

theLariat



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
FORT WORTH

FALL 2019 VOL. 27, ISSUE 1

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"Together, we Spark Possibility. That's been our past, it is our present and it will be our future. We are embracing this as our theme for the 2019-2020 Junior League of Fort Worth year, a nod to both who we are now and the League's prior years of impact – 90 of them. All here in greater Fort Worth, where the 10th largest League in the nation can be found."

– Ashley Freer, President, 2019-2020



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Child Study Center
Fort Worth Teen Court
Historic Fort Worth
Immunization Collaboration
Leadership Fort Worth
Mayfest, Inc.
The Parenting Center
The Women's Center
of Tarrant County

President's Perspective

To know more about where you are in the present, you truly have to take a look at where you've been. That's a statement for life in general but it also applies to our Junior League of Fort Worth (JLFW) experiences – both as one membership of 2,000+ women and as individuals.

With our 90th year already under way, 2019-2020 is providing us with chances to celebrate while we also look back to our past. When I think about the core of who we are and have been, I am reminded how close to heart our members take our Mission, knowing that their work is helping us to promote voluntarism, develop the potential of women and improve our communities through the effective action of trained volunteers.

As a JLFW member, I invite you to join me in championing the progress we are making and the women leading us forward this year – from Team Leads to Committee Members to Council Chairs. It's a work that spreads us out across the community and within our own organization. We have the chance to be proud of:

- *Our Service Opportunities*, including 11 Projects (funding and volunteers) and more than 45 Placements (volunteers-only), as well as Done-in-Day and Day of Giving opportunities
- *Our Impact Areas*, including Arts and Culture, Education, Health and Nutrition, Life Readiness and Supports Fort Worth (taken from the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan)
- *Our Strategy*, which evolves every three years (strategic planning for 2020-2023 is happening now)
- *Our Fundraisers*, which are game changers for us, allowing us to accomplish our Mission more fully – from *Christmas in Cowtown* to *Grand Entry Gala* to *Rodeo Program Sales* to Annual Fund
- *Our Training Opportunities*, which include Council and Committee leadership structures, our *All aBoard* Training Program and our participation in community training programs such as Leadership Fort Worth and Leadership ISD
- *Our Established Collaborations*, with the Fort Worth Independent School District for Junior MINTS and Cook Children's as the host of Pancake Picnic
- *Our Newest Initiatives* – including the development of a Diaper Bank (now in progress) and the start of our archiving work to better capture our League's history

It is all of the above that led me to choose our theme for this year: Spark Possibility. I believe that's what we have done for years and what each member has the chance to do as part of her involvement in the JLFW. We celebrate you as we celebrate our League.

Ashley Freer
Junior League of Fort Worth
President, 2019-2020

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Mission

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

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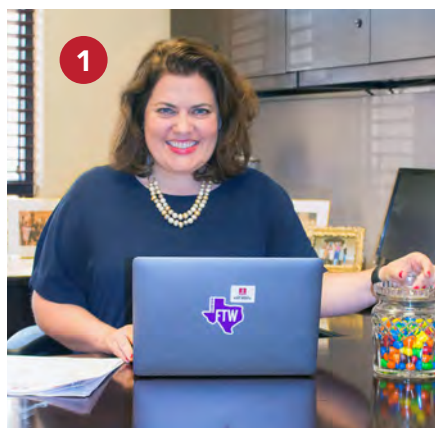


Bobbye West
Assistant Editor

Vision

The Junior League of Fort Worth, Inc. will strive to improve our community by directing our resources to positively impact the well-being of children and families by providing a legacy of trained volunteers.

Snapshots



1. President **Ashley Freer** poses with the unofficial presidential candy jar, which has been kept in the President's office at Headquarters from 2013-2014 President **Michelle Marlow's** service until now. The jar was Marlow's grandmother's.
2. **Janie Latimer** and son, Jensen, pose for a photo at a recent family-friendly Member Monthly event held at The Happy Lark.
3. Members of the Community Council drop off Diaper Bank donations.
4. **Juli Jaime** and friends celebrate JLFW's 90th year at the September GMM.



Finding Your Crew:

Volunteering with Friends in the Junior League of Fort Worth

By Jenna Conan

ONE OF THE REASONS members join the Junior League is to get to know other like-minded women and form meaningful friendships — the Junior League of Fort Worth offers a variety of opportunities for members to meet and connect.

All Provisionals are placed into small groups with an Active member lead. These groups promote connection, provide social and service opportunities beyond the Provisional's placement and help ensure they complete the requirements to become Active members.

Actives can meet one another in a variety of ways, from connecting with other women in their placements to meeting one another during fundraisers or collaboration shifts. Leadership opportunities, such as participating in *All aBoard* or serving as a Project Development Chair or Team Leader for a JLFW Project or Placement, offer members the chance to develop important leadership skills while serving the community.

