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Junior League of Fort Worth





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Greetings, Friends! As we turn the pages to the second half of our League year, I am filled with pride, gratitude, and excitement for all that lies ahead. The momentum within the Junior League of Fort Worth is undeniable, and it has been inspiring to witness the dedication, generosity, and spirit our members continue to bring to every effort.

We opened the second half of the year on a high note with a truly successful **Grand Entry Gala**. The energy in the room, the commitment to our mission, and the support shown for our community reminded me why this organization is so special. That enthusiasm carried seamlessly into a strong kickoff for our **Rodeo Program Sales** in partnership with the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, an important tradition and a meaningful source of impact for the work we do.

Looking ahead, there is so much to be excited about. We are preparing for another impactful provisional diaper distribution, a powerful reminder of how **meeting basic needs can change lives**. We also look forward to celebrating one another at our **Member Celebration** and honoring the legacy and continued service of our Sustainers at the **Sustainer Luncheon and Sustainer of the Year Celebration**. These moments of connection and recognition are essential to who we are as a League.

In this issue of *The Lariat*, you'll read more about the incredible community work happening through projects like **The Archway** and the **Cook Children's LVT Clinic**, programs that reflect our commitment

to meaningful, hands-on service. You'll also find stories that highlight the heart of our membership, from **Member Monthly** highlights to the joyful outreach of the **Sunshine Singers**.

Thank you for all you do to make the **Junior League of Fort Worth** a force for good in our community. The second half of this year promises continued impact, growth, and celebration, and I am honored to experience it alongside you.

With gratitude and excitement for what's ahead,



Shay Simpson

2025-2026 PRESIDENT

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Junior League of Fort Worth



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MISSION

The Junior League of Fort Worth, Inc. is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

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.

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.

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Building Tomorrow's Leaders:
JLFW'S PARTNERSHIP WITH ACADEMY 4

by Terea Noble

The Junior League of Fort Worth is proud to partner with Academy 4 through its 4th Grade Mentoring & Leadership Program, a community placement focused on empowering students at a pivotal stage in their development. League members serve as mentors, helping children explore extracurricular activities they may not otherwise have access to, while also guiding them through monthly lessons centered on essential leadership characteristics such as confidence, responsibility, and perseverance.

Through one-on-one mentoring, members support students as they work through the LEADERS curriculum provided by the schools, reinforcing academic growth alongside personal development. These meaningful connections allow students to feel

seen, supported, and encouraged to dream bigger. "Seeing the students light up as they discover new interests and recognize their own leadership potential is incredibly rewarding," shared one Academy 4 volunteer.

"It reminds us that consistent encouragement and presence can truly change a child's outlook." This placement reflects JLFW's commitment to building strong leaders and investing in the future of our community. 🙌

OPENING DOORS, CHANGING FUTURES:

JLFW's Work with Breakthrough by Terea Noble

Education is one of the most powerful tools for breaking cycles and expanding opportunity, and the Junior League of Fort Worth's community placement with Breakthrough brings that belief to life. As Breakthrough College Prep Volunteers, JLFW members step into moments that matter most, supporting students and families as they navigate the path to college and beyond.

From Professionals Day and Career Huddles to the Junior-Senior College Application

Retreat and Family Interview Day, members are present at key milestones that shape confidence, clarity, and possibility. Volunteers also uplift the Breakthrough community through celebrations and service, including the Teaching Fellows Appreciation Angels Project, Holiday Stewards, Aid Community Day, Summer Wrap-Up, and Be Senior Fest.

This work goes beyond events; it is about access, advocacy, and affirmation. "Breakthrough allows us to show students that their goals are valid and achievable," shared one volunteer. "Sometimes, simply having

someone believe in them makes all the difference." Through this placement, JLFW continues to invest in educational equity and the promise of brighter futures for our community. 🙌

**BREAKTHROUGH
 ALLOWS US TO
 SHOW STUDENTS
 THAT THEIR GOALS
 ARE VALID AND
 ACHIEVABLE**





GRAND ENTRY GALA

Where Western Tradition Meets Purposeful Celebration
by Caroline Cobert

"THE GRAND ENTRY GALA IS A CELEBRATION OF EVERYTHING THAT MAKES FORT WORTH SPECIAL: tradition, generosity, and community."

The Grand Entry Gala is one of Fort Worth’s signature events, serving as the celebratory kickoff to the highly anticipated Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo season. Far more than a traditional gala, the evening captures the true spirit of Cowtown, blending refined elegance with authentic Western tradition while supporting the Junior League of Fort Worth’s vital community outreach.

