspiring others to do the same. Sally Anne has been a steadfast and compassionate mentor to both provisional and active League members over the years and she is an expert in the League's history and traditions.

Sally Anne joined the Junior League of Houston as a provisional 17 years ago, and she currently serves as this year's Strategic Planning Director. She has served in numerous roles in the League including Community Initiatives Director, Recording Secretary, Charity Ball Invitations and Reservations Chairman,

League Archives Chairman, and Houston Area Women's Center Volunteer. Sally Anne's favorite placement was Provisional Chairman. This placement gave her the opportunity to work in almost all areas of the League, including the Tea Room, community, training and education and membership. She enjoyed working with a great team of three assistant chairman and adored sharing her League knowledge with the next generation of League members. Sally Anne says that the experience of working with the 2018 – 2019 provisional class gave her a new perspective and that the women she met truly inspired her to continue her League service.

Sally Anne is a fourth-generation League member – her great-grandmother, grandmother and mother were all members of the Junior League of Austin and her sister is a member of the Junior League of Fort Smith, Arkansas. She credits her mother, **Anne Barclay Reed**, a recent sustainer transfer, for her commitment to community service. Sally Anne vividly remembers accompanying her mother to League meetings and even placement shifts in elementary school and thanks her for demonstrating that a full-time working





mom can (and should) pursue service and leadership opportunities. Now, Sally Anne often calls on Anne to babysit so she can attend League meetings and events!

"I've had the privilege of working with Sally Anne this year in her role as Strategic Planning Director. Over the last year, it's been clear that Sally Anne is passionate about preserving the Junior League of Houston's exceptional traditions while also meeting the needs of our evolving membership," said **Helyna Bledsoe**, Membership Vice President. "This year she has been thoughtful about creating a welcoming, inclusive organization. This is evidenced by her work in this year's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Study, which sets the League up for success in the years ahead. Sally Anne has been a great mentor and resource for both myself, as well as future League leaders, and I'm thankful for the time she's given us over the last 17 years."



*Sally Anne Schmidt with her husband Marc Tabolsky and her mother and sustainer Anne Barclay Reed*

Like her never-ending commitment and dedication to the League, Sally Anne has the same commitment to serving the community and making an impactful difference. She has been on the board of Preservation Houston since 2017, initially as a Junior League Outside Board Representative and transitioning to a full board member in 2019. Most recently asked to serve on their Good Brick Jury, which recognizes outstanding historic preservation projects across Houston. Sally Anne has also served on the board of the Friends of Texas Historical Commission for

over 10 years, where she helped support the work of the Texas Historical Commission and historic preservation around the entire state. Her commitment and dedication to this organization is so steadfast and genuine that she and her husband have sponsored a Preservation Scholar for 2021. The Preservation Scholar program gives undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to spend a summer interning with the Texas Historical Commission and learning about the field of historic preservation. Sally Anne benefitted professionally from similar internships and feels strongly in providing that experience to others. Her professional and volunteer efforts are patiently supported by her husband, Marc Tabolsky, and her daughters, Julia and Sarah.

"Sally Anne has not only made me a better League volunteer and community member, but she has also done the same for countless others. She has always given her heart, soul and the very best of her talents, time, and resources into the League and Houston community, doing the big impactful roles, the extra credit roles, and everything in between," said **Ellen Kolpin Toranzo**, a League member who has known Sally Anne for many years. "She truly lives the mission of the League, furthers it every day and is very deserving of this amazing recognition."

Sally Anne received her bachelor's degree from Johns Hopkins University and her master's degree and Ph.D. from Rice University. Professionally, she works as the curator of the Nau Civil War Collection, where she is responsible for its care, organization and exhibition. She assists historians with research, hosts tours for students and adults and speaks about the collection. Once, she even hosted and led a Junior League Group Meeting lecture and tour for over 100 League members, which was extremely well-received and is still described as a member favorite.

"The League is a place where you are able to interact with women that might never have crossed your path otherwise. Many times these crossings provide you with the opportunity to learn or understand a new perspective and often help you appreciate the different talents that women in the League share with each other and the organization. Sally Anne is a shining example of this experience for many women in the League," said **Kristen Schlatre**, a League member. "She leads with quiet determination and a keen eye for thinking not only about historical precedent, but also about the future of the organization and the community as a whole." 🦋







# JUNIOR LEAGUE COMMUNITY "SUPER" MARKETS

By: *Emily Marietta*, Community Communications Manager & *Alle Houstoun*, Houston News Editor



Thanks to the many Junior League of Houston members' inventive spirit, we have learned new ways to interact and engage while physically apart and founded new programs to serve others which were previously not possible. To assist our community during this global health crisis, the League created a new collaborative program to meet the basic needs of children and families in our community.

The Junior League Community "SUPER" Market Focus Area Events were created by the League to provide basic needs and support to hundreds of families from several long-standing League community agencies and partners. Throughout the 2020 – 2021 League year, the Junior League of Houston hosted a series of three "SUPER" Market Focus Area Events to provide essential basic needs support inclusive of food, clothing, toiletries, school supplies, activity kits and healthcare for over 1,000 families across our community.

"I'm proud to lead the League's community efforts and identify new ways to give back to families from our community agencies and



partners," said **Marie Newton**, Community Vice President. "I'm in awe of what League volunteers can do and the leaders they are, as they rise to meet the most challenging of circumstances."

"The Junior League of Houston is the blueprint for other Junior Leagues and non-profit agencies to follow with your commitment and creative ideas for serving the community during the pandemic and crazy times," said **Theresa Heard**, Area Manager, Operation Homefront.

The League hosted the first Junior League Community "SUPER" Market Focus Area Event on Saturday, October 17, 2020. Families from several long-standing League agencies including Star of Hope, Bo's Place, Houston Area Women's Center and DePelchin Children's Center were welcomed to participate in the event. Due to the generosity of the event's sponsors, each family was provided fresh produce and groceries, a week's worth of age-appropriate clothing, shoes and underwear for each child, new backpacks filled with grade-level school supplies, two to three children's books and toiletry kits provided by

**"THE TRUE SIGN OF INTELLIGENCE IS NOT KNOWLEDGE BUT IMAGINATION."**

– Albert Einstein



League members as part of the League-wide toiletry drive. In addition, each family was sent home with a family-sized spaghetti dinner, prepared by the Junior League of Houston kitchen, made with food donated by Ben E. Keith, a long-standing food supplier of the League.

Second Servings of Houston provided fresh produce, snacks, loaves of artisan bread and cupcakes. All 220 children that participated in the event received a shopping bag full of a week's worth of age-appropriate clothing, a light jacket or sweater, shoes, socks and even bows for the little girls from Clothed by Faith, and age-appropriate underwear (or diapers if needed) from Undies for Everyone. In total, 220 pairs of shoes, 705 pairs of socks, 880 pants and shorts and 1,540 shirts, sweaters and light jackets were supplied. Between the donations from Clothed By Faith and Undies for Everyone, over 1,000 pairs of underwear were provided to children as well.

Attack Poverty and Team Red Door donated backpacks filled with school supplies, and each child received two to three books from Books Between Kids. Toiletry kits were provided by League members and included N95 face masks, and multiple, full-size items such as body wash, shampoo, men's and women's deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Attack Poverty also donated virtual counseling services to each family.

The newest Texas Children's Hospital Mobile Pediatric Clinic, funded by a donation from The Junior League of Houston, was also onsite to provide free immunizations, flu shots, and health screenings for children and their families.

Festive decorations from Dulce Décor greeted families as they arrived, and superheroes Spider Man, Super Girl and Black Panther were onsite thanks to Dreamland Entertainment to give a warm welcome. Over 170 families were served, totaling more than 550 people!

On Saturday, December 19, 2020, the Junior League hosted the second Community "SUPER" Market. Santa and his Elf gave a warm welcome to more than 185 families from League partner community agencies including B.E.A.R., Child Advocates, DePelchin Children's Center, Mission of Yahweh, Nehemiah Center, Neighbors in Action, Operation Homefront and the residents from the Star of Hope's Women's Family Development Center. In total, the Holiday "SUPER" Market enabled the League to provide food for close to 1,000 people and provided basic needs items to 450 children.

Holiday decorations set the tone, as the driveway and parking garage at the League building were designed with pick-up stations to adhere to social distancing guidelines. Each family was provided with a warm, family-style breakfast to-go prepared by the Junior League kitchen. Close to 650 warm winter coats were given to the participants. Adult coats were provided from Attack Poverty and each child received a new coat from the Junior League of Houston.



All 450 children that participated in the focus area event received holiday craft kits and stockings made by the League's VIEW volunteers, pajamas provided by Clothed by Faith and the Junior League, books graciously given from Books Between Kids, and a new packaged toy from each child's individual wish list fulfilled by the Junior League Toy Drive. Additionally, more than 1,000 diapers and 60 blankets crafted by the League's Texas Children's Hospital Sewing volunteers were provided to the children.

Every family was sent home with a family-sized holiday dinner, prepared by the Junior League of Houston kitchen, made with food donated by Ben E. Keith, a long-standing food supplier of the League, as well as freshly-ground coffee from locally-owned and operated Rugid Grind. Snow Sisters Anna and Elsa were there to spread holiday cheer as families departed for the day. The Holiday

*Continued*



Community "SUPER" Market was featured on CW 39 News!

Supporting sponsors and event partners who joined the League to help make the Holiday "SUPER" Market a success include: Adeline Alcorns' 5th Birthday Diaper Drive, Books Between Kids, Clothed By Faith, Dulce Décor, Dreamland Entertainment, Katy's

Parties, Klein Family Dental / Dr. Amy Joyce Klein, Attack Poverty, Ben E. Keith, Rugid Grind and The Junior League of Houston.

As a result of the continuation of the pandemic the League hosted a third Community "SUPER" Market on Saturday, April 24, 2021. The Spring Community "SUPER" Market invited more than

250 families from BEAR, Chinquapin, Bo's Place, Child Advocates, DePelchin Children's Center, Neighbors in Action, Operation Homefront, Small Steps Nurturing Center, and all residents of the Star of Hope Women & Family Development Center.

Participating families received a hot breakfast, family-sized meal with ingredients donated by Ben E. Keith and prepared by Malcolm Rowland and the League's Kitchen Staff, in addition to dinner rolls and a case of water. In anticipation of the upcoming hurricane season, an emergency preparedness home kit was also provided to families by League

Community Partner, Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital.

Approximately 375 children received summer clothes, learning kits and books for summer break from Books Between Kids and craft kits from both VIEW and the League's MFAH Volunteers.

Thanks to the League's second Toiletry Drive and VIEW donations, families received a bag of toiletries in addition to a bag of shelf-stable groceries donated by The Angelica Group LLC / The Angelica Group Fund / Jeannie Rich Chandler. Once again, superheroes, including Superwoman and Spiderman, greeted guests thanks to Dreamland Entertainment and decorations and balloons were provided by Dulce Décor.

"The creation of the Junior League Community 'SUPER' Markets is a representation of what is possible through the focused efforts of Junior League volunteers," said **Rachel Regan**, President. "To watch the pure joy and gratitude, and in many cases tears of relief, on so many faces during these 'SUPER' Market days will forever bring happiness to my heart. Days in which I stood in amazement of what League volunteers can do, as they rise to meet the most challenging of circumstances, in service to those whose needs are the greatest in our community."

The Junior League extends a tremendous amount of appreciation and gratitude to **Courtney Baker**, Focus Area Chairman, and **Jaclyn Goodell**, Community Outreach Events Chairman, who orchestrated, organized and coordinated the Community "SUPER" Markets and corresponding toy and toiletry drives.

"We have learned that we can imagine without limitation. And from that imagination, we have created innovative ways to serve our community when the community needs us most," said Courtney. "We look forward to continuing to innovate and serve families from our League agency and community partners." 🦋



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There's a lot to consider when you're seeking fertility treatment. By asking the right questions and doing research beforehand, future moms and dads can get peace of mind that they are putting themselves in the best position to grow their family. Here are four tips for finding the fertility clinic that's right for you.

**Start with the numbers.**

The very first thing you should do when evaluating a clinic is verify that it is a member of Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology (SART) and review its success rates. SART-associated fertility clinics must adhere to the highest standards for quality, safety, patient care, and even advertising. In addition, clinics must report all birth outcome data, which is then audited by SART. Clinics that are not SART members are, unfortunately, not held to the same standards. As a SART member, CCRM is proud to stand behind our success rates and performance.

Patients should ask about the clinic's experience, too. How long have they been practicing certain techniques? If you're fairly certain about the fertility treatment you're seeking, it's important to inquire about specific figures related to that therapy. For instance, if you're thinking of freezing your eggs, you don't only want to understand how often the clinic has effectively frozen eggs—you want to know the rate of success for thawing those eggs and having the process result in a healthy pregnancy.

**Ask about the full spectrum of services.**

Find out what services and treatments the clinic administers and which you'll have to go elsewhere for. CCRM is unique in that it's a full-service fertility center with its own labs and genetics department; everything from initial assessments to developing embryos to genetic testing. The clinic also tracks the progress of any attempted protocols, including acupuncture, to make sure

they're working for the patient. It allows us to have tight quality control. All of our patients' samples, all of their testing, all of their embryos are handled within our practice. We're not relying on outside labs or resources to do any of the evaluation.

**Pay attention to how you feel.**

We encourage patients to consider the following: Do you feel comfortable with your provider? What

about the rest of your clinical team? Do you appreciate the way information is being conveyed to you? Do you leave the office with a good understanding of your fertility diagnosis and the treatment options that might be appropriate? If not...