Sustaining members can participate in social opportunities such as the Sustainer Lite Kickoff, recently held in August, or the Sustainer Fall Social held annually in September. These events, along with many Special Interest Groups (SIGs) founded on like interests are a great way for Sustainers to meet and spend time with one another. 2019-2020 Sustainer Chair **Peggy Sims**, along with JLFW Office Administrator Debbie Richardson, helps Sustainers to find a favorite group and stay connected to the League.

In recent years, JLFW has begun offering more ways for women to connect socially outside of member obligations. Member Monthly events are offered at least once per month, and are open to women across all membership levels. Past Member Monthly small group gatherings have included a variety of activities such as a Galentine's Tea, a succulent arranging class, a hands-on cooking class and fitness classes at Zyn22 and OrangeTheory so there is something for everyone. To participate in future events, be sure to sign up ahead of time in Digital Cheetah.

The best way to find a "JLFW crew" is to get involved! Attend events, sign up for a shift or participate in leadership opportunities to connect with other League women and find friendships for a lifetime.

The best way to find a "JLFW crew" is to get involved! Attend events, sign up for a shift or participate in leadership opportunities to connect with other League women and find friendships for a lifetime.





(Left) 2019 Provisional Retreat, (Above) Sustainer Lite Happy Hour

Serving as a Major Leaguer

By Jenna Conan

MAJOR LEAGUERS is a one-year Placement members can participate in during their final Active year before going Sustaining or becoming an Extended Active member. Eligibility to participate in Major Leaguers is based on age and the number of years served as an Active member, but is generally open to women in their ninth Active year.

Major Leaguers fulfill their limited obligations together, including putting on the New Member Meet & Greet and other potential new member events. They also meet up socially throughout the year and encourage one another to fulfill the requirements to go Sustaining if that is what they have chosen for the next year. After a year as a Major Leaguer, participants can either choose to go Sustaining or to remain as an Extended Active.

Major League is a great way to spend your final Active year in the League. It offers the opportunity to get to know other members of the same status and helps to transition into becoming a Sustaining member in the future.

**Major Leaguers...
offers the opportunity
to get to know other
members of the same
status and helps
to transition into
becoming a Sustaining
member in the future.**



Something for Everyone

OCTOBER 10-13, 2019

By Luci Hoad

IT TAKES A SPECIAL KIND of Christmas market to turn a day's worth of shopping into a memorable event. For 13 years now, hundreds of women have been hard at work behind the scenes of the Junior League of Fort Worth *Christmas in Cowtown Holiday Gift Market* (*Christmas in Cowtown* or *CIC*) to ensure shoppers have a great time finding just the right gifts for an upcoming holiday season. Created by the JLFW in 2006, *CIC* is a juried show of more than 200 carefully selected exhibitors from across the country attend to present wide range of gift options, including home décor, jewelry, clothing, children's products, gourmet food and more. More than 15,000 shoppers visited the in 2018 alone.

2019 *CIC* Co-Chairs **Elyse Robinson** and **Julie Wilkinson**, who have nine years of *Market* preparation and experience between them, have chosen classic Christmas elements to inspire this year's decoration and experience: naming this year's theme a Victorian Christmas.

"Christmas in Cowtown has such a special place in my heart, as it is what exposed me to the Junior League of Fort Worth back when I was a college student at TCU. This event serves as our largest fundraiser, but also as a way for us to show the community what we are all about. I can't wait for you to see the transformation of Will Rogers into a Victorian Christmas wonderland!" – **Elyse Robinson**, 2019 *Christmas in Cowtown Holiday Gift Market* Co-Chair

"It has been my honor and privilege to work alongside an amazing group of women to bring our Victorian vision to this year's Christmas in Cowtown. We are excited to kick off the holiday season with our largest Market yet! Thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at the Market."

– **Julie Wilkinson**, 2019 *Christmas in Cowtown Holiday Gift Market* Co-Chair

JLFW 2019 *CIC* Merchant Arrangements Team Leader **Jackie Gonzalez**, and **Ashley Davis**, 2019 *CIC* Assistant Co-Chair, note that the success of *Christmas in Cowtown* relies on the cooperation of the numerous committees and teams collaborating to find great merchants, and craft a unique atmosphere. "We put so much attention into decorating and making sure the theme carries through...we really do want it to be a holistic experience in addition to a shopping outing," shares Gonzalez.

Colleen Shutt and **Allison Presley**, the 2019 *CIC* Merchant Selection Co-Chairs, love the behind-the-scenes glimpse of the process of merchant selection.



"One thing that surprised me was learning how early in the year the process [of applying to be a merchant] begins and how eager some merchants are about participating. The application goes live in January and even before that, prospective merchants were reaching out to make sure they didn't miss anything," says Presley. One merchant even sent a handwritten note to the Junior League asking for the opportunity to be part of such a great experience, Presley notes. Shutt agrees, adding "the feedback we hear is that merchants really appreciate how well the volunteers run the *Market*, and that definitely contributes to them wanting to come back."