This year, Grand Entry Gala Co-Chairs **Vivian Bailey** and **Leigh King** were proud to announce that President George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush accepted the invitation to serve as the inaugural Grand Entry Ambassadors for the 2026 Gala. Honorary chairs recognized were **Rozanne and Billy Rosenthal, Mandolin and Ben Rosenthal,** and **Ashli and Todd Blumenfeld.**

entertainment was Evan Felker, lead singer of the Turnpike Troubadours. The Grand Entry Gala is one of JLFW’s signature fundraising events, joining Christmas in Cowtown and Rodeo Program Sales as pillars of the League’s mission-driven work. Proceeds from ticket sales, sponsorships, and raffles directly support dozens of nonprofit agencies and community projects throughout

Tarrant County, with a focus on children’s education, health, and family support. “The Grand Entry Gala is a celebration of everything that makes Fort Worth special: tradition, generosity, and community. We are honored to chair an event that not only ushers in the Stock Show and Rodeo season, but also fuels the Junior League of Fort Worth’s ability to make a lasting impact,” said Co-Chairs Vivian and Leigh.

One of the most unique elements of the gala is its setting on the dirt floor of the historic and newly renovated Will Rogers Memorial Coliseum. The transformation of this iconic arena into a stunning dining and dancing venue reflects the creativity of Junior Leaguers and the League’s longstanding partnership with the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo. Guests embraced the “Cowboy Chic & Boots” attire, pairing formalwear with Western flair for a distinctly Texan atmosphere.

the League is doing with Volunteers of America. Attendees got to hear from VOA CEO Angela King and Ericka English, Vice President of External Relations. Following the formal program, the night concluded with a lively dance party, cementing the Grand Entry Gala’s place as an essential celebration of Fort Worth’s heritage, generosity, and future. 🤠

A highlight of the evening was the impact video highlighting the work



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EVA WILLIAMS, VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

Eva Williams, Vice President of Communications for the Junior League of Fort Worth, brings both heart and strategy to her role. A native Fort Worthian and proud “Comodian” from the historic Lake Como community, Eva is deeply rooted in the city she serves. She is the mother of a 17-year-old daughter and holds degrees from Texas Woman’s University and Texas Christian University.

Outside of JLFW, Eva serves as Director of Finance at Trinity Metro, leading teams across budget, treasury, risk, and grants. She is also active in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and engaged in the Como community.

Balancing career and League leadership, Eva credits intentional prioritization, delegation, and learning when to say no. She shares that the role taps into her creative side, complements her analytical career, and has helped her grow as a dynamic leader while building meaningful connections across generations.

HOLLY HINSEY, EDUCATION VICE PRESIDENT

As Education Vice President of the Junior League of Fort Worth, Holly Hinsey brings thoughtfulness, purpose, and a deep commitment to service. Outside the League, she is a registered nurse and patient safety program manager for Texas Health Resources. Holly earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Texas Christian University and her MBA from University of Texas at Arlington.

At home, she enjoys life with her husband, Andrew Young, and their standard poodle, Sutton, often hiking or participating in dog sports like Rally. She also loves baking, reading, and spending time on the lake.

Drawn to JLFW leadership by service, Holly says board experience has broadened her perspective and reinforced collaboration, mentorship, and empathy. Her favorite part of JLFW is the friendships that challenge and inspire her. Her advice: find a leadership style you admire, say yes when you have capacity, and stay open to growth.



KRISTI BHRLK, NOMINATING CHAIR

Kristi Bhrlk brings an attentive, intentional approach to her role as Nominating Chair for the Junior League of Fort Worth, helping shape the organization’s future through strong, mission-driven leadership. She leads a fair, confidential process to identify and present qualified Board candidates, guided by JLFW bylaws and long-term sustainability.

Drawn to the role through her appreciation for strong leadership, Kristi says her JLFW experience has fueled personal growth by pushing her beyond her comfort zone and strengthening her communication, decision-making, and collaboration skills. Her favorite part of JLFW is seeing its tangible impact across Fort Worth.

Outside the League, Kristi serves as Director of Operations for HUB International Fort Worth and serves on the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo Ambassador Committee. She enjoys time on the water, road trips, college football—especially Texas A&M University—and spending time with family and friends.

Her advice to future leaders: just say yes, even if you don’t feel fully ready.

CARE WHERE IT COUNTS:


The Las Vegas Trail Cook Children's Neighborhood Health Center

by Caroline Cobert

The Las Vegas Trail Health Center is redefining what it means to serve the community. Located in the heart of the Las Vegas Trail neighborhood, the LVT Neighborhood Health Center is a first-of-its-kind partnership between Cook Children's Health Care System and JPS Health Network, created to bring critical, comprehensive care directly to families who need it most.