**...It's OK to seek a second opinion.**

Don't be afraid to try a different clinic if you're not getting the results, or the experience, you expected. Clinics will vary in the way they approach evaluating and treating patients. Patients may find they have a whole different experience by going to another clinic.

Interested in speaking with a fertility doctor? Contact CCRM Fertility Houston today and a representative will reach out to schedule an in-person or telehealth appointment.



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CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL HERMANN  
**10**  
TIPS FOR LIVING A HEALTHIER LIFE

Eva Ayala, DO | Family Medicine Doctor | MHMG

Rachel Kelt, MD | Pediatrician | CMHP

Edward Nicklas II, MD | Endocrinologist | MHMG

Sonia Singh, MD | Internist | MHMG

IF THERE'S ONE THING WE'VE LEARNED FROM THE PANDEMIC, IT'S THAT LIFE IS PRECIOUS, AND WE CAN'T TAKE OUR HEALTH FOR GRANTED. PHYSICIANS FROM MEMORIAL HERMANN MEDICAL GROUP AND CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL HERMANN PEDIATRICS OFFER THEIR TOP TIPS FOR LIVING LONGER, HEALTHIER LIVES.

- 1. KNOW WHERE YOU STAND.** "Your first stop should be your primary care doctor for a physical," says family medicine doctor Eva Ayala, DO. A complete physical might include an evaluation of your health history and your family's medical history, a depression screen, a physical examination and a check of your key health statistics, including blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar and body mass index (BMI).
- 2. SET GOALS, NOT RESOLUTIONS.** Choose a small number of goals that are most important to your short- and long-term health and wellbeing. For each, identify concrete steps you can take toward achievement. Track your progress and celebrate successes along the way.
- 3. GET SCREENED.** Early detection is one of the best defenses against serious illness. Screenings for breast, cervical, prostate, colorectal, lung, skin and other cancers save lives. Your family medicine doctor can help you determine which screenings are right for you.
- 4. GET VACCINATED.** Vaccines and immunizations protect you and your family from preventable disease. Your family medicine doctor and pediatrician can help keep you on track.
- 5. GET MOVING.** "Kids have been inside for almost a year now, and a lot of them are gaining weight," says pediatrician Rachel Kelt, MD. "I try to motivate my patients as a family unit to get outside and do something together." (It's always a good idea to check with your doctor before starting a new exercise regimen.)



**6. PRIORITIZE YOUR MENTAL HEALTH.**

"If you're feeling down and anxious, talk to your doctor," says Dr. Ayala. And adults aren't the only ones struggling. "Small children can sense that their parents are nervous. Teenagers are used to hanging out with their friends and are feeling the isolation," says Dr. Kelt.

"They need someone they feel comfortable talking to about what they're feeling."

- 7. MANAGE STRESS.** Internal medicine and nutrition specialist Sonia Singh, MD, recommends practices such as mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR), meditation, gratitude and journaling.
- 8. EAT WHOLE FOOD.** "Dine from the garden, the hen house and the sea," says Dr. Singh. And Dr. Kelt suggests involving preteens in meal planning, "Let them help place your curbside grocery shopping order online or let them pick out a vegetable they've never had and help prepare it."
- 9. WATCH FOOD PORTIONS.** Educate yourself and your family about healthy portion sizes. For starters, a portion of meat, poultry or fish is 2-3 ounces, about the size of a deck of cards.
- 10. LOSE THE EXCESS WEIGHT.** Being significantly overweight can lead to life-threatening illnesses, like type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, sleep apnea, heart disease and stroke. Endocrinologist Edward Wilson Nicklas II, MD, counsels his patients on proven ways to lose weight, including nutrition, exercise and, in some cases, weight loss surgery.

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“Woman” is in our name and our care philosophy – “Woman First” – now and always. Forty-five years after inception, we are the premier women’s care facility with our founding principles at heart: We believe every woman deserves to be treated as an individual with the best understanding, compassion, and support. No matter who she is, we make every woman’s unique healthcare needs our priority.

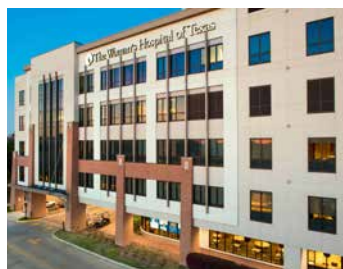
Our award-winning services include gynecology, obstetrics, neonatology, pediatrics, minimally invasive surgery, breast health and reconstructive care, imaging, oncology and much more to ensure her healthcare needs are met at every stage of her life.

As a hospital founded for women, providing superior maternal care is our infinite responsibility. We have a Level IV Maternal Designation, the highest level of care designated by the Texas Department of State Health Services. Level IV maternal designated hospitals offer comprehensive care for pregnant and postpartum patients with even the most complex medical, surgical and obstetrical conditions. TWHT is home to Woman’s Maternal Fetal Care Center, a unit led by dedicated perinatal navigators who provide advanced care and support for patients with high-risk pregnancies.

TWHT has one of the largest neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) programs in the nation. We are designated as an Advanced Level IV NICU, allowing us to provide acute care to the most critically ill infants. Our NICU has the city’s only March of Dimes Family Support Program, allowing family members to receive education and support during their baby’s NICU journey.


TWHT is committed to raising the bar for women’s care. We are undergoing a three-year campus expansion and construction project with the patient experience in mind – ensuring each update enhances her care, safety, and comfort. This transformation will not only modernize our aesthetic to better match our progressive offerings but will also provide a more comfortable setting for patients.

In late 2020, antepartum unit renovations and expansion of the



labor and delivery unit were completed. The addition of two caesarian section operating rooms and 14 patient rooms brought the labor and delivery total to nine operating rooms and 49 patient rooms.

In 2021, all postpartum patient rooms will undergo extensive updates, and construction of a nine-story parking garage and five-story medical office building will finish.

No matter where she resides, we want her to have access to woman-first care. We have 10 Woman’s Health clinics across Houston where many of the same distinguished physicians on the staff at TWHT provide care for women and children. As a member of HCA Houston Healthcare, the most comprehensive healthcare provider in the region, we are part of a network that delivers stronger, smarter and more accessible care to women than any other medical system in Houston. 



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# CONVERSATIONS

WITH LEAGUE MEMBERS SHINING DURING CHALLENGING TIMES



## PROFILES IN EXCELLENCE: OUTSTANDING LEAGUE MEMBERS IMPACT THE HOUSTON COMMUNITY DURING THE PANDEMIC THROUGH THEIR PLACEMENTS AND VOCATIONS

By: *Sarah Davidson*, Assistant Houston News Editor

As the COVID-19 pandemic compelled the Junior League of Houston, Inc. to develop new ways to serve the greater Houston community, remarkable stories of leadership have emerged from every part of our organization. Our challenging times have provided a venue for these nine exceptional League members to excel in both their placements and in their vocations. From provisionals to active veteran League volunteers, these women represent the full spectrum of our membership and demonstrate the competence and enthusiasm present at each level. From redesigning placements, to hosting group meetings, to championing social causes, their efforts to address the evolving needs of our community offer an inspirational view into their hearts for volunteerism.

Throughout this year, fourth-year League member and Baylor Teen Health Clinic Chairman **Akilah Mance** has worked diligently to ensure that League volunteers can continue to provide support for new mothers through the Phone Outreach program.

With help from **Elise Madray**, Baylor Teen Health Clinic Phone Outreach Coordinator and SOAR award winner, this program has gone on to help hundreds of mothers throughout Houston. This fall, Akilah also helped to develop a new partnership between the League and the Baylor Teen Health Clinic's Nurse Family Partnership (NFP), a system focused on providing long-term support to low-income families and first-time moms. This collaboration incorporated NFP clients into the League's existing Phone Outreach program, which alleviated concerns about a lack of in-person access to the clinic during the pandemic.



*Akilah Mance*

"The League and NFP certainly had a lot to learn about each other's processes," Akilah shared, "But we were all committed to making this partnership work for the families who need us. As a result, the League devoted three new phone outreach volunteers to work with NFP moms and serve as additional support during this time of remote visitation."

Camp Hope Counselor **Brandi Downey-Wade** is a sixth-year member of the League. When Hurricane Laura devastated Lake Charles, Louisiana, and further tested a community already struggling under the weight of the pandemic, Brandi began devising a plan to help. She created and distributed an Amazon wish list of basic supplies to her family, friends and fellow League members to aid in Lake Charles' long road to recovery.



*Brandi Downey-Wade*

"I soon realized that Houstonians, who have also weathered their share of destructive hurricanes, felt a sense of solidarity and desire to help the citizens of Lake Charles," Brandi noted. "I was overwhelmed by the show of support – the number of in-person deliveries, online orders, and monetary donations from my friends in the Junior League was unbelievable." Together with her husband, brother, and cousin, Brandi filled an extended cab truck and an SUV with the donations received. They drove to Lake Charles and distributed supplies directly to the residents and donated surplus items to the United Way of Southwest Louisiana.

Provisional member **Jackie Garcia** is the founder of Elevate Your Pay, a social media platform dedicated to helping women who are Black, Indigenous and People of Color get paid what



Jackie Garcia

they deserve through pay equity advocacy, education, and consulting. Undaunted by the pandemic, Jackie continued to raise awareness of the pay inequities that women of color face by hosting virtual events through Elevate Your Pay.

"Through my platform, Elevate Your Pay, I have helped many women double their income by

teaching negotiation skills, interview preparation, and market research," Jackie stated. In the fall of 2020, she hosted virtual panel discussions featuring professionals from leading companies such as LinkedIn, Netflix, Nike, Amazon, and Facebook to engage over 200 female participants across the country. These virtual panels were held on the anniversaries of Black Women's Equal Pay Day in August 2020 and Latina Equal Pay Day in November 2020.

Community Impact Researcher and Leadership Institute Training (LIT) participant **Renee Palisi** is a first-year active member whose health and well-being research helped to shape this year's study of the League's Texas Children's Hospital (TCH) placement.

Faced with a shortened timeline due to the pandemic, Renee took the initiative to contact several current and former TCH League volunteers to gain a comprehensive understanding of what does and does not work well in the League's TCH program. The data she collected and the ideas she formulated led to recommendations to improve the quality of service that League members provide to the hospital and to improve the TCH experience for future provisionals.

"As a result of this year's TCH study, the TCH Health Resource Group (HRG) placement was relocated from TCH to the League building," Renee commented. "Additionally, we were able to examine previous TCH placements, make improvements, and focus on training needs. There is now potential for a "Training Trainee" program, which would allow Segment I provisionals to serve as training assistants to the head actives."

Third-year member and Books Between Kids Chairman **Rozlyn**

**Veteto** saw an opportunity to use the League's new pandemic-driven offerings, like the IMPACT placement and the "SUPER" Market events, to generate increased participation in the Books Between Kids placement. Rozlyn shared, "The silver lining of 2020's reimagined



Rozlyn Veteto

Community Placement structure is that a wider range of League women have been exposed to volunteering with Books Between Kids."

Rozlyn emphasized her belief about why books are an integral tool in helping children to manage stress: "The pandemic has been an emotional and mental struggle for many people, including kids and teens," Rozlyn noted. "It is important that children are able escape into a good book and take their minds off what is going on in the world." Thanks to Rozlyn's love for reading and her forward thinking, 30 additional League women joined the Books Between Kids placement. "I'm happy that the collaboration between the League's SUPER Market events and the Books Between Kids placement has helped hundreds of families have this opportunity," she said.

ChinquaPALS Assistant Chairman **Santrice Jones** is a fourth-year League member who has excelled in the face of pandemic-related challenges in both her professional life and her League placement. As the principal of Houston ISD's Neff Early Learning Center, Santrice led her campus of over 650 students and their families through an abrupt transition from in-person education to virtual learning while maintaining instructional integrity. "There were several hurdles to overcome," Santrice offered, "...but the team at my campus was able to navigate those challenges, connect with students, and continue to offer valuable instruction for their academic development."

In Santrice's placement, she helped to develop a plan for the League to continue delivering high-quality volunteer service to the Chinquapin School students despite the distancing limitations imposed by the pandemic. "Like most of the League's placements, ChinquaPALS had to pivot," Santrice



Santrice Jones

Continued



noted. "Our entire placement was shifted from in-person to virtual. The book club meetings were moved from face-to-face to remote, the letter writing campaign changed from handwritten letters to emails, and the tradition of taking the children to the Houston Ballet was changed to virtual museum visits. The part that resonates with me the most is continuing to cultivate meaningful relationships through the virtual platforms."

Nominating Committee Member **Semmes Burns** is a 10-year League member and an incoming sustainer. A registered nurse by education, Semmes had pursued other career interests for the past 10 years. In the summer of 2020, Semmes reinstated her nursing license in order to volunteer at local COVID testing centers and this fall began assisting with vaccination efforts through Harris County's Vaccine Team.

"I think that many of us have struggled with how to help the community during this pandemic – there was such a feeling of helplessness when facing what was, for a period of time, a relatively unknown foe," Semmes noted. "What we were doing previously to be of service to the community just wasn't feasible any longer and I think it left many feeling adrift. When Harris County began publicizing the drive-through testing centers and then began requesting volunteers from healthcare fields, I was grateful to be able to answer that call. I'm happy to continue doing so as long as there is a need, whether it be gathering lab samples or giving vaccines!"