Natalie Atkinson, who is co-chairing the 2019 *CIC* Merchant Hospitality Committee with **Melissa Howard-Carter**, also attests to the time and effort going into making sure merchants are having a positive experience. "We aim to show our merchants Fort Worth hospitality and provide them with a little comfort during the long days of the *Market*."

The merchant experience is so positive that members of the JLFW don't just volunteer and shop, they apply to bring their businesses along as well. **Casey Oliver** has been in the JLFW since 2009, and this year will be the first time she experiences *Christmas in Cowtown* as a merchant rather than a volunteer. The opportunity to bring her business to such a fun *Market*, while helping a great cause, was too good to pass up.

"It's such an honor to be a small part of the evolution of this signature event for JLFW," Oliver says. "As a volunteer for *Christmas in Cowtown* and a local





at Christmas in Cowtown



business owner, I have seen firsthand the incremental changes we have made to the event thanks to the fantastic leadership of JLFW women. We have seen opportunities to grow and make changes which improve not only the customer's shopping experience, but also the business owners' experiences and our sponsors. Honestly, I think that's what leaves people coming back for more."



THINGS TO KNOW

- Ticket prices are \$12 per guest, and there is no charge for children 8 and under
- Public market hours
 - Thursday, October 10 from 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
 - Friday, October 11 from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
 - Saturday, October 12 from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 - Sunday, October 13 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- ChristmasinCowtown.com is the official website for the event



WHAT MAKES THE MARKET DIFFERENT

- Fun private events like the *Cocktails in Cowtown Preview Party* (Wed. Oct. 9), and *Making Spirits Bright Brunch and Private Shopping* (Thurs., Oct. 10)
- The availability of a mother's room for nursing and pumping in privacy
- The branded *Christmas in Cowtown* shopping bag given away early attendees
- The *Pick-a-Package* experience, an opportunity to get discounts and gift certificates from merchants at a great price



FUN FACTS

- First held in 2006, *Christmas in Cowtown* has grown in both size and support over the past 12 years, allowing for nearly \$4 million dollars to be invested into Fort Worth
- More than 500 volunteers commit to serve each year to strengthen the event's success year-over-year
- Typically around 400 merchants apply for roughly 240 exhibitor spots
- The JLFW plans to serve more than 12,000 individual snacks to merchants this year

SPECIAL THANK YOUs

The Junior League of Fort Worth wishes to thank *CIC* sponsors who contribute to making this wonderful annual event possible, including Presenting Sponsor **Wells Fargo** and *Making Spirits Bright Brunch and Private Shopping* Sponsor **Cook Children's Medical Center**. For a full list of 2019 supporters, be sure to check out the 2019 *Christmas in Cowtown* Holiday Market Program available at the door from October 10-13, 2019.



Fort Worth Drowning Prevention Coalition

Getting Campy:

Volunteers Enjoy Summer Placements

By Sarahi Rodriguez

SUMMER IS A TIME that most kids, and most adults for that matter, eagerly await. It consists of long sun-filled days, carefree activities and, for many families, the opportunity to attend summer camp. With a wide range of camp options in the community, the women at the Junior League of Fort Worth enjoy “getting campy” and embracing an inner child through several Placements.

At the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History (FWMSH) recently, four JLFW members participated in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) camp for kids. The STEM camp served nearly 100 kids ranging from Kindergarten to 8th grade level. Each week, the children were encouraged to use critical thinking skills and creativity to solve problems for some very famous fictional characters. For example, one week they planned and built a device to safely land Mary Poppins and her floating umbrella. Another task involved building a “just right” chair for picky Ms. Goldilocks. League volunteers set up and ran the camp store where the kids could buy the project supplies, which consisted of recycled materials and craft goods. Volunteers who served in this Placement



Fort Worth Museum of Science and History STEM Camp





Safe Haven's Camp Heart

quickly polished their negotiation skills as the kids bartered and traded.

Over at The First Tee, three volunteers were busy having fun on the golf course. Along with the staff, these women worked to teach kids important topics such as perseverance, integrity and respect. Arranged by skill level from beginner to pro, little attendees had the opportunity to use persistence and patience to master the rules of golf. As JLFW Team Lead **Patricia Nicholson** put it, "My favorite part of First Tee is watching the kids learn and improve over the course of a year."

SafeHaven's Camp Heart is a more traditional overnight camp experience. For three days, JLFW volunteers immersed themselves in summer camp life. While at Camp Carter, the children enjoyed activities such as horseback riding, canoeing and campfire s'mores! They also participated in group therapy sessions to help them heal from traumatic experiences they experienced. Through these meaningful activities, the kids learned what qualities are needed to be a "good superhero" in order to recover from past trauma and also build the skills to make empowering decisions moving forward.