Designed to be a true medical home, the center offers pediatric and adult primary care, behavioral health services, and a wide range of social supports. Families don't just receive health care; they gain access to an on-site food pantry, community education programs, and even job training opportunities for careers in the health care industry. The goal is simple yet powerful: to address health not only in the exam room, but in everyday life.

"I chose this placement because I enjoy being in community placements," said **Savannah Lewis**. "I love seeing the impact that the Junior League of Fort Worth has on our community." The Junior League of Fort Worth became involved when Cook Children's applied for, and received, funding as a 25-26 community project. The project quickly stood out for its potential to make a lasting impact. By locating services directly within the neighborhood,

the health center removes two of the most significant barriers to care: transportation and access. This allows Cook Children's patients and health plan members to receive consistent, high-quality care close to home. Through partnerships like the Las Vegas Trail Health Center, the Junior League of Fort Worth continues to demonstrate the power of meeting people where they are and building healthier futures for our city. 



Growing Together: JLFW'S PARTNERSHIP WITH KINDERFROGS SCHOOL


by Julia Sebesta



Nestled on the TCU campus, KinderFrogs School is a family-focused early intervention program that provides a developmentally appropriate educational environment for children with Down syndrome and other developmental delays. For years, the Junior League of Fort Worth has proudly partnered with KinderFrogs, providing volunteers who bring extra hands, extra heart, and a deep commitment to supporting every child's success.

For many JLFW members, KinderFrogs is a placement that quickly becomes more than a volunteer opportunity; it becomes a meaningful connection.

JLFW member **Olivia Barhorst** shared that she joined the League because of her love for the Fort Worth community and her desire to make a real, positive impact. "Serving alongside other women who are equally passionate about leadership, service, and education has enriched my life in ways I never expected," Barhorst said. Her involvement with KinderFrogs began with curiosity and quickly grew into admiration. "After my first visit to the school and learning about the impact it has on the lives of families and children, I fell in love," Barhorst shared. "With a sibling on the autism spectrum, KinderFrogs' mission felt like a perfect fit." What continues to stand out most to Barhorst is the school's exceptional sense of community. "The teachers and staff

know each child and their individual needs like one of their own," she said. It's often the simple moments, offering a hug, helping with everyday tasks, or celebrating a small victory, that remind volunteers just how powerful their presence can be. Through these experiences, JLFW members gain new perspectives and a deeper sense of empathy. "Supporting children with developmental delays teaches you so much about patience, kindness, empathy, and advocacy," Barhorst reflected. Through its ongoing partnership with KinderFrogs School, the Junior League of Fort Worth continues to strengthen families, support educators, and create lasting impact, one child, one classroom, and one meaningful moment at a time. 

SELLING TRADITION:

How Rodeo Program Sales Power Community Impact



More than a guide to daily events, the rodeo program is a cherished keepsake for generations of rodeo fans, and a tangible symbol of the historic partnership between the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo (FWSSR) and the Junior League of Fort Worth (JLFW). That partnership took shape in 1957, when JLFW formally organized Rodeo Program Sales as a fundraising initiative, transforming a simple program into a powerful tool for community good.

Nearly seven decades later, the tradition continues strong. Each year, following the Grand Entry

Gala kickoff, JLFW volunteers take to Dickies Arena throughout the rodeo's 23-day run. Easily recognized in their signature red boxes and aprons, hundreds of "Yell and Sellers" dedicate countless hours - rain, snow, or shine - to program sales. Many embrace nightly themes, from honoring military members and first responders to more playful evenings like "animal print" and "cowgirl glam."

The impact is significant. Two dollars from every program sold directly supports JLFW's grant-making fund,



First held in 1896, the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo is an iconic cornerstone of Western heritage and the oldest continuously running livestock show and rodeo in the world. While fans flock to the thrilling competitions and world-class livestock exhibitions, another tradition plays an equally important role: the sale of the official Rodeo Souvenir Program.



benefiting local organizations such as Cook Children's Health Foundation, the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, The Archway, The Women's Center, and more. Proceeds support five core areas of need: arts and culture, basic human needs, education, physical and mental health, and Fort Worth-focused initiatives, ensuring broad and meaningful community reach. "Rodeo Program Sales are a powerful reminder that even the smallest action—purchasing a program—can

have a meaningful impact. Every sale directly supports the Junior League of Fort Worth's ability to invest in the organizations and families that make our community stronger," said Co-Chairs, **Danae Couch Lowe** and **Lauren Lee**.