Third-year League member **Tori Tolbert** is currently serving on the Auction Committee for Charity Ball, which was postponed to Saturday, May 1, 2021, and reimagined as a one-day virtual event. As a first-year Auction Committee member, Tori has been an invaluable asset by completing her duties ahead of schedule and asking for additional tasks to complete.



*Semmes Burns*



*Tori Tolbert*

Tori explained how this year's fundraising efforts have required a special understanding of the current economic climate in Houston, as many of the League's long-time donor organizations experienced pandemic-related financial challenges: "This year certainly requires sensitivity to our patrons when requesting donations. Many local businesses are struggling, and it is important to be mindful of that when soliciting contributions," Tori noted. Despite the pandemic, Tori remains hopeful and focused on partnering with donor organizations to create a dynamic virtual Charity Ball auction. "Many businesses are still willing to donate and are excited about helping the League generate funds for reinvestment back into the community. It has been a joy working with so many local business owners and hearing their stories," she said.

Provisional member **Valerie Garate Ramirez** is the former Director of Development of CanCare, one of the League's Outside Board Representative placements. This fall, Valerie hosted a Group Meeting to introduce League members to CanCare's network of trained volunteers including cancer survivors, caregivers of cancer survivors and medical professionals who provide emotional support and resource information to those facing cancer.



*Valerie Garate Ramirez*

"Although COVID-19 paused many things, cancer is not one of them," Valerie shared. "The needs of cancer patients and caregivers continue to increase as they face yet another unknown – the pandemic. CanCare recognized the increased need for one-on-one emotional support for patients and caregivers, and collaboratively worked with the Junior League to ensure that the local community knows that CanCare remains a safe and trusted resource for those impacted by cancer," she said. "It was such an honor to share CanCare's incredible mission with the League and connect with members who had either been personally impacted by cancer or share a passion for helping the cancer community." 🦋

*"Surround yourself with the dreamers and the doers, the believers and the thinkers, but most of all, surround yourself with those who see greatness within you, even when you don't see it yourself." – Edmund Lee*



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# THE 21 DAYS THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

## ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR LEAGUES INTERNATIONAL 21-DAY RACIAL EQUITY CHALLENGE

*By Judy Fernbach Simon, Sustainer Writer*

Last summer when everyone was experiencing the ‘new normal’ of staying home and social distancing, I signed up to take the **21-Day Racial Equity Challenge** offered by the **Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI)**. The Challenge allowed participants time to pause and really dig into what each of us has learned about how our racial identity is formed and how it has affected our life experience. AJLI held multiple sessions of the 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge, each with 500 participants, to provide an intensive learning experience for members to engage in discussion about their role in achieving racial equity in their communities across the world. Challenge participants were paired with a small group of eight to 10 Junior League members from other cities to meet each day to discuss learning objectives provided by AJLI. The first session in June 2020 filled so quickly that additional sessions were added in July 2020, September 2020, November 2020, January 2021 and February 2021. On the first day, we were asked a series of questions:

- What forces push us away from deeper consideration of, and work for, racial equity?
- What supports might pull us towards more steady work for racial equity?
- The death of George Floyd certainly stirred the nation, but will we continue to pay attention and do the hard work to change our societal norms?

We spent a great deal of time discussing *White Privilege*, what it is and what it means. We learned that white privilege is not the suggestion that white people have never struggled, but instead

that white people have greater access to power and resources than people of color. “People should not feel remorseful for not having struggled, but should be open to genuinely understanding others’ struggles,” said **Dawana Gholar Taylor**, a member of the Junior League of Houston. “The 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge afforded participants with an unbiased approach to pause, give thought to, and discuss various abstruse topics. Participants were open to listening to each other and there was an authentic willingness for acceptance and inclusion,” she said.

**“THE SINGLE STORY CREATES STEREOTYPES AND THE PROBLEM WITH STEREOTYPES IS NOT THAT THEY ARE UNTRUE, IT IS THAT THEY ARE INCOMPLETE. IT MAKES ONE STORY BECOME THE ONLY STORY.”**

**— CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE, NIGERIAN WRITER**

Conversations on race can be painful, hard and personal. During small group sessions, participants had the opportunity to be open, vulnerable and actively listen. One member from my Challenge small group, Mary Margaret Hui Cunningham, from Arkansas and identifies as Chinese American, commented that when she and her husband, who identifies as Black, take a trip, they make sure they are never on the road too late after dark. “We feel that the risks for Black men driving late at night are just too great, especially if you are driving in an unfamiliar city or state.” Mary Margaret’s comment stuck with me.

The topic of white privilege opened the discussion to the *White Savior Complex*, a term used to describe a situation in which well-meaning individuals and organizations attempt to help underserved populations but do it in a way that is centered on their own norms and not on those they serve.

Many from our Challenge group stated they felt the history we had been taught in school was a disingenuous history written to make white people feel intellectually and morally superior. During this discussion, many participants experienced some awakening and emotional moments, many breaking down in tears.

We spent a few days talking about *microaggressions* and *macroaggressions* and examining how these types of actions make people feel. A microaggression is a comment or action that subtly and often unconsciously or unintentionally expresses a prejudiced attitude toward a member of a marginalized group, such as a racial minority.

**Tonia Bivens**, of the Junior League of Houston, said, “My group had a willingness to hear and understand what Black people are going through. It feels like many are often just unaware.” She said comments and questions about her hair are microaggressions that are not intentionally meant to make her feel different or bad, but sometimes they do.

A *macroaggression* is a large-scale or overt aggression toward those of a different race, culture or gender. Macroaggressions occur at a structural level, encompassing actions that are meant to exclude, either

by action or omission. Examples include not complying with disability rights laws, fast food chains denying their workers fair wages, or corporations taking advantage of impoverished populations to deepen their pockets.

Conversations on macroaggressions led to discussion on structural racism. *Structural and Institutional Racism* are responsible for the barriers People of Color face to secure quality housing, healthcare, employment, education and safety. We spent time looking at the school-to-prison pipeline and mass incarceration as an example of structural racism.

The Junior League of Houston Diversity and Inclusion Chairman, **Corynne Hume Yamasaki**, said, “I learned about many racist regulations that have continued to affect Black people and other marginalized groups since slavery that I was not previously aware of, such as redlining designed to keep Black people out of white neighborhoods. I am glad to know that the Junior League is educating its members on these aspects of Structural and Institutional racism and working to address the issues.”

The Challenge also addressed how our own Leagues can impact their charity work and community impact, and how each of us can play a role in helping to make the world better for everyone. However, charity and community impact require different strategies and seek to achieve different outcomes.

**“I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A  
CATALYST FOR BRINGING ABOUT POSITIVE  
CHANGE, INSPIRING OTHERS TO CHOOSE  
GOODNESS.”**

**— SHARI ARISON**





## "IDENTIFY DARKNESS IN THE SOCIETY AND FIND WAYS TO HELP ILLUMINATE IT" - Sunday Adelaja

Charity is often seen as direct relief, meant to meet an individual's immediate need, given to or through a nonprofit organization, in the form of money, gifts or service. Contrastingly, community impact tackles society-wide problems at the root by working collectively with and giving power, autonomy, capacity and tools to the affected community. In other words, charity is focused on relief and rescue while community impact is focused on rebuilding and sustainable solutions. For example, we may provide underwear and school supplies to needy organizations which provide an important, albeit a temporary fix, for larger structural issues including food insecurity, homelessness, and poverty – this by itself is an example of charity. However, if we work with key stakeholders from the community to develop long-term solutions to reduce food insecurity and homelessness, this is an example of community impact. Charity is doing something *for* a community, while community impact is doing something *with* a community for sustainable structural change.

I contacted several of my Challenge-mates months after we participated in the program to learn what they took away from the course. Merilou Gonzales, chair of the Communications Committee at the Junior League of Milwaukee, was reflective and said that the program helped her process current events within a historical context and provided tools for engaging in meaningful conversations more productively. She said, "I now feel like I can confidently facilitate and engage in balanced conversations without being overly emotional."

Further south in Fayetteville, Arkansas, Mary Margaret Hui Cunningham, chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce at the Junior League of Northwest Arkansas, said that even though she works and studies in this field as an Adjunct Instructor with the African and African American Studies Program at the University of Arkansas, and lives this work as a woman of color, she learned a lot by participating in this program. She was particularly impressed that AJLI is not afraid to look at itself and its own history. All of the Leagues in Arkansas have opened their Diversity and Inclusion conversations around the 21-Day Racial Challenge to members around their state. They feel this has been a useful way of recruiting others to take the Challenge.

Back home in our own League, **Dawana Gholar Taylor**, Tea

Room Patron Member Chairman, said, "The 21-Day Challenge was an amazingly eye-opening experience, one in which I believe every member of the League should participate. The Challenge will broaden one's approach and awareness to understanding and embracing various ways people can view and address the issues of race relations in America."

There are many ways the Junior League of Houston is continuing to address Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). Earlier this year, the Board of Directors voted to elevate the DEI Chairman position to DEI Director. A newly created position on the Board of Directors will also be reserved for the new DEI Director. Additionally, the DEI Director will have a committee of four DEI Managers who will sit on the different councils and sub-councils of Development, Community, Training & Education and Communications.

**"WE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY  
TO ACT, AND WE HAVE  
THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
CONSCIENTIOUSLY ACT TO  
AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT  
ABOUT US."**

**- MARY HARRIMAN DESCRIBING THE  
MISSION OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE  
MORE THAN 100 YEARS AGO**

The timeliness of taking this course this past year helped me better understand the collaborative solutions to address racial equity. The 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge was at times difficult, emotional and challenging; however, it exceeded my expectations. I can boldly say the Challenge taught a more inclusive American history than any history class I have ever taken. I am motivated and inspired to read and watch many of the books and movies recommended in the Challenge. Given that Houston is one of the most diverse cities in the country, I am proud the Junior League of Houston is continuing to study and educate its members on a broad spectrum of Diversity and Inclusion topics. 🦋



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# THE LEAGUE ANSWERS THE CALL AFTER WINTER STORM URI

By: Alle Houstoun, Houston News Editor

SOME HOUSTONIANS WERE LEFT WITHOUT POWER AND WATER FOR NOT JUST DAYS BUT WEEKS. THE LEAGUE REACHED OUT TO ITS COMMUNITY AGENCIES AND PARTNERS AND IDENTIFIED SEVERAL WAYS TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE THROUGH A SERIES OF CRISIS-RELATED EVENTS.

Over the last year, the Junior League of Houston has found new ways to support the local Houston community when it needed help most. Beyond the three successful community “SUPER” Market events, the League also hosted a number of other crisis-focused events to provide support to client families from the League’s long-standing community agencies. After **Winter Storm**

**Uri**, some Houstonians were left without power and water for not just days but weeks. The League reached out to its community agencies and partners and identified several ways to provide immediate assistance through a series of crisis-related events.

## CRISIS FOOD & WATER DRIVE

In response to the winter storm and the unprecedented level

of basic needs that remained across the city of Houston, the League hosted a **Crisis Food and Water Drive** on Saturday, March 6, 2021, where 10 League agency partners were served. More than 250 families were welcomed to the Junior League, where food and water were provided to more than 2,000 individuals.

“The Junior League of Houston is proud to do our part in rebuilding our community after the lasting effects of this winter storm on top of the ongoing health crisis,” said **Rachel Regan**, President. “Thank you to the League volunteers and the Junior League kitchen staff for preparing and distributing food and water during this difficult time to help meet the needs of so many families in our community.”

The families from the following agency partners were served during the Crisis Food & Water Drive: B.E.A.R., Child Advocates, DePelchin Children’s Center, Mission of Yahweh, Nehemiah Center, Neighbors in Action, Operation Homefront, Bo’s Place, Small Steps Nurturing Center and Houston Area Women’s Center.



## JUNIOR LEAGUE OF HOUSTON COMMUNITY PROGRAM GRANTS

In late February 2021, the League sent out a call to Junior League Community Program agencies and past Community Assistance grant recipients to assess their needs after the storm. Agencies submitted requests for assistance spanning from toddler beds to food for children. These funds were distributed in the form of grant support in an effort to address the emergency and short-term needs of the Houston community.

“In another attempt to pivot and navigate through this unforgettable year, the League has once again stepped up to support those in need. It is beautiful to see our organization identify alternative ways to use our Community Program support dollars in an unfathomable budget year,” said **Wendy Lewis Armstrong**, Financial Vice President.

## BLOOD DRIVES

On Friday, March 5, 2021, the Junior League hosted its second blood drive of the year. As a result of cancelled blood drives due to Winter Storm Uri, the **Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center** lost an expected 3,000 units of blood, compounding the already critically low supply of blood in the Houston area. The Junior League rose to the occasion and had the most successful blood drive for the blood center since October 2015, collecting 31 units. The 31 units collected will directly impact the lives of 93 Houstonians and indirectly affect hundreds of others.



The League also hosted its third, and final blood drive of the League year, on Friday, April 16, 2021, in the Junior League Ballroom with safety, privacy and socially distanced parameters set forth.

## KIDS' MEALS

As a result of the city-wide power outages, long-standing League agency **Kids' Meals** lost food supplies and was temporarily unable to provide meals to the approximately 6,400 children it serves on a daily basis. The League answered the call for volunteers and members to give back to Kids' Meals through additional IMPACT shifts. The various



shift options included the opportunity to decorate brown paper lunch sacks or create DIY lunch packs, which included four shelf stable items of: drink, snack, fruit & protein (sandwich equivalent). Over 150 League volunteers signed up for the Kids' Meals IMPACT shifts after Winter Storm Uri. Within a week's time, over 6,178 healthy lunches were packed and donated along with 5,030 decorated lunch bags, helping to provide food support to more than 11,000 children.