Camp Lancelot, hosted by Cook Children's Medical Center at YMCA Camp Carter is a week-long day camp for children and teens who have been diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. This camp provides kids with a way to experience traditional summer camp activities while also having the professional support of nurses and doctors from Cook Children's on site. During the week, two volunteers assisted the campers with arts and crafts, swimming, canoeing, rock wall climbing and much more. By building relationships with the campers, the League members helped ensure a fun and safe week for everyone. **Melissa Garcia**, JLFW Team Lead for this Placement, says, "the people that come together at Camp Lancelot care about each other as family, and that was a beautiful thing to experience."

Fort Worth Drowning Prevention Coalition (FWDPC) teaches drowning prevention skills to both the young and the young at heart. For two months, three days a week, Junior League volunteers work with the participants either as water buddies or water safety instructors. Each session hosts about 75 participants, and the volunteers get a chance to see their skills and confidence grow in the water. At the end of camp, each participant receives a certificate of completion and a free life vest custom-fitted just for them. JLFW Project Development Chair **Michelle Arrington** notes, "There were nights that I came straight from work and all I wanted to do was go home – but once I got there and in the pool it always made me have a smile and made me realize why I love the League, our community partners and Fort Worth."



Fort Worth Drowning Prevention Coalition



A Historic Relationship:

Junior League of Fort Worth and the Ball-Eddleman-McFarland House

By Bobbye West

A LOT HAPPENED IN 1969. Neil Armstrong took his famous first steps on the moon, Woodstock attracted an audience of over 400,000 people, the Beatles broke up and the Junior League of Fort Worth decided to do something about the constant demolition of Fort Worth's grand historic buildings.

Historic Fort Worth, Inc. (HFW) was formed that year with equal grants from the JLFW and the Amon G. Carter Foundation. At the time, half of its founding board member seats were occupied by League members. Together, the JLFW and HFW boards, with the help of architecture professor Blake Alexander of the University of Texas at Austin, identified 14 buildings as the most important to move quickly protect, preventing their destruction. The Junior League's Historic Activities Committee was soon established as the only working force of HFW, helping the organization to get off the ground.

Through the tireless work of HFW and JLFW, volunteers saved all but two of the buildings listed on the initial list of concerns. One of those saved was the Ball-Eddleman-McFarland House, which the JLFW purchased in 1979 and later presented

to the community as its 50th Anniversary Gift. The League's proposed plans for this gift of preservation included converting the first floor to serve as a museum to the public and adapting the second floor for JLFW offices and meeting rooms.

When you attend a tour of the Ball-Eddleman-McFarland House today you may be greeted by **Jerre Tracy** (JLFW President, 1988-1989) who currently serves as the Executive Director of HFW. Tracy still smiles when she talks about the time she repurposed the second-floor bathroom to serve as a workstation by placing a piece of plywood over the antique clawfoot tub. For Tracy, the gift of the Junior League is that "it gives women the time and space to imagine and dream about what the community could be and then implement it."

Her friend and fellow sustainer, **Gail Landreth** (JLFW President, 1994-1995), who sits on the Board of Directors for HFW, agrees and adds, "The League is a safe place for women to experiment with different ideas, and then use the experience they've gained through League placements to go on, further their interests, and make a further impact in the community."



Historic Fort Worth Bus Tour

1968

JLFW Education and Preservation Committee works to erect official state historical markers at sites or on structures of local significance. JLFW publicized these marker sites through dedication activities, historical maps of Tarrant County and by giving bus tours to 3rd grade pupils, members of the provisional class and others.



Junior League members host a dedication ceremony for the historic marker at the Santa Fe Depot.

1969

Historic Fort Worth, Inc. (HFW) is established with equal grants from JLFW and the Amon G. Carter foundation. Together they identify 14 buildings of critical importance.



Betty McPherson Brown (President, 1969-1970) influenced much of JLFW's early preservation work.

1979

JLFW purchases the Ball-Eddleman-McFarland House.

Mary Steward Thomas (President, 1979-1980) and **Sally Mooring** (President, 1987-1988) sign the contract.



1980

Renovations begin on the Ball-Eddleman-McFarland House

Missy Rogers (President, 1993-1994) discusses progress with a member of the restoration team.



Stone conservationist at work on Ball-Eddleman-McFarland House

1982

JLFW moves into the Ball-Eddleman-McFarland House making the historic home its official headquarters.

1995

Fort Worth is selected as the site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and **Jerre Tracy** (President, 1988-1989) was selected as the conference chairman.

1998

Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County (HPC) merges with HFW and donates its survey files and other resources to HFW.

2004

JLFW outgrows Ball-Eddleman-McFarland House and purchases a larger headquarters at 255 Bailey Avenue.