“In my five years of volunteering with Kids' Meals and seeing the first-hand effects of Hurricane Harvey, COVID-19 and the recent Winter Storm Uri, I clearly can see how important this placement is and the direct impact we have on the community. The lunches League members make during weekly volunteer shifts are delivered the very next day to children,” said **Stacey Gregg**, Kids' Meals Chairman. “I'm glad we have been able to add opportunities for other members of the League to participate and gain insight into Kids' Meals, not only as a placement opportunity but as an organization.”

In June 2019, the Junior League of Houston also graciously donated funds to Kids' Meals, Inc. to fund the operation of a Kids' Meals van for deliveries. The van drives daily routes delivering bagged meals to children whose families have signed up for the program, extending their service to an additional 250 homes and over 500 children. This van was heavily utilized post-storm in delivering meals to children and their families.

“I'm so incredibly proud to support Kids' Meals. Watching the work that they do really does show you how our community bonds together to help in a time of need,” said **Emily Wellen**, Kids' Meals Assistant Chairman. In the middle of a crisis, Kids' Meals never lost its focus on helping hungry children and their families find their next meal. It's in times like these that you see exactly why our volunteer efforts are so impactful.” 🦋





# LEAGUE LEADERS TRAINING FUTURE LEADERS

## HOW THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE TRAINING PROGRAM SHAPES THE FUTURE OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE

By: Dolores Lozano, Houston News Writer



There are often numerous professional development opportunities at work, but how many of them revolve around leadership? How many of those opportunities allow you to network with women who have accomplished incredible things across different career fields throughout Houston?

"I find myself in a constant minority position – I'm the only Mexican-American and one of the only Hispanic women at my job. And those are barriers that after years of education, including an MBA with a concentration in Leadership, I was never able to overcome until joining the League," said **Clarissa Barboza**, a Leadership Institute Training program participant.

The Leadership Institute Training (LIT) program is a nine-month program composed of multiple touchpoints throughout the year. LIT promotes self-exploration of authentic leadership, and then explores the application of that leadership style to

administrative placements in the League. The LIT Program culminates with a leadership-oriented service project in which small teams collaborate to identify creative solutions to an existing community need. This immersive program was part of a study in 2016 – 2017 and launched in 2018 by the virtue of League Sustainer Advisor **Whitney Walsh**. In her role as the 2016 – 2017 Membership Special Projects Researcher, Whitney helped develop the LIT program to address a need within the League and prepare active members for leadership positions.

"From the beginning, the Leadership Institute Training program was designed to be inclusive. The goal was to encourage and welcome all women interested in League leadership and prepare them for success," said Whitney Walsh.

Since 2018, LIT graduates have made an impact across League and business sectors. "It is important to realize the League not only

*"Leadership is finding your voice, inspiring others to find their voice, empowering people and executing actions that make the world better."*

– Anyaele Sam Chiyson

prepares women for leadership within our building, but we truly honor our mission of 'Building a Better Community' through trained volunteers. League leaders make a difference across the city of Houston, throughout the state of Texas and in the world," said Whitney Walsh.

This past year, the League offered a hybrid setting to accommodate participants. Whether virtually or socially distant in-person, during the program, each member explored their authentic leadership style and considered future ways to serve the League.

"This program evolved into something that I am very proud of, offering participants a chance to make forward progress in developing as a leader and meeting like-minded women despite the pandemic," shared **Whitney Bosworth**, Membership Training Chairman. "Even though we had to make a few adjustments along the way, this year went very well – and that's a true testament to the participants."



Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the difficulties this year presented, Whitney worked alongside Training & Education Director **Michelle Esparza** and Membership Training Assistant Chairman **Sarah Sanders** to create this year's intentional structure of the program to ensure its success. Training I was about developing individual leadership style, Training II was about exploring how to apply that leadership style to opportunities within the League and Training III provided the opportunity to apply one's leadership style through a real leadership scenario. The leaders established multiple breakout opportunities within each session so members could build on everything they learned throughout the year.

*Continued*



## 2020-2021 LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE TRAINING PARTICIPANTS



ALLE HOUSTOUN

BAILEE YARBROUGH

CLARISSA BARBOZA

DEBORAH BOONE

DENA WASHINGTON

ELIZABETH BALLENTINE

EMILY ROBINSON

EMILY SHUSHTARI

ERIKA MALESKI

JACQUELINE GERBER

JENNIFER WILLIAMS

JESSICA CRAFT

JESSICA SNODGRASS

KRISTIANN RUSHTON

LAYLA DOTSON LUMPKIN

LINDSEY FALCONER

MARGIE SUTTON

MARIAM HEJAZI

MEAGAN HANSON

MELVONYA LARA

OLAYEMI BROWN

RENEE PALISI

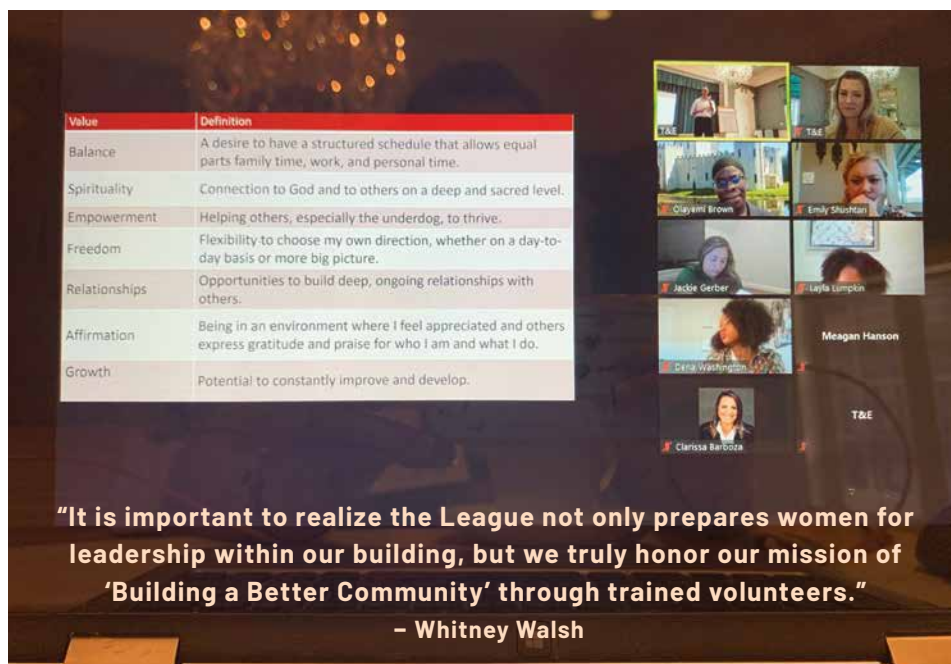
SALLY HILTON

SHERRY RODRIGUEZ

TABBETHA LOPEZ







"LIT was a very personal experience for members, challenging them to critically evaluate their talents, values and future in the League. Participants learned how to identify their authentic leadership style and build relationships with new friends, all while practicing safe, social distancing – which looked different for each member – and trying to balance the many demands of life," said Whitney Bosworth.

In September 2020, the program began with a social hour in the Tea Room for LIT participants with current League leadership to lay the foundation for the LIT program. A few days later, members explored their authentic leadership style during an in-depth training session with Proof Leadership. In November, participants explored the various administrative placements within the League, through sessions taught by past and present League leaders including **Rachel Regan**, 2020 – 2021 President; **Jennifer Roberts**, 2020 – 2021 President-Elect; **Anne Sears**, 2021 – 2022 President-Elect; **Alicia Lee**, 2020 – 2021 Texas Children's Hospital Chairman; and **Mitra Woody**, 2020 – 2021 Diversity and Inclusion Sustainer Advisor. The training day concluded with a Past Presidents Panel that included **Stephanie Magers**, 2018 – 2019 President, **Perry Ann Reed**, 2011 – 2012 President; and **Debbie Brown Robinson**, 1996 – 1997 President.

In January, several LIT participants completed an optional SET by facilitating virtual office hours with League leadership to answer members' questions around administrative positions. "This SET was a rewarding leadership-in-training experience. For the first time, during the virtual office hours SET, while moderating the zoom waiting

room, I realized I was now considered a League leader," said **Alle Houstoun**, LIT participant and *Houston News* Editor. "I enjoyed chatting with fellow members and helping identify administrative placement opportunities for the upcoming League year based on their professional and League experience."





This year's program concluded with a Virtual Capstone project dedicated to addressing the digital divide in Houston. Each team was encouraged to develop creative solutions that fit within the structure of the League, while utilizing existing programs and resources to provide solutions that support our mission. Ultimately, teams presented their solutions to a panel of League leaders.

Traditionally, applications for LIT open after the General Meeting in April and close in May. Yet with COVID-19 in full swing, the LIT program, along with many other opportunities, was not top of mind for League members.

It was like "waking up to all of the decisions I planned to make and realizing the deadline passed," Clarissa said, recalling the feeling of missing another opportunity to participate in the LIT program. Prior to joining the most recent class, she applied to the LIT program more than once and expressed the importance of never giving up. "No one can achieve success without overcoming obstacles. With limited spots available, I knew this program was worth the wait. And I would be remiss if I did not credit those that nominated me for such a focused-

opportunity to figure out who I was...LIT provided the space to learn more about my strengths and talents."

Each year, the Executive Committee reviews all the applications and selects the slate of LIT participants.

"We had several women who were nominated, and League leaders also encouraged other women to apply," said Michelle Esparza. "It was a joy to go on the journey with each of the 25 women and wonderful to witness them supporting each other throughout the program."

As we move forward, keep your eyes open for these incredible women over the next three to five years. We have already seen how LIT shapes the future of the League, including women like 2021 – 2022 Community Vice President **Sameka Wood** and incoming board members **Emily Shushtari** and **Jennifer Williams**. If you are interested or know someone that would be a great fit for the LIT program, let the Membership Training Chairman know. Applications for LIT open this spring. It is never too late to better yourself and learn the art of authenticity – after all isn't that the mission of the League, to be better for our community? 🦋



# THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF HOUSTON GIFTS TEXAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL SUPERKIDS PEDIATRIC MOBILE CLINIC

*By: Catherine A. Watkins, Houston News Writer*



**T**he Junior League of Houston recently completed a three-year campaign to fund a **Texas Children's Hospital SuperKids Pediatric Mobile Clinic**. In 2000, the League donated the first SuperKids mobile clinic to Texas Children's Hospital in honor of its 75th anniversary. The SuperKids Pediatric Mobile Clinic is a fully equipped medical clinic in a customized motor coach. It primarily travels to schools in the Gulfton area of Southwest Houston where it benefits medically underserved children. In honor of its 90th anniversary, the League initiated funds to support a certified Community Health Worker to

serve as a liaison and cultural mediator for the families served by the SuperKids program. This healthcare professional provides patient education, patient navigation and social support, and assistance in completing applications for health insurance and other available resources.

In 2020, the League fully funded and delivered a third SuperKids Pediatric Mobile Clinic to Texas Children's Hospital. This Mobile Clinic features more current technology and updated equipment. The Mobile Clinic was designed to provide services such as well-child checks, sports and school physicals, illness/urgent

***"IT TAKES EACH AND EVERY SOUL TO ILLUMINATE THIS WORLD."***

*- Rasheed Ogunlaru*



**THE MOBILE CLINIC WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE SERVICES SUCH AS WELL-CHILD CHECKS, SPORTS AND SCHOOL PHYSICALS, ILLNESS/URGENT CARE EXAMS, VACCINATIONS/IMMUNIZATIONS, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH THERAPY, HEALTH CARE AND NUTRITION EDUCATION AND REFERRALS TO MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES AS NEEDED.**

care exams, vaccinations/immunizations, behavioral health therapy, health care and nutrition education and referrals to medical and social services as needed.

The pandemic unfortunately forced the SuperKids Pediatric Mobile Clinic to temporarily cease services to the community. In May 2020, the clinic received the all clear to resume a small portion of the services it previously offered. While patients were unable to visit the clinic due to COVID-19 restrictions, the clinic was able to bring several services including vaccinations, immunizations, and vision screenings to its patients via car-side care. **Dr. Sanghamitra M. Misra** is the Medical Director of the Texas Children's Mobile Clinic Program, which includes the SuperKids Mobile Clinic, the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, the Texas Children's Care Squad and the TAG Mobile Clinic. In speaking with Dr. Misra, she explained that one of the challenges the pandemic brought to the Mobile Clinic program was that the clinics were previously school-based clinics. However, as many schools moved to virtual education settings and the students were not on-site at the schools, the challenge of how to adequately serve patients had to be reinvented. Dr. Misra and her staff worked with school nurses to market the Mobile Clinic's service

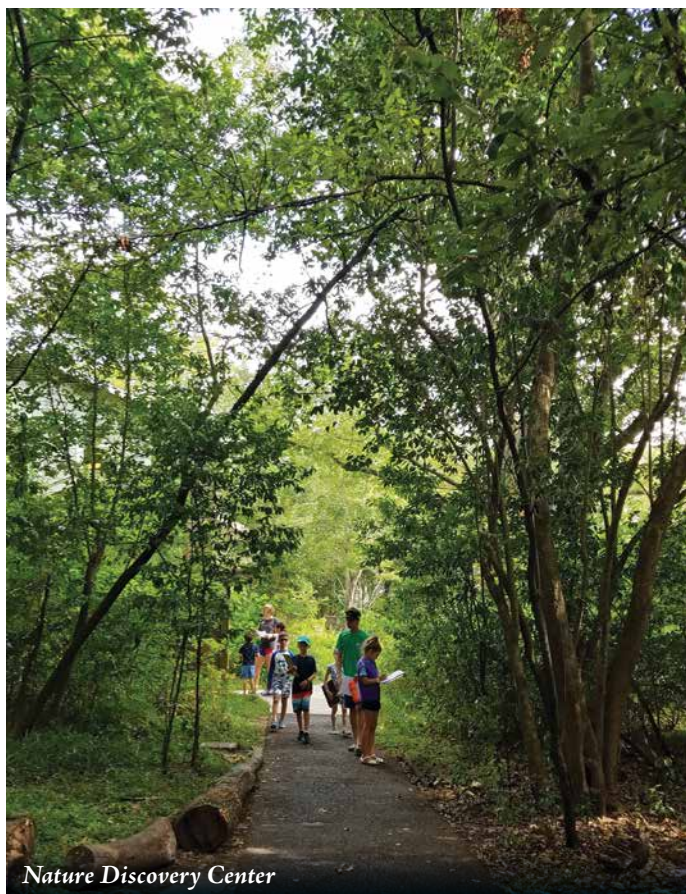
offerings to students and their families.

During the first **Junior League Community "SUPER" Market Focus Area Event** on Saturday, October 17, 2020, the newest Mobile Clinic, funded by a donation from The Junior League of Houston, was also onsite to provide free immunizations, flu shots, and health screenings for children and their families. Health screenings were required by HISD and other neighboring districts before school children returned to in-person classes the following week.

Over the last decade, the SuperKids Pediatric Mobile Clinic has served an average of 4,800 children annually, totaling over 19,000 visits. In 2020, the Mobile Clinic served only 2,000 patients. While fewer patients were seen during the pandemic, the number of patients that still received services is a huge accomplishment – especially given that the Mobile Clinic was not operational for several months last spring. Recently, the Mobile Clinic added an additional service: providing flu vaccinations to the parents of patients visiting the clinic. While Dr. Misra and her team have had to reinvent the services the Mobile Clinic provides to patients, they continue to work together to provide access to services for patients throughout the greater Houston area.

"Given all the challenges faced by the city of Houston over the last year – tropical and winter storms, and of course the pandemic – the Texas Children's Hospital Superkids Pediatric Mobile Clinic found ways to continue serving our community during this unique time," said **Marie Newton**, Community Vice President. "It's incredibly rewarding that this mobile healthcare solution is now fully funded by the Junior League, and operational serving our community during this time where unprecedented levels of basic needs remain." 🦋





Nature Discovery Center



First3Years



Texas Center for the Missing

## THE LEAGUE MARKS ITS **65<sup>TH</sup>** YEAR OF COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS



The Community Assistance Grant program supports the community through direct financial support to agencies for which the Junior League does not provide on-going volunteer support. For 65 years, the League has served the community in this manner, not only giving millions of dollars in financial support, but establishing relationships and cultivating partnerships with agencies across the greater Houston area. The need was great this year – 65 organizations applied for over \$1 million in requested funds.

“Overseeing the process during the pandemic was humbling and fulfilling as we swapped meetings and receptions for Zoom calls and check deliveries in order to make it all happen safely,” said **Katie Bailey Grahmann**, Community Assistance Chairman. “It is a testament to the League’s leadership and also to the Junior League Foundation that we are able to give \$150,000 to the community this year, when so many other organizations and companies have had to pull back.”

Shepherding this long-standing League tradition during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic reinforced the continued and significant need for service in our community and also the unwavering commitment of those determined to do good, despite unprecedented challenges.

Historically, the Community Assistance Committee hosts a reception in the Tea Room and all the grant recipients gather to celebrate and meet each other. However, this year Katie and the Community Assistance team hand-delivered checks to each grant recipient. “Scheduling 13 on-site check presentations with busy League leaders, volunteers and agency representatives was fun, but a bit chaotic as we criss-crossed Houston for five days in January,” said Katie.

As part of the 2020 – 2021 Community Budget, \$150,000 was designated to fund Community Assistance Grants this League year. Most of the funding for this program was received from the Junior



League of Houston Foundation as part of the annual distribution request from the League. Of the funding received from the Foundation, \$23,000 is specifically from the Barbara and Roy Adams Endowed Community Grant Fund and restricted to supporting children's health and well-being initiatives or literacy/education enrichment.

"The Community Assistance program is one of the League's true gems," said Katie. "Aside from the obvious good the program does, by supporting several deserving community organizations and identifying potential future partnerships for the League, it also provides League volunteers with the opportunity to learn about so many other organizations across Houston."



*LifeHouse of Houston, Inc.*



*Neighbors In Action*



*Nature Discovery Center*



*Gift of Adoption Fund*



*Texas Center for the Missing*



*Houston Furniture Bank*



*Nature Discovery Center*



*SIRE, Inc.*



*Literacy Now*



*Texas Center for the Missing*



*Houston Furniture Bank*



*LifeHouse of Houston, Inc.*



*Counseling Connections for Change*

*Continued*



For 2020 – 2021 the League awarded \$150,000 in Community Assistance grants to the following agencies:

**\*ChildBuilders:** To enhance, develop, and expedite virtual trainings and curricula in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. ChildBuilders works to

prevent child abuse and neglect through educational programming for children, teachers, and parents. Funding will convert current curriculum into E-Learning software and develop online content to engage children and address current needs in schools.



**Counseling Connections for Change:** To support a telehealth option for their general counseling program (launched early due to the isolation and anxiety caused by the ongoing pandemic). Expert clinicians are available on a HIPAA complaint platform that accepts insurance and cash payments on a sliding scale. This specific project will fund at least 133 women and children seeking free or reduced therapy services through the General Counseling Program.



**Family to Family Network:** To pilot an outreach program for 75 families with special needs children ages 0-3, in order to ensure that children with disabilities enter school with the support and services they need vs. waiting until their children start Kindergarten or have been in the system for a few years. Funds will provide case management and training for 18 families and assist all families in the program with setting up a special education notebook.



**First3Years:** To support Baby Day, providing parents with an accessible experience to learn and incorporate new techniques for play that supports brain development and meaning to families of all backgrounds. Typically an in-person event, First3Years is using the forced virtual platform this year as an opportunity to reach more people and expand their online content into resources for families to reference in the future. Funding will provide Education Boxes for 150 low socioeconomic households in the Houston area to facilitate full participation in Baby Day 2021.



**Gift of Adoption Fund:** To fund the final costs necessary to complete two adoptions already in progress but stalled due to lack of funds. These families are willing and able to provide safe and nurturing homes but lack the up-front capital needed to satisfy attorney fees and agency costs. By enabling a family to complete an adoption, Gift of Adoption Fund is not only meeting the immediate needs of those children, they are also ensuring future needs are met as well.



**Houston Furniture Bank:** To fund the ongoing work of their "No Kids On The Floor" initiative, providing twin mattress sets, a pillow, sheets, and blanket to children in need. By bringing production in-house, Houston Furniture Bank is able to provide mattresses to children through partnership with other Houston area agencies.



**LifeHouse of Houston, Inc.:** To expand engagement within LifeLine, the agency's aftercare program, currently serving 74 young mothers, providing



***"Let there be room left in your heart for the unimaginable ~  
serendipity has a way of showing itself just when you feel like giving up."***

— Nikki Rowe

social work, counseling services, coaching and classes that teach healthy parenting, healthy relationships, and childhood literacy and education practices. Funding will eliminate the barrier of transportation for all mothers to engage in activities and events with LifeHouse and each other during 2021, strengthening their community and their resolve to succeed.

**\*Literacy Now:** To fund half of The Reading Express program, a mobile classroom that provides programming and books to build at-home libraries for children ages 2-4 years old and their families.



Designed to equip parents with the tools/skills to help kids develop pre-reading skills before kindergarten, funding will cover the costs of books that are distributed to the children, supplies and materials, and the cost of delivering the programming at the partner sites through a part-time facilitator.

**Nature Discovery Center:** To reach 400 children that otherwise would not experience the programming offered by Nature Discovery Center. This support will cover camp scholarships for children able to attend in person, as well as Camp on the Go packs for Title 1 schools. At \$20 each, Camp On The Go allows nature education in either the school or home environment, eliminating many of the barriers to providing nature education across the area.



**Neighbors In Action:** To fund the Summer Enrichment Program for 50 children and 20 teenagers. After living and learning through



COVID-19 last summer, the agency has a proven solution if in-person activities aren't possible in 2021. The leadership of Neighbors in Action is committed to serving these children in whatever way possible.

**SIRE, Inc.:** To fund therapeutic riding and horsemanship for children with disabilities or special needs. Funding will help care for a horse, coordinate volunteers, and support an instructor's continuing education in 2021.



**Texas Center for the Missing:** To fund the Child Safety Education for the Digital Age Expansion Project to prevent the abuse of children. This program will train volunteers as providers of Internet Safety classes. Parents will learn to keep their children safe online. Children will pick up safety techniques to prevent CyberBullying along with reasons not to run away.



**The Rose:** To fund Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for staff. Basic needs for basic needs, PPE is critical for The Rose to continue providing quality breast health services, advocacy, and access to care for those without other options.



Funding covers the cost of PPE needed to serve uninsured patients in 2021. 🦋

*\*Funded through the Barbara and Roy Adams Endowed Community Grant Fund*







# Tea Room

## EVENTS

AS THE WORLD CONTINUES TO NAVIGATE THE ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THE TEA ROOM SPECIAL EVENTS TEAM CONTINUES TO REIMAGINE CLASSIC LEAGUE EVENTS TO SAFELY ACCOMMODATE MEMBERS AND PATRONS.

*By: Michael Ann Young Singleton, Tea Room Communications Manager*

The annual **Holiday Special with Rob Landes** event, held on Thursday, December 10, 2020, was reconfigured to provide joyful entertainment in a socially distant manner. A small, intimate group gathered in the ballroom for a pleasant three-course holiday dinner paired with wine and, of course, the delightful musical accompaniment of the piano talents of Rob Landes.

**Aleedra Price**, League member and event attendee, said “This is such a special annual event, especially for loyal Rob Landes fans who look forward to it every year. It was heartwarming to see everyone enjoy a festive night.”







**Lunch with Santa** is a timeless event that is held every year at the Junior League. The joy and hope from children when they see Santa Clause is a magical experience that can only be created in person. In true League fashion, the Special Events Team transformed the League into a safe and welcoming place for Santa and all of the families that attended on Saturday, December 13, 2020. It was a jolly event, and the children (and parents) were beyond grateful that Santa wasn't still in quarantine at the North

Pole. Families enjoyed having their photo taken with the big guy then grabbed their to-go order and a holiday activity kit to enjoy at home. The League was able to offer this event to a large group of people by staggering photo times to allow for social distancing.

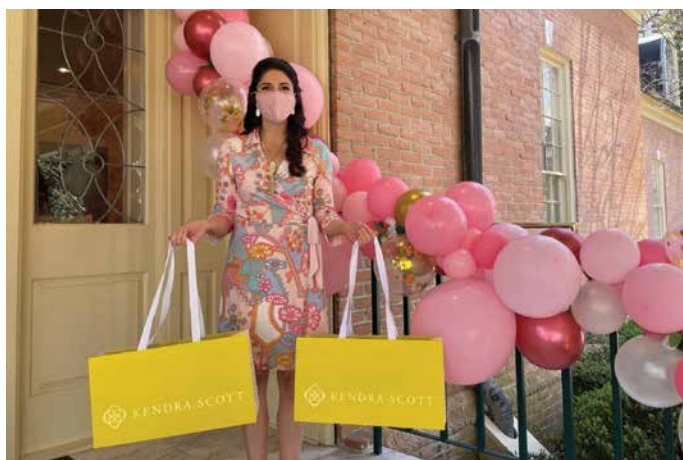
"Since my son is finally old enough to enjoy the magic of Lunch with Santa, I was thrilled to participate – and even more thrilled to support the League's efforts at reimagining such a special event," said **Alex Spencer**, Communications Director.



*Continued*



Every year members and patrons look forward to the **Thanksgiving dinner** meal pickup and with such popular demand, the League piloted a new to-go **Christmas dinner** option to help take the stress out of preparing for the Holidays! On Wednesday, December 23, 2020, families picked up meals to-go for six to eight people consisting of beef tenderloin balanced with hearty sides, dinner rolls and dessert. This meal option warmed homes and provided a relaxing option for those who simply needed a break in the kitchen during this busy season.



The spring virtual **Bubbles and Brunch** event, held on Saturday, March 6, 2021, was a festive way for members to kick off the spring season with a to-go meal, mimosa kit and a virtual style conversation with a Kendra Scott designer. Participants had the opportunity to preview Kendra Scott's new collection, perfect for a spring wardrobe refresh and to get gift ideas for Mother's Day, graduates and more. Kendra Scott graciously agreed to give back 20% of all purchases from participants to benefit the Junior League of Houston and provided fun jewelry surprises in some of the meal orders!