TODAY

2019-2020 Board of Directors in front of the Ball-Eddleman-McFarland House with HFW Executive Director **Jerre Tracy** (President, 1988-1989). HFW was chosen as one of JLFW's three 90th anniversary projects.



HISTORIC FORT WORTH A 2019-2020 Junior League of Fort Worth Project

Historic Fort Worth is dedicated to preserving Fort Worth's unique historic identity through stewardship, education and leadership. Funds from this year will be used to help to restore the Ball-Eddleman-McFarland House (a former Junior League of Fort Worth headquarters) to make it accessible to all and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Volunteers have various opportunities to work with Historic Fort Worth, including working in the Preservation Resource Center and serving as volunteer docents.

Recovery Resource Council Helps Girls Choose Their Own Adventure

By: Bobbye West



RECOVERY RESOURCE COUNCIL

A 2019-2020 Junior League of Fort Worth Project

Recovery Resource Council is the link between substance abuse services and the adults, youth and families who are in need and focuses on providing hope, conquering addiction and healing families. Funds will be used to cover the costs of The Teen Retreat, which provides a unique opportunity for at-risk girls to strengthen life readiness skills and discover new interests that will empower them to see a healthy future. Volunteers assist with the Teen Retreat and serve as mentors and role models to the attendees.

IF YOU'RE A WOMAN of a certain age, you probably remember Choose Your Own Adventure novels: the series of gamebooks where the reader acts as the protagonist, making choices that determine the actions of the characters and, ultimately, the outcome of their story. The retro books certainly made for some fun leisure reading, but today's teens face a wide variety of challenges and taking a passive role in them can lead to troubling outcomes. Recovery Resource Council (RRC) has recently begun an exciting project to ensure that at-risk teen girls in our community are equipped with the skills needed to be the heroines of their own stories — and the Junior League of Fort Worth has made a two-year commitment to support it, beginning in 2019-2020.

RRC's Girls Teen Retreat was created to empower teen girls by addressing serious topics head on while providing them with a week of fun activities in a safe environment. This year's theme, "Choose Your Own Adventure," encouraged the young women who attended not to allow life's circumstances to determine the outcome of their adventure but rather to boldly choose the path of realizing their full potential.

The JLFW's Project had several goals for the week: to increase perception of self-image, self-esteem and self-confidence, to increase knowledge of personal safety and self-sufficiency, and to educate and empower teens with experiences and opportunities to help them on the path to greatness. JLFW volunteers were present for a full itinerary of planned fun, ranging from kickboxing to

manicures to yoga, and they were also critical participants in some soul-searching conversations.

Erin McCurdy, Assistant Director of Prevention Services at Recovery Resource Council, says that participation "benefitted the project by providing stories, backgrounds, and experiences that...ultimately make the connections needed to call the project successful thus far." Sharing in her enthusiasm is 10-year JLFW member **Shelley Simon**, the League's Project Development Chair for the Recovery Resource Council Girls Teen Retreat Project. Simon has been involved with the organization for several years after volunteering with the League five years ago. She says she first fell in love with it when she saw what a huge impact is made on the lives of both individuals and families by promoting wellness and recovery from alcohol and substance use disorders and trauma. "The focus is not only on treatment, but also on prevention services," Simon notes.

The Girls Teen Retreat Project fills a critical need in that area. During each year of this two-year commitment, the JLFW will provide a \$10,000 grant and six volunteers for a powerful 300 annual volunteer hour investment. Two years of support allows for feedback to be gathered and adjustments to be made to increase the effectiveness of the program year-over-year. Because this is a two-year agreement, members interested in participating in this exciting, life-changing program may select it as a Placement option during the enrollment period in January 2020.



JPS SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROJECT

A 2019-2020 Junior League of Fort Worth Project

The Junior League of Fort Worth will provide support for premature babies in JPS' Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). JLFW volunteers will have the opportunity to hold babies (under the supervision of staff), talk to the babies in soothing and stimulating tones, sing to babies in rhymes and lullabies and console babies with positive touch and sensitive comfort as well as assisting with other administrative tasks like stocking carts and drawers and answering phones.

Caring for Infants

Through The JPS Supplemental Nutrition Project

By Sarahi Rodriguez

IT IS NO SECRET the Junior League of Fort Worth is a volunteer powerhouse in the community. Hundreds of trained women volunteer their time to numerous agencies in Fort Worth. Community partners provide volunteer opportunities within chosen Impact Areas, ranging from arts & culture to education, and other needs, just to name a few.

Aside from providing volunteers, the League also provides financial contributions to deserving chosen Projects. During 2019-2020, \$490,000 will be distributed among 11 worthy community nonprofits. One of these projects is the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Supplemental Nutrition Project headed by the JPS Foundation, which exists to support families receiving care at JPS Hospital.