**Anaam Zamorano**, Tea Room Special Events Chairman, said, "It was a beautiful day for the Spring Bubbles and Brunch! Guests picked up their mimosa kits and brunch meals in the morning and logged in to a Style Call with Kendra Scott to learn about fun trends. We talked about how to mix metals and I'm inspired to shop! Huge thanks to Kendra Scott and our members for their support in helping make this virtual experience at Bubbles & Brunch a success!"

*Continued*







*“I love it here!  
I couldn’t have made  
a better choice.”*

–Beverly B., a community resident

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On Sunday, March 28, 2021, the League hosted **Bunny Brunch**, where families had the opportunity for a fun family socially-distanced picnic and option to hop on over for a private photo session with the Bunny. The League offered meals that could be enjoyed at home or picnic-style on the side lawn, as well as themed activities to take home.

"Thank you to everyone who has participated and joined the League for a meal pickup, virtual or traditional Tea Room Special Event this year," said Anaam. "The creative and innovative ways the Tea Room has reimagined events throughout the past year has led to great learnings and growth for future events." 🦋







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SOMETHING THAT ONCE BEGAN AS A COMPILATION OF HANDWRITTEN RECIPES TO SUPPORT THE JUNIOR LEAGUE'S MISSION, LATER BECAME ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE TREASURES TO GRACE LEAGUES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. COOKBOOK PROGRAMS, FOLLOWED BY OTHER PUBLISHING VENTURES, HAVE PROVIDED LEAGUES WITH REVENUE AND MEMBERS WITH A RANGE OF VALUABLE SKILLS FOR DECADES.

## Sunsetting the PUBLISHING PLACEMENT

By: *Sameka Wood, Finance Communications Manager*

A tradition dating back to the early 1920s, Junior League cookbooks have featured some of the most decadent and savory recipes such as Southern Pimento Cheese from the Junior League of Charleston's cookbook, *Charleston Receipts*, published in 1950, and Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower's recipe simply titled "Pastry" in the Junior League of Augusta's *Tea Time at the Masters*, published in 1977.

Leagues all around the country created publishing committees to celebrate regional cultures and local foods and then used the proceeds to give back to their local communities. The Junior League of Houston has always been an organization where women have the opportunity to share their talents and passion for the community in which they



serve. In 1968, the Junior League of Houston published its first cookbook, titled the *Houston Junior League Cookbook*. The Cookbook Committee that was formed in 1966 – 1967 evolved to become the Publishing Committee in 2003. In 1995, Walter S. McIlhenny of Tabasco inducted the *Houston Junior League Cookbook*

into its Community Cookbook Hall of Fame. This award honored publications that sold 100,000 or more copies.

In 1983, the League published the *Star of Texas* cookbook to celebrate the rich history of Texas through food and culture. Later, in 1991, the League published an architectural book called *Houston's Forgotten Heritage: Landscape, Houses, Interiors* which documents the home life and culture in Houston from 1824 – 1914.

*Stop and Smell the Rosemary* was published in 1996 and is an eight-time award winning cookbook with over 200,000 copies sold worldwide. This cookbook has unique recipes that highlight different degrees of cooking difficulty as well as fun recipes composed by League members. While this is the most sold Junior League of Houston cookbook, it is no longer in print but its legacy will continue to be celebrated amongst family and friends.

In 2002, the League's first children's book, *Sweet Dreams Douglas*, was printed with over 20,000 copies. The release in September 2002 was celebrated with a children's party. By May 31, 2003, sales from the children's book exceeded 8,000 copies. Later that year, *Sweet Dreams Douglas* won the "Best Children's Book" award presented by *Writer's Digest*.

In 2008, the Junior League of Houston published *Peace Meals: A Book of Recipes for Cooking and Connecting* which goes beyond this incredible collection of recipes to highlight the joy in making connections with family and friends over food. *Peace Meals* includes recipes — some elaborate, some simple — for celebrating the flavor of life. This final cookbook has sold over 45,000 copies and is a nine-time award winner that includes menu and entertaining ideas all submitted and tested by League members and Tea Room Patron members.

**Dena Prasher**, who served as Cookbook Chairman from 2007 – 2009, explains, "*Peace Meals* is about switching our mindset from



*Junior League of Houston volunteers handed out snacks, goodies and copies of Peace Meals to the hard-working volunteers at Memorial Hermann's NRG Vaccine Drive Thru Clinic.*

saving time to making time, because it is the special people and small moments that make the big memories." In addition to the tried-and-true recipes, *Peace Meals* includes inspiring entertaining ideas and menus that reflect today's lifestyles. The book is full of beautiful color photographs of featured recipes and entertaining scenarios.

*Peace Meals* celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2018. Released in September 2008, *Peace Meals* was the

League's fourth cookbook and was the organization's first cookbook in over 10 years.

The League recently partnered with the Memorial Hermann Foundation, Baylor College of Medicine, Harris Health and others in the Texas Medical Center to give approximately 2,000 cookbooks to frontline healthcare workers helping with vaccine distribution and care of COVID-19 patients. Distribution took place this spring at various donation sites and hospital clinics.

"It's been a joy to serve as Publishing Chairman for the League's last year of the committee. We've had the ability to share cookbooks with healthcare professionals, teachers and many other organizations as we wrap up this chapter of League history," says **Elizabeth Kendrick**, Publishing Chairman for 2020 – 2021.

Throughout this year, the League also participated in pop-up events at Bering's Hardware Store and White Elm Cafe, as well as partnered with Ouisie's Table and Annie Cafe to gift cookbooks during the holiday season.

In speaking to **Megan Ryan**, Budget Director and owner of all four Junior League of Houston cookbooks, she recalls receiving her first *Houston Junior League Cookbook* as a wedding shower gift from her aunt. The grits and sour cream pound cake are still her family's favorites. "League cookbooks give a glimpse into the food and drink trends of the time," said Megan. "Looking through the cookbooks remind me of my favorite special recipes prepared by family members."

After this League year, we will say our final farewell to our Publishing committee and all of the Houston publications will become family heirlooms passed down from generation to generation. Our cookbooks are no longer being sold, so be sure to cherish your copy which represents a piece of Junior League of Houston history. 🦋



## FEATURING CONVERSATIONS WITH PAST & PRESENT LEAGUE LEADERS

# 95<sup>th</sup>

## The YEAR TIMELINE

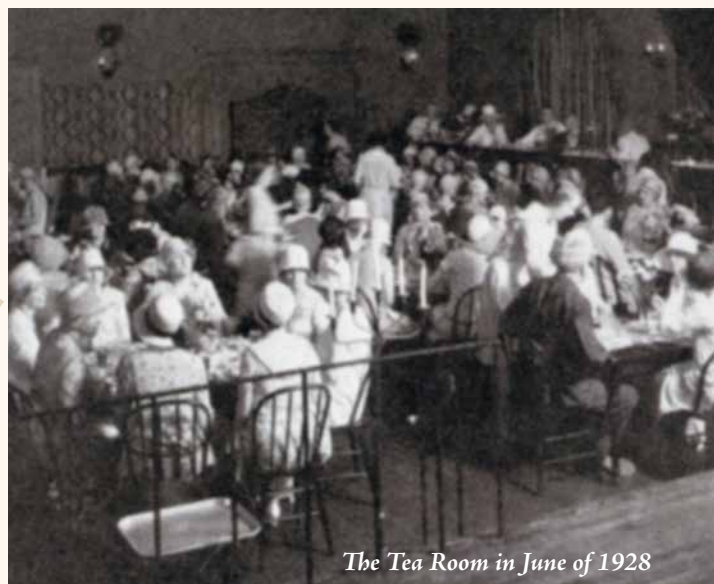
By: Laurie Maddox and Melissa Strathman, Sustainer Writers



*Founding members at 25th Anniversary Celebration, 1950*

Since the creation of the Junior League of Houston in 1925, the League has given countless hours of volunteer time and has donated millions of dollars to enhance the lives of Houston citizens. It all started with 12 bold and energetic women who envisioned a women's organization that offered healthcare to the underserved population of their city.

Within the first two years, League members opened the Junior League Health Center, which functioned as a privately-owned relief organization with minimal staff and League volunteers. The Junior League Health Center was the League's first community project, designed to provide healthcare services for children from families without resources. Operations started in the basement of the First National Bank Building in downtown Houston until the clinic



*The Tea Room in June of 1928*



*The League's First Building at 500 Stuart Street, 1929*

moved to the Junior League building on Stuart Street in 1932.

As the Junior League of Houston sprints towards its **100th Anniversary**, it is important to reflect upon some of the more significant gifts and anniversary celebrations from the past. While celebrated, many of the League's early milestone years did not designate "anniversary" gifts. Donations were simply part of the fabric of the League's charitable endeavors as the members broadened their outreach and vision.

In 1935, the **10th anniversary** was acknowledged in the Junior League of *Houston News Sheet's* special edition. Feted at a delicious "Husbands Night Out at the League" dinner, the event was priced at \$1.50 per person and honored the former League Presidents. Apparently, the husbands of the honorees disappeared after the first

speech to the consternation of their wives.

By this time, the Junior League Health Center had partnered with Hermann Hospital and funded the salary for a public health nurse. By the League's **15th anniversary**, the Health Center served 5,300 children annually, supported 100% by Junior League Luncheon Club dues and fundraising activities.

In 1945, during the League's **20th anniversary**, funds were donated to the in-patient Wards program for children's books and toys. Now part of Hermann Hospital's Outpatient Department located at the hospital, the Junior League Health Center offered free and "part pay" care to underserved children and was the Houston area's principal diagnosis outpatient clinic for the treatment of children's diseases.

As the League celebrated its **25th anniversary** in 1950, the Junior League Health Center at Hermann Hospital expanded with the hiring of the clinic's first full time pediatrician, Dr. Russell Blattner. The 25th anniversary included a special meeting honoring the founders. Cake and flowers were donated by **Miss Ima Hogg**, **Mrs. Richard Neff** and **Mrs. J. A. Tennant** with tables decorated by **Mrs. Whitfield Marshall**.

In 1947, the League donated \$42,000 from the Pin Oak Charity Horse Show to help establish Texas Children's Hospital Foundation. In 1954, the Junior League Health Center moved to the newly opened Texas Children's Hospital as the Junior League Diagnostic Clinic of Texas Children's Hospital. With members' support, the Hermann Health Center reorganized to offer examinations and immunizations for all children born in Houston.

When the **35th anniversary** rolled around in 1960, members



*Children's Theater project, 1931*

threw an Anniversary Tea and Fashion Show honoring the founding members. Billed as "High Tea and High Fashion by Sakowitz," members paid \$7.50 to attend the afternoon event in the Grand Ballroom of the Rice Hotel on December 5, 1960. Proceeds of \$2,700 benefitted the League Charity Fund. That year, the first of three payments of \$10,000 was given to the Houston Hearing and Speech Center.

Another significant donation was \$15,000 earmarked for a dinosaur for the new Houston Museum of Natural Science during the 1961 – 1962 League year. "It is the diplodocus which was the centerpiece of the museum's dinosaurs for decades in Glassell Hall, and it's now in the Morian Hall of Paleontology. It was a fabulous joint effort," proclaims **Renee Shockley Davis**, President 1992 – 1993 who also worked as the museum's Vice President of Exhibits, Collections and Education Programming.

Over the years, the League has supported the historical, artistic, literary and theatrical communities with hundreds of donations. The League funded the "Mister Rogers" children's program on KUHT at The University of Houston, purchased the Gabriel Molina rare book collection for the Houston Spanish Library, supported the Houston Public Library's reconstruction and so much more.

Both the **40th** and **45th anniversaries** highlighted the League's accomplishments in brochures. These years saw the League dedicate significant funds towards the expansion of the Junior League Outpatient Department at Texas Children's Hospital.

Plans for a **50th anniversary** celebration started early. When brainstorming began for an appropriate gift to the city of Houston to commemorate the city's bicentennial and the League's 50th anniversary, **Gay Gooch Estes**, President 1974 – 1975, dreamed of revitalizing Old Market Square Park. "I wanted a garden space for downtown,"



*Arts and Interests Committee at the Museum of Fine Arts, 1932*



*The Health Center, 1932*



*Book and Puppet Fair, 1948*





Mary Cullinan Graves



Nora Cleveland Fuller



Adelaide Lovett Baker



Elizabeth Godwin Gordon

Mary Porter Kirkland  
Vandervoort

Margaret Cullinan Whry



Virgilia Chew



Patty Lummis Sharp



Ella Rice Winston



Lottie Rice Farish



Frankie Carter Randolph

On January 22, 1925,  
twelve young women  
formed the organization  
which became the Junior  
League of Houston, Inc.

(not pictured:  
Rebecca Saunders Miller)

Gay said. Houston's original town center, Old Market Square Park sits on the historical spot where the Allen Brothers landed when they founded the city in 1830. The space had become a parking lot before League members led the campaign for revitalization. The League terraced the new park beautifying it with live oaks and crepe myrtles. Today, a discreet plaque commemorates the League's involvement in this vital and historic park.

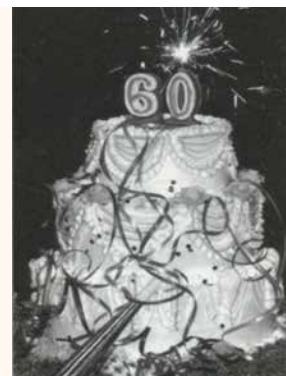
The next big anniversary, the League's **60th anniversary** in 1985, was celebrated with a gift of \$100,000 to the Houston Child Guidance Center to build a library designed to serve 1,000 people annually. Founded in 1929 by Miss Ima Hogg, the Houston Child Guidance Center focuses on children's mental health issues and treatment. "Our committee, headed by **Susan Lawhon**, looked at all of the wonderful organizations in town," says **Anne Peden Tucker**, President 1985 – 1986. "It had to be a 501c3 organization that would benefit children. The deciding factor was that it was a permanent place in the medical center. It is still there today."

In 1995, *Houston News* focused on topics pertaining to the **70th anniversary**. A seesaw snake was given to the Brady Carruth Playground for All Children in Hermann Park. This \$10,000 donation is marked with a plaque at the site today.

The **75th anniversary** kicked off a year of special event celebrations on January 11, 2000, with a capacity crowd of 2,000 at Jones Hall who gathered to honor Junior League past presidents and share the unveiling of the Texas Children's Hospital SuperKids Pediatric Mobile Clinic. This mobile pediatric clinic was funded by the League's 75th Anniversary Committee in conjunction with several city and county agencies as well as representatives from the medical and education communities. "We started by asking



Free CPR training as a League project, 1976



Anniversary cake, 1985

Museum of Natural History added as a  
Community Agency, 1948

Members of the 75th Anniversary Gift Committee, 2000

Cast members at 13th  
Annual Charity Ball,  
1961

the question, ‘what would the city need the most?’” explains **Kim Mason Strange**, President 1999 – 2000.

The answer: a state-of-the-art, full service mobile pediatric clinic designed to spend one to two days per week amongst targeted elementary schools where there was a void in health care. The clinic provided inoculations, preventive care, dental screenings, nutrition counseling and more. The Junior League of Houston committed a \$1,000,000 gift to the city to fund the mobile pediatric clinic and to cover operations and staffing costs for three years.

*Houston News* reported that **Mary Nell Jeffers Lovett**, President 1986 – 1987, and a committee member said, “The 18-month journey took us from a completely blank slate to the culminating meeting with the heads of these major institutions sitting around one table, committing enthusiastically to our project.”

The committee marveled at the coincidence of this ambitious collaboration and the League’s first gift to the city of Houston, the Junior League Health Center, that was created to provide healthcare for children without resources. Committee member **Franny Coleman Gray**, President 2001 – 2002, stated, “As members of the League, we should all be proud to be a part of an organization dedicated to serving these children with such vision.”

To commemorate the **85th anniversary**, the League formed the “\$85 for 85 Years Campaign,” allowing all members to participate. The campaign was a huge success and resulted in additional funding for Community Assistance awards given that year. In October 2009, the League partnered with Collaborative for Children and Community Partner Weatherford International, Ltd. to build a playscape at Kandy Stripe Academy, an early childhood center and Houston Independent School District Charter School. The previous playground had been destroyed by Hurricane Ike. The efforts of the League with the design and implementation of the nature-centered



*Charity Ball cover, 1999*



*The Brady Carruth Playground for All Children, 1995*

play setting were awarded a Keep Houston Beautiful Mayor’s Proud Partner Award in 2010. “It is precisely because of courage, foresight, strategic planning, vision, growth, challenge and emotion that we, in our 85th year, are able to touch over 1,000,000 lives,” said **Kristen Kors Buck**, President 2009 – 2010. The League celebrated its 85th anniversary during an evening Community Assistance Awards ceremony, with champagne and light hors d’oeuvres.

In celebration of the **90th anniversary**, the League launched a unique initiative highlighting the mission of “Building a Better Community.” “The 90 Hours for 90 Years” campaign encouraged members to contribute an additional 18 volunteer hours towards various community and Tea Room shifts. Almost four hundred members, which included provisionals, actives and sustainers, signed up for the campaign. Through their efforts, a total of 5,554 additional hours were completed further impacting the League’s community programs. “After 90 years, the League is as relevant as ever. Our

work in the community is meaningful, our membership is robust, our partnerships are strong, and our finances are sound,” said **Elizabeth Graves Love**, President 2014 – 2015. The League also made a \$90,000 gift to the community which included the funding of the Community Health Worker Program for the SuperKids Pediatric Mobile Clinic at Texas Children’s Hospital as well as building the **100th Anniversary Fund**.

“The Junior League of Houston has served our community with unwavering dedication through unprecedented challenges, from major hurricanes to now a global pandemic. As we look forward to our Centennial anniversary in 2025, we plan to celebrate with year-long events highlighting the League’s vital commitment to our community, our dedicated and inspirational membership and the long-standing legacy of The Junior League of Houston,” said **Rachel Regan**, President 2020 – 2021. “The desire to lead, innovate and serve is the foundation of the mission of the Junior League of Houston.” 🦋



# 100

## YEARS LATER

A FOCUS ON THE 1930S IN HONOR OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF HOUSTON'S  
UPCOMING CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY



*The League Private Dining Room at 500 Stuart Street. The former League building is now Brennan's Restaurant.*

In honor of the Junior League of Houston's upcoming Centennial Anniversary, this second article in the "100 Years Later" series is devoted to republishing two articles from the October 1935 issue of *Houston News*. The first article titled, "The Purpose of the Junior League" describes the League in its early years shortly after forming in 1925. The same focus and passion for serving and improving our community remain true today, over 85 years later. The second article titled, "An Answer to Husbands and Other Critics" is focused on the early accomplishments at the Junior League Health Center, which was a significant community project during the late 1920s, 1930s and beyond, and the dedicated women that faithfully supported the League's first community project.

*Continued*

# *Houston* JUNIOR LEAGUE NEWS

Vol. V • No. 1  
OCT., 1935

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## THE PURPOSE OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE

"THE PURPOSE of the Junior League shall be: To foster interest among its members in the social, economic, educational, civic and cultural conditions of their community, and make efficient their volunteer service." This statement was made in 1911, when the Junior League was being organized, and, although there have been many changes in the Association since that date, the purpose has remained the same. It is not a social organization, that is, not social in the narrower sense of the word, but in its broader meaning of one's relation to mankind. What should be realized is that the Junior League is a training school, striving to educate its members to the needs of their community. It

wishes to teach them, through its various activities, to give intelligent volunteer service to its own projects and those of the community and thus become a more valued member of society.

In fostering interest among its members in the economic and civic needs of the community, the Junior League is trying to give better living conditions to the more unfortunate; in fostering interest in the educational and cultural conditions of the community the League is broadening its members in the amenities and courtesies of life. When these efforts have been accomplished, then the purpose of the Junior League has been fulfilled.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING — Tuesday, October 15, 2:30 P. M., Junior League Building. Five-dollar fine for non-attendance.

BOARD MEETING — Tuesday, October 15, 2:00 P. M.,

BOARD MEETING — Tuesday, November 5, 9:30 A. M., Junior League Building.



## Health Center

### AN ANSWER TO HUSBANDS AND OTHER CRITICS

With the first norther, there begins what is known as the Telephone Season—for at this time, that instrument becomes extremely persistent with a penchant for the breakfast or dinner hour. How often does one have to sidle back in a chair with a "That was only the Ways and Means Committee" or unobtrusively pick up a napkin with "They want to know if I am going to do Arts and Interests this year," only to be met with a storm of protests and an exposition on the uselessness of the Junior League and the lack of accomplishment in proportion to its efforts. Instead of apology which is weak kneed, or argument which will probably become acrimonious, I want, at the start of the present Telephone Season, to urge every Member to draw herself up, and with quiet dignity invite her detractor, whether husband, father, brother or simple misanthrope, to visit our Health Center.

There lies the purpose, the guiding star of all of our fuss-budgeting interior activities and there also the hub from which radiates in all directions our associations with the welfare plan of the community. The Ways and Means, the Membership, the Kitchen, the Dining Room, the Finance, all these committees, with many others, direct their efforts toward one goal, that of pouring into the coffers enough money to support and develop the Health Center, which in turn has active association with Hermann Hospital, Jefferson Davis, the Probation Officers, the Social Service, the County Health Department, the Dental Clinic, etc.

The work of the clinic is continuous. Through the long, hot



*Families in the waiting room of the Junior League Health Center*

summer, the Members signed up for Clinic have patiently done their work and all of them will agree with me, I am sure, when I say all we have done has been not only useful but necessary. Our waiting room has been filled every day. Often the assistants do not get away until nearly one o'clock—the appointment list is crowded for a week to ten days in advance and there is rarely a space in which to crowd an emergency.

The report for August shows 483 appointments with 61 new patients. I am particularly glad to have an opportunity to speak of the volume of our patients to our Members and to our supporters because the emphasis this year must be laid on the question of expansion. By next year at the earliest we will be forced to double our doctors, double our assistants and keep the Clinic open both morning and afternoon. This thought must be uppermost in our minds this year with plans for next year in the making.

Suggestions for development will be most welcome from our visitors. I am sure a morning spent in our Clinic will forever silence any opinions as to our futility. I ask them to remember that although twelve or fourteen girls do the actual work of the Health Center, every Junior Leaguer makes her contribution and if they are still not convinced, send them to me.

—MARY PORTER VANDERVOORT.





From **HOUSTON JUNIOR LEAGUE NEWS**  
500 Stuart Avenue, Houston, Texas

Sec. 562 P. L. & R.  
U. S. Postage  
**1 Cent Paid**  
Houston, Texas  
Permit No. 418



Early Style Show



Junior League Follies in 1939

*"I have a habit of  
letting my imagination  
run away from me.  
It always comes back  
though . . . drenched  
with possibilities."*

— Valaida Fullwood





# LEAGUE LEGENDS

## ANNUAL FUND

The *League Legends* Annual Fund supports the mission of the Junior League of Houston and provides meaningful resources to the League that create an immediate and substantial impact. The *League Legends* Annual Fund is essential to supporting three key aspects of the Junior League, which include the Operating Fund, Building Preservation Fund and the Community Program Fund.

The Junior League of Houston is grateful for the strong commitment and generous support of the *League Legends* Annual Fund donors. You can still donate to the League Legends Annual Fund by visiting [www.jlh.org/annualfund](http://www.jlh.org/annualfund).

### DIAMOND LEGEND

Helyna Bledsoe and John Thompson  
Brice Family Charitable Fund at Schwab Charitable  
Comerica  
Friend of the League  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kennedy  
The Iris and Lloyd Webre Foundation

### PLATINUM LEGEND

The John and Renee Hawkins Family Fund at Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund  
Pengelly Family Charitable Fund at Fidelity Charitable  
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Thomas Smitherman

### GOLD LEGEND

Mrs. Janice Barrow  
Ms. Allison Brandt  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Arthur Davis  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Daniel Grant  
Franny and Jim Gray Charitable Fund at Schwab Charitable  
Mrs. Mary K. Grum  
Mr. and Mrs. William F. Joplin  
Kirby Inland Marine on behalf of Caroline Kennedy  
KPMG Community Impact Grant Program  
*on behalf of Erin Elizabeth Perry, Courtney Stryker and Kelsey Michelle Wright*  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael F. Padon  
Ms. Kimberley Patterson  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wynn Regan  
*in honor of the Junior League Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Members and Staff*  
Ms. Anne Reed in honor of Sally Anne Schmidt  
Ms. Sally Anne Schmidt  
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Schnitzer  
*in memory of Mrs. Jenny Adams Crain*  
Ms. Anne Sears and Mr. Bill Peltier  
Mr. and Mrs. John Van Lant



Mrs. Megan Anson and  
Mr. Phillip David White  
Tim and Frances Arnoult Family  
Charitable Fund at Greater Houston  
Community Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Bash  
Benevity Community Impact Fund for:  
Aon  
*on behalf of Sydney Byrne and Angela Strong*  
Macquarie  
*on behalf of Alle and Brian Houstoun*  
Microsoft  
*on behalf of Kristin Collins*  
TC Energy  
*on behalf of Paige Fredrickson*  
Mr. and Mrs. Murry Bowden



Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Alberto Abello  
Mr. and Mrs. Joe B. Allen  
Ms. Leslie Alston and Mr. Michael Zenker  
Amazonsmile Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bayles  
Mr. Martin Beirne  
BlackBaud Giving Fund for Robert Half  
*on behalf of Casey Jo Chapman*  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Lamar Brem  
Mr. and Mrs. L. Cletus Brown III  
Ms. Kalinda Campbell  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Cappel  
Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Collado  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Conner  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen C. Cook  
Mrs. Almeria Cottingham  
Mr. and Mrs. Hub Dixon  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Doyle  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lee Elsenbrook  
Mr. and Mrs. Campbell Lehnertz Faulkner  
Mr. and Mrs. Randall Jordan Fleming  
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony A. Garcia  
Ms. Mary Gilbert  
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Goss  
Ms. Jan Greer  
Ms. Jacqueline Grogan  
*in memory of my husband,*  
*Taleb Theodore Bashiti*  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hays  
Mr. and Mrs. W. Brady Head

### SILVER LEGEND

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Bynon  
*in honor of Melinda Berkman*  
Chevron Matching Gift Program  
*on behalf of Amanda Hanks Bayles,*  
*Steph Magers and Michaela Pichini*  
Mrs. Ginger Coleman  
Mrs. Nellie Colson  
Mr. and Mrs. Clotaire D. Delery Jr.  
Friends of the League  
Ms. Jessie Gill  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Austin Guthrie III  
*in memory of Edward A. Guthrie, Jr.*  
Houston Contractors Association  
Mr. and Mrs. John Anthony King  
Ms. Carla Knobloch  
*in honor of Dorothy Ables*