The JPS Foundation originally requested \$20,000 in JLFW funding but was generously awarded a \$90,000 grant —

chosen one of our 90th Anniversary Signature Projects — to help care for the smallest of patients: premature newborn babies. The infants served by this project usually weigh less than three pounds at birth and can have trouble digesting bovine and formula-based milk. Through this Project, JPS is able to provide Prolacta, a human-based milk product, to newborns in the NICU. Prolacta milk is essentially fortified human milk. Because of this, it is more easily digested by premature babies, creating a faster intake of proteins and calories. This allows newborns to grow at more developmentally-appropriate rates.

Babies in the NICU typically feed on this human-based milk anywhere from four to ten weeks, and this care can cost upwards of \$8,000-\$10,000 per baby. The JPS NICU department estimates about 25 babies per year can benefit from this milk. With this grant from

JLFW, the NICU team can now extend the nutritional supplement to even more families.

In addition to grant funding, six Junior League volunteers are assisting the JPS NICU staff in duties pertaining to the care of these petite patients. For example, League volunteers will teach visitors how to protect the babies through a proper three-minute hand-washing technique. These women will also help with holding, rocking, and cuddling the precious babes, which is perhaps the best part of the Placement. Volunteer **Taylor Lindsey** comments, “I was holding one infant when the parents came in, and they appeared relieved that their child was getting personal attention while they stepped out of the hospital for a quick meal.”

Back to School with the Junior MINTS

By Shay Dial Johnson

THE HALLS OF THE Young Women's Leadership Academy (YWLA) were dim and quiet this summer -- but soon the sounds of life came back: administrators, teachers and a special group of Junior League of Fort Worth volunteers. During the first weeks of August, League members filled the halls with posters and décor, and then lined them with smiling faces ready to serve in one of the League's placements designed to support the local school system, the Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD). For the past six years, the JLFW has been providing support to YWLA — along three other schools: Eastern Hills Elementary, Western Hills Elementary and Western Hill Primary — through the Junior MINTS Placement.

"Starting the school year well sets the trajectory for the rest of the year..."

— **Savannah Petronis**, JLFW School Coordinator for YWLA



Returning students gather together at the YWLA Alumni Networking Event.

Originated and named by the JLFW, MINTS stands for Mentoring, Inspiring, Nurturing, Tutoring, and Supporting, and that is exactly what League volunteers do. Provisional members automatically receive this Placement and assist with various activities and events on all four partner campuses. Some activities include teacher assistance, mentoring, library assistance, field trips, room parent duties and other activities as needed. When asked about the importance of having the Junior MINTS provide support, specifically during the back to school season, Active member **Lucy Gage**, serving as JLFW School Support Coordinator for Western Hills Primary, says, "I think the beginning of the year can set the tone for the rest of the year, for teachers and staff — as well as kids! It's important to show early on we are part of their support system."

Gage also pointed out that while stapling papers or decorating a bulletin board may seem trivial, those little things can

mean a teacher doesn't have to stay late to do it one day.

Savannah Petronis, the JLFW's School Coordinator for YWLA, notes, "Starting the school year well sets the trajectory for the rest of the year, and at YWLA every single young woman has her eyes set on college." Petronis noted that some "are even the first in their family to attend high school, so it is especially important that these students, their teachers and the staff are supported as much as possible to set the foundation for long-term success."

"Having MINTS on campus during back to school season helps to cement the relationships carried throughout the school year," says YWLA Principal **Tamara Albury**, also a JLFW Sustainer. "The stronger the relationships, the more meaningful the impact. With limited resources, it is a blessing to have MINTS make the first days of students memorable and positive."

A Joyful Noise:

The Beautiful Music of the Fort Worth Youth Orchestra

By Shay Dial Johnson

SOON MEMBERS of the Junior League of Fort Worth will be volunteering to the lovely sounds of the city's own Fort Worth Youth Orchestra (FWYO) at areas around town and at the organization's Fort Worth Orchestra Hall off Trail Lake Drive. Founded in 1965 by a community group, FWYO was formed to inspire the development of young musicians by providing intensive classical orchestral training and unique performance opportunities to showcase budding talent.

Chosen as a 2019-2020 JLFW Project, the League is providing Orchestra Season support and serving as the main supporter of the Fort Worth Youth Orchestra's 54th Concert Season and special events. The Fort Worth Youth Orchestra is the only local youth music organization that offers a comprehensive music education program — from Early Childhood Music, Suzuki String and Piano Preparatory, Chamber Music Ensemble and Orchestra programs — providing a continuum for student music education. Currently, FWYO is the only youth music organization in the area that is focused on the future of classical symphonic music. Throughout the course of this year, JLFW volunteers will serve as ushers during the FWYO's performances and special events. Using this year as a foundation, the organization hopes to develop a more permanent volunteer usher program. The current usher program is staffed by parent volunteers, and FWYO hopes to provide a break from the pressure of serving during performances in order to allow each and every parent to enjoy his or her child's performance.

FWYO Executive Director Lee Warren is understandably excited about working with the League for the first time and recently said, "It is such an honor to be receiving not only the funding but the volunteers. What a delight this will be!"

Voted on in the spring of 2019, the League's \$50,000 grant funding will be applied directly to the cost of the 54th performance season, helping to encourage musical excellence for young musicians in grades K-12 and making the programs accessible to untapped communities and new students. Funds will go toward use of area performance halls, costs for the transfer of concert equipment and instruments, production and program printing, and much more. The season began in July 2019 and performance start times vary from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at locations such as Bass Hall, TCU, Sundance Square, the University of North Texas and others.



YOUTH ORCHESTRA PROJECT

A 2019-2020 Junior League of Fort Worth Project

Fort Worth Youth Orchestra (FWYO) is the only youth music organization that offers a comprehensive music education program — providing a continuum for student music education. Currently, FWYO is the only youth music organization in the area that is focused on the future of classical symphonic music. Funding will be applied directly to the cost of the 54th performance season, helping to encourage musical excellence for young musicians in grades K-12. The organization seeks to make its programs accessible to under served students and communities through financial assistance and outreach and to inspire the development of young musicians.



Gittings Spotlight

on Your Board of Directors

ROBIN GREENHAW

2019-2020 Fund Development Vice President

Robin Greenhaw grew up outside of New Orleans, but after attending Texas A&M University and spending time in New York City for work, she decided to settle in Fort Worth. Attractions like the Fort Worth Zoo, the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo, The Modern Art Museum, local sporting events and all of the great dining options ensure she, her husband Pete and their children Pierce (4) and Poppy (2), never run out of things to do.

One of the things she loves about the Junior League of Fort Worth (aside from the orange slices at headquarters, which Pierce and Poppy are quite familiar with as well) is *Christmas in Cowtown*. "I love all things Christmas, and ever since doing my community collaboration shift as a Provisional, I knew I wanted to serve on that committee." She recounts chairing the *Market* as one of her most memorable and rewarding experiences not only because of the sense of excitement sparked when watching guests line up and knowing what an impact the funds raised would make, but also because of the opportunity it provided to lead a team of such talented and diverse women. Greenhaw hopes other members take advantage of experiences like these. "The JLFW is such a great training organization. I have learned so many things through my volunteer work that carry over into my professional life."



BECKY ESCOTT

2019-2020 Membership Vice President

Both **Becky Escott** and her husband, Taylor, are Fort Worth natives, but the two didn't actually meet until after college. Escott loves raising their children Lainey (7) and Brandt (4) in her hometown and making memories in the same spots she remembers fondly from her childhood. The Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo, the Parade of Lights and Mayfest are just a few of the Fort Worth institutions she and her husband get to share with their family year after year.

For Escott, the Junior League of Fort Worth has provided the gift of working alongside strong, smart, passionate and incredibly hard-working women. "Most of my placements have given me the opportunity to introduce women to our League and help them determine their League journey, and I have loved them all. Nominating Chair, *All aBoard* Co-Chair, and Provisional Co-Chair were the most incredible League experiences." Whether it is building a lifelong friendship or enjoying the gratifying feeling of helping a community organization, Escott loves the League first and foremost because it is a space for developing fulfilling relationships.



JANINE KRAUS

2019-2020 Nominating Chair

Janine Kraus grew up in Michigan but moved to Texas in 2001 where she began her career at TCU in fundraising and met her boyfriend of three years, Mike Secrest. One of the things she loves about Fort Worth is its sense of community. After 14 years at TCU, she considers herself a Horned Frog, attending games and helping with projects around campus. She loves that TCU reflects the same friendly feeling embodied in Fort Worth.

She was drawn to the Junior League of Fort Worth for this same reason. In her time spent serving on the Community Opportunities Fund (COF), she was amazed at how quickly the League could provide help to local nonprofits needing immediate assistance. The League is also where she has met some of her closest friends, bonding over the JLFW Placements and Projects which challenged them and helped them grow. "I hope every member, no matter what Placement, big or small — realizes they are having an impact on our community. Anytime I have thought to myself 'I can't do that,' I always end up amazed by what I learn in the process!"

Do You Know Your Membership Level?

By Jenna Conan

WITHIN THE JUNIOR LEAGUE of Fort Worth, each membership level has its own purpose, requirements and opportunity. The structure of the requirements is designed to allow for leadership training of women and reward members overtime for their involvement in the JLFW.

Provisional members are in their first year of the League and are “engaged in complying with the requirements for admission to active membership” (JLFW Bylaws, Sec. 3.1). In addition to Placement hours, shift work, training and meeting requirements, Provisionals participate in a training course to prepare them for effective involvement in the

community. Workshops like these help create the highly trained volunteer force for which the League is so well known.