### BRONZE LEGEND

Mr. and Mrs. Randolph M. Henry  
Mr. and Mrs. John Luke Hotze  
Ms. Mary Itz  
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Robert Jones  
Dr. Frances Kimbrough  
*in memory of Mrs. Frances J. Kimbrough*  
Ms. Lori Lopez  
Mrs. Pamela Lovett  
Mr. and Mrs. D. Patrick McCelvey  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Alan Mills  
Mrs. Jane Montgomery  
*in memory of Wilhelmina Arnold Barnhart*  
Ms. Kristen Moore  
Ms. Rebecca Muff  
Mr. and Mrs. Claude H. Mullendore  
Ms. Melissa Nance  
Ms. Marie Newton  
Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Vincent Payne  
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Pivec  
*in honor of the JLH staff*  
Mr. and Mrs. William Pritchett  
Dr. and Mrs. John Lansing Reed  
Dr. and Mrs. John Charles Ribble  
*in honor of Mary Hale McLean*  
Ms. Carmen Rincón-Perez  
*in memory of Maria A. Perez de Rincón*  
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas H. Ro  
*in honor of Mrs. Marie Garofol*  
Mr. and Mrs. Steven William Roberts  
*in honor of Laura Lee Vaio*  
Ms. Mary Jane Robinson

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Kolandjian  
Ms. Elizabeth Lander  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Maclean  
Neuhaus Education Center  
Mrs. F. William Othon  
Phillips 66  
*on behalf of Ashley Benavides*  
Ms. Amy Gough Pierce  
Ms. Abbey Roberson  
Judith and Henry Sauer Fund at Greater  
Houston Community Foundation  
Mrs. Deborah Scianna  
Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Springer  
Mr. and Mrs. David Parker Willis  
Mr. and Mrs. Reid C. Wilson  
  
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Michael Ryan  
Ms. Suzanne Schleisman  
Mrs. Dorothy Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul G. Somerville  
*in honor of Rachel Regan – the pandemic*  
*President of the century*  
Ms. Jennifer Stewart  
Mr. and Mrs. David Harry Stone  
Mr. and Mrs. Jorge Toranzo  
*in honor of my parents*  
UBS Financial Services Inc.  
*on behalf of Joan Buschor*  
Mr. and Mrs. James Gary Ulmer  
*in memory of Mrs. June Milton Gray Stobaugh*  
Ms. Lia Vallone  
Dr. and Mrs. Lieven Joseph Van Riet  
Mr. and Mrs. Coleby Weinstock  
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin G. Wells  
Mrs. Marcia West  
Mrs. Sandra P. Wilkens  
*in honor of Mary Lee H. Wilkens*  
*and Derry K. Wilkens*  
Ms. Tamra Wilkerson  
Gene and Ruth Williams Philanthropic Fund  
– a Fidelity Charitable Donor-Advised Fund  
Ms. Sherry Wilson  
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Withrow  
Ms. Margaret Woodruff  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Eugene Yehle  
Mr. and Mrs. R. Bradley Zschappel  
Mrs. Georgiana Zustovich





# ILLUMINATE CHARITY BALL 2021

## BEHIND THE SCENES WITH CHARITY BALL CHAIRMAN AMANDA PRITCHETT AND CHARITY BALL ENTERTAINMENT CHAIRMAN TABBETHA LOPEZ

"WE CAN FIND MEANING AND REWARD BY SERVING SOME HIGHER PURPOSE THAN OURSELVES,  
A SHINING PURPOSE, THE *ILLUMINATION* OF A THOUSAND POINTS OF LIGHT....

WE ALL HAVE SOMETHING TO GIVE." –George H.W. Bush

By: *Emily Faber Vechan, Development Communications Manager*



Our world has changed tremendously since the start of the global pandemic. As a society we have found ourselves pivoting, reimagining, and reinventing to adapt and move forward amidst much uncertainty. The Junior League's Charity Ball team is no exception!

Planning for the League's largest fundraiser historically starts 12 or more months before the actual event with many key Charity Ball roles filled during the preceding League year. The essence of the theme for this year's 73rd Annual event, *Illuminate*, is to spread light and hope throughout the greater Houston community.



When the theme for Charity Ball was developed in January 2020, no one knew what the next few months would bring or just how much the world would come to need light and hope. The sudden grip of the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020 upended the work for the Charity Ball team. With an unending list of questions compounded by perpetually changing circumstances, the Charity Ball team was quickly confronted by a host of logistical problems. This left the team wondering: how, if at all, was the 2020 – 2021 Charity Ball going to happen?

At first, there was a distinct concern that the beloved event would not occur at all. By August 2020, after half a year of delay, the situation was still not much improved. Local health and safety ordinances required the League building to operate at a fraction of its typical capacity. Large social gatherings had all but disappeared amid public safety concerns. The possibility of having a traditional, three-night, gala was growing dim. However, when faced with a challenge, the Junior League of Houston always rises to the occasion and innovates to find a way. This year was no exception.

“We were absolutely going to do something. We had to. The funds raised from Charity Ball go to support many critical League initiatives, including the Community Program that support 34 non-profit agencies across the city of Houston, who needed the League’s support now more than ever. People are counting on us,” said **Amanda Pritchett**, Charity Ball Chairman. Rather than give up entirely, the Charity Ball team proposed a postponement of the event, in the hope

that circumstances might improve enough to ensure a smaller,

in-person event could take place. On September 15, 2020, the

Board of Directors approved this suggestion, assigning

Charity Ball a new date of Saturday, May 1, 2021,

and pairing down the annual multi-night celebration of the League’s service to our community to a single-evening event. Additionally, the Board left the option open for the event to be held in-person, virtually or a hybrid format, carefully abiding by the most conservative safety measures.

The Charity Ball team had a path forward and a date for the event, but now had to plan how to bring the Ball to life. The team took on the herculean task of planning not just one, but several versions of the Charity Ball, each tailored for a different contingency and a different scenario. “It felt like we were running different Charity Balls at the same time,” described **Tabbetha Lopez**, Charity Ball Entertainment Chairman. Under one scenario, the tradition of an entirely in-person evening could continue, with several variations ready for whatever the capacity-limits happened to be at the time. Under the other scenario, the Ball would go completely virtual. A third scenario fused the options of both an in-person and virtual event.

“Holding an event in accordance with the most conservative health and safety guidelines was vitally important to the Junior League and the Charity Ball team. The safety of all Junior League of Houston members, League staff, and Charity Ball guests was paramount in all aspects of our decision-making process throughout the year,” said Amanda. After much thought and consideration, the Charity Ball team, with full support from President Rachel Regan and League leadership, made a recommendation to the Board of Directors in January 2021 to move the Charity Ball to an all-virtual event – a first in Charity Ball history.

“The team worked incredibly hard to make sure the virtual event contained all of those wonderful time-honored traditions and special elements that people

*Continued*





have come to know and love from our Charity Ball,” Amanda assured. “The format of the night may have looked different, but the end goal remained the same: to raise critical funds that are needed to support the work we are doing in our community.”

To support this goal, the virtual Charity Ball offered access to those interested in attending. While during a typical year attendees would only have the opportunity to support the Ball by purchasing a ten-person table, a new two-person ticket package gave those who were interested in supporting the event an intimate way to enjoy a personal night-in their home. “This new, virtual format was incredibly intimate. It provided a unique opportunity for the League to connect with the donors, partners and the Houston community in the comfort of their homes,” said Amanda.

The hallmark of this year’s event was a celebration video highlighting the League’s accomplishments, and reimagined initiatives from this extraordinary year. The video showcased the light and hope that League volunteers spread throughout the Houston community with interviews from several agency partners and remarks by League leaders. The Charity Ball team was also determined to incorporate the beloved show into the video. Instead

of live and large group performances by League members, a much more focused spotlight was put on individual members and their gifted talents.

This year’s show featured solo performances that displayed a variety of talents, including two vocalists. “What the League has always brought to the Charity Ball is the incredible performance of a member show,” Tabbetha said, along with “the beautiful talent our members bestow.” As Tabbetha explained, “The show is the opportunity for the members of the Junior League to show-off their specific talents. You can be smart, beautiful, a parent and a volunteer. You can have it all. There’s so many women in the League that encapsulate that.”

“I’m incredibly grateful for the entire Charity Ball team’s resilience and commitment to hosting the 73rd Annual Charity Ball,” said **Rachel Regan**, President. “This beautiful reimagined event was an evening I’ll always cherish, hosting from my home surrounded by family and dear friends. I am so proud that we were yet again able to raise critical funds to support the mission of the Junior League of Houston.”

The challenges that have been faced and overcome by this year’s Charity Ball team embodies the same spirit of perseverance that the League has consistently sought to engender. Our members’ dedication and teamwork will continue to illuminate the way through the darkness. ***Illuminate*** was successfully held on Saturday, May 1, 2021 as a virtual, one night event and raised more than \$600, 000 for the Houston community.” 🦋



















A detailed historical map of Houston, Texas, showing a grid of streets and various landmarks. The map is in sepia tones with some color highlights. The text of the advertisement is overlaid on a light gray rectangular background in the center.

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# THANK YOU



## TO OUR 2020 – 2021 COMMUNITY PARTNERS



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Texas Children's Hospital (TCH) and The Junior League of Houston have enjoyed an extraordinary partnership that dates back nearly 75 years. The Junior League made its first donation in 1947, when the hospital was still just an idea in the minds of a group of visionary philanthropists.

In 1954 when Texas Children's opened its doors, the Junior League committed its volunteers to run the hospital's outpatient Junior League Diagnostic Clinic. The League's vision was to provide special medical care for those in the community who were less fortunate and to support education and research – a perfect alignment with Texas Children's mission. The League's dedication to TCH's common purpose remains as strong today as it was then.

Every year, more than 100 Junior League members provide thousands of volunteer hours at Texas Children's Hospital. Their personal commitment of time and energy, combined with the League's generous financial support, has made a profound difference in the lives of the patients and families TCH serves.

It is an honor for Texas Children's to support the Junior League again this year as the Premier Community Partner. We look forward to many more years of working together to meet the needs of the children in our community.



***Community Partner***

CCRM Fertility Houston, formerly Houston IVE, shares the Junior League of Houston's commitment to improving the health and well-being of families.

CCRM is a global pioneer in fertility science, research and treatment, offering access to a national network of award-winning physicians, a full suite of fertility services, innovative technology and cutting-edge labs. CCRM doctors partner with each patient to develop custom-tailored analyses and treatments offering families the fastest path to the healthiest baby.

CCRM Fertility Houston has been a supporter of the Junior League since 2005 – 2006, purchasing ads in the Charity Ball program and Houston News for 14 years before becoming a Community Partner in 2018 – 2019.



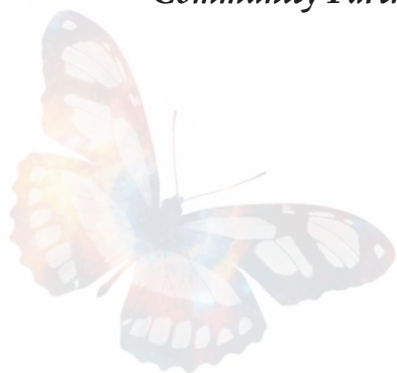


### *Community Partner*

Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital (CMHH) is a 310-bed quaternary care women and children's hospital, located in the Texas Medical Center.

As a primary teaching hospital for the pediatric and obstetrics/gynecology programs with academic partner, McGovern Medical School at UTHealth, CMHH is committed to serving the global community. The multidisciplinary team of affiliated doctors, nurses, therapists and other allied healthcare professionals are focused on the personalized needs of women and children with an emphasis on quality, education, outcomes, customer service and advanced research.

Memorial Hermann has been a donor to the Junior League for more than 25 years in various capacities and a Community Partner since 2018. Volunteers from the Junior League of Houston have served at Memorial Hermann Hospital spanning back more than 76 years.



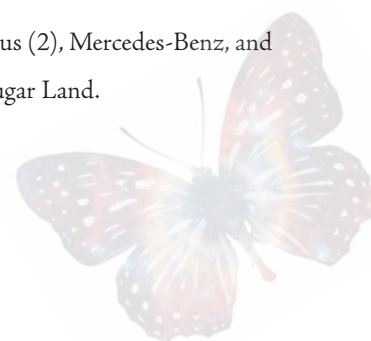
Sewell Automotive Companies supports the Junior League of Houston's commitment to community service, voluntarism, and the advancement of leadership opportunities for women.

Sewell has been a Community Partner since 2011 and Sewell's financial contribution supports the extensive outreach of the Junior League and furthers the impact of League members. In addition to generous financial support, Sewell hosts an education group meeting as a part of the Junior League's Training and Education Program.

Sewell represents Audi (3), BMW, 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, San Antonio, and Sugar Land.

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As a supporter of The Junior League of Houston for over 22 years and recently as a Community Partner, The Woman's Hospital of Texas achieved the highest level of designations for maternal and neonatal care from the Texas Department of State Health – Level IV Maternal and Advanced Level IV Neonatal – meaning they are equipped to handle the most complex, high-risk cases and conditions.



# Thank you



The Junior League of Houston Sustaining Club was proud to celebrate a donation of \$10,000 to the 100th Anniversary Fund.



President Rachel Regan and Junior League of Houston Sustaining Club President Hilary Purcell celebrate the donation with members from their leadership teams.

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