Active members serve in a Placement, vote and are able to hold office. During the first four years of membership, an Active member will work at least six hours of fundraiser or community collaboration shifts, as well as attend two General Membership Meetings and two Trainings.

Beginning in the fifth year of Active status, the fundraiser and community collaboration requirement decreases to three hours and members are only required to attend one General Membership Meeting (GMM) and Training. Extended Active members (members who are eligible to Sustain but choose to remain Active) attend one GMM.

Ultimately, all members are working toward a sustaining membership in JLFW, a category in which members literally “sustain” the League through funds and support. A **Sustainer** membership level allows women to enjoy all of the perks and social engagements presented by the League with fewer scheduling requirements as a way of showing appreciation for the years of previous service. Sustainers do not vote or hold office, but still participate in the League in a variety of ways. Many serve as Sustaining Advisors for various committees, while others get together informally for a variety of events such as book clubs, service opportunities, and community outings. These Sustainer Interest Groups (SIGs) provide flexible and fun opportunities for members to enjoy each other’s company. Founded a few years ago as Young Sustainers, a Sustainer Lite group for women in their 30s and 40s keeps a regular schedule to encourage social interaction in the years immediately following Active membership.

MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

May – August 2019

TRANSFER IN

Sofia Balderamos A
JL Amarillo

Ella Bench A
JL Brooklyn, NY

Emily Cornell Young A
JL Las Vegas

Claire Hicks A
JL Austin

Molly Justice A
JL Tulsa

Sara Pepper A
JL Baltimore, MD

Paula Scott S
JL Amarillo

Jordan Stimpson A
JL Dallas

Julie Webber S
JL Houston

TRANSFER OUT

Meredith Bond A
JL Midland

Carri Hyde S
JL Dallas

Sandy Margritz A
JL Chicago

Meredith McCord A
JL Midland

Sarah Schimpff A
JL San Antonio

CONDOLENCES
Sara Dameron S
Loss of Father-in-Law

Ann Florsheim S
Loss of Grandson

Jenna LaVern A
Loss of Child

Erika McCarthy S
Loss of Father-in-Law

Mia McDaniel S
Loss of Mother

Claire Midkiff A
Loss of Son

Laura Mitchell A
Loss of Grand-
mother-in-law

Meredith Reimann A
Loss of Father

Ruth Reimann S
Loss of Husband

Brooke Scogin A
Loss of Grandfather

Sandra Tuomey S
Loss of Mother

Our Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

The Junior League welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations and communities.

Top Ways to Give to Annual Fund

90th Anniversary Terrace Project



To celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Junior League of Fort Worth, and as a gift for the future, the League is planning to beautify the outdoor terrace at headquarters. As a JLFW member, we welcome your help in bringing this special project to life.

In recognition of your donation, we would like to offer you a personalized brick on the terrace located off the Amon Carter Community Room. We will be working with Bricks 'R Us to complete this project. Visit www.brickrus.com/donorsite/jlfw to purchase.

Community Giving Programs



The JLFW participates in the following Community Giving Programs. Please visit the following retailers for more information on joining these programs.

- Kroger Community Rewards
- Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program (Charity #5835)
- Amazon Smile

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SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



LITTLEST LEAGUERS

Our Growing Community



Reagan Blake Hill

Anne and Blake Hill welcomed their son, Reagan Blake, on August 25, 2018.



Taylor Ellen Team

Lauren and C.B. Team welcomed their daughter, Taylor Ellen, on January 11, 2019.



Luke Edward DuVall

Katrina and Boone DuVall welcomed their son, Luke Edward, on February 1, 2019.



William Carsten Sykes

Jenna and Kevin Sykes welcomed their son, William Carsten, on April 23, 2019.



Oliver Hansen

Ashley and Thomas Hansen welcomed their son, Oliver, on April 28, 2019.



Gracelynn Maxine Gross

Allison and Thomas Gross welcomed her daughter, Gracelynn Maxine, on May 3, 2019.



Paige Allison Griffis

Lindsay and Jim Griffis welcomed their daughter, Paige Allison, on May 23, 2019.



Jackson Walker Williams

Jennifer and Brett Williams welcomed their son, Jackson "Jack" Walker, on June 23, 2019.

Life in the League



Wade Kirby

Jenn and Justin Kirby welcomed their son, Wade, on July 22, 2019.



Tennyson Grace Moore

Lauren Moore welcomed her daughter, Tennyson Grace, on August 5, 2019.

MARRIAGES



Melissa Foy married Andrew Lindsey on May 18, 2019.

Tyne Burris married Aaron Raeburn on June 1, 2019.



Lizzy Ward married Bo Sutton on June 8, 2019.

ENGAGEMENTS



Chelsi McLarty became engaged to Josh Cotle.

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

Today the JLFW comprises more than 2,000 members and is part of The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI) which constitutes one of the largest, most effective volunteer organizations in the world. For more information please visit our website at juniorleaguefw.org.



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