In recent years, the Rodeo Program Sales Committee has added commemorative Pin Sales and scarf sales to its fundraising efforts. Another fun addition this year is the

launch of social media channels for the effort. Social media enthusiasts can follow the team on Instagram at [@rodeooprogramsalesjlfw](https://www.instagram.com/rodeooprogramsalesjlfw).

Rodeo Program Sales embody the blend of tradition, volunteerism, and civic pride that defines the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo—and reflect the enduring impact of the Junior League of Fort Worth well beyond the final ride. 🤠

by **Carloine Cobert**

WHERE CONNECTION HAPPENS:

The Heart of J.LFW's Member Monthly Program

by Terea Noble

In a League built on service and leadership, community remains our greatest strength—and the Member Monthly program is where that community comes to life. Thoughtfully curated by the Member Monthly co-chairs, these gatherings offer members a consistent, welcoming way to connect through shared meals and meaningful experiences.

Each month features Lunch Bunch, a casual Dutch-treat lunch paired with a fun activity, making participation easy and accessible. Open to Provisionals, Actives, and Sustainers alike, Member Monthly creates space for members across stages of League life to build relationships, exchange stories, and simply enjoy one another's company.

This year's lunches have taken members to some of Fort Worth's favorite spots, including Oishii – Sushi & Pan Asian, Fixe, and Le

Margot. Activities have been just as energizing, from a Yoga and Sound Bath Experience to a pool party and a SPENGA workout.

"These events make the League feel smaller and more personal," shared one attendee. "I've met women I may never have crossed paths with otherwise, and those connections have made my JLFW experience so much richer."

More than social events, Member Monthly fosters belonging. In these

**"THESE EVENTS
MAKE THE LEAGUE
FEEL SMALLER AND
MORE PERSONAL,"**

moments of connection, friendships are formed, networks are strengthened, and the League grows stronger—one lunch, one laugh, and one shared experience at a time. 🍷



STEAM NIGHTS:

Bringing the Museum to Your School

by Caroline Cobert

The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History remains one of the Junior League of Fort Worth's steadfast community partners, offering a robust lineup of special events and educational programming. Highlights include scientific IMAX documentaries shown in the newly renovated Jane & John Justin Omni Theatre. In addition to long-standing outreach favorites like the Mobile Noble Planetarium, the Museum also hosts the Family STEAM Festival, which brings its signature hands-on exhibits and experiments directly to schools across Fort Worth.

"Junior League volunteers get to help bring the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History to different schools in the area," said Emma Norton, the Project Development Coordinator. "Students love learning about dry ice, color art, snails, and so much more. Our volunteers enjoy being part of helping the next generation develop a love for science."

According to Ashley Oviedo and Ashley Herrera, leaders of FWMSH's STEAM Festival, available time slots for the 2025–2026 school year were fully booked before the end of September, with requests pouring in

from parents and educators eager to participate. In support of this high-demand program, JLFW awarded the STEAM Festival a \$35,000 grant and a team of a dozen volunteers for the 2025–2026 year. These resources have helped improve program mobility, expand available activities, and increase volunteer participation in this engaging educational opportunity.

Museum programming features interactive demonstrations, often crowd favorites like dry ice bubbles or spin art, alongside multiple STEAM activity stations. Many of these experiences reinforce key classroom

concepts in physics, biology, and engineering, while others encourage creativity and learning through play for both students and their families.

Transporting a museum's worth of activities, setting up in schools across the city, and recreating immersive experiences in just a few hours is no small feat. Thanks to the strong partnership between JLFW and the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, this work happens several nights each month, creating meaningful learning experiences and fueling curiosity throughout the Fort Worth community. 🍷

ON THE ROAD WITH JLFW:

The Provisional Bus Tour

By: Julia Sebesta

For many women, joining the Junior League of Fort Worth begins with a desire to connect — to the community, to meaningful service and to other women. The Provisional Program is where that connection truly takes shape, offering new members a comprehensive introduction to the League’s mission, impact and culture of leadership.



Provisional Co-Chairs **Kourtney Russo** and **Clara Cantu** understand firsthand how formative this year can be.

Both joined JLFW during seasons of transition and found not only service opportunities, but lasting friendships and a deeper sense of belonging.

“The provisional year is so important,” Russo said. “It really sets members up for the rest of their Junior League career. It’s an honor to be part of such an impactful moment.” Designed to blend education, service and community-building, the Provisional Program includes 89 hours of volunteer work and learning experiences that introduce members to JLFW’s many placements. One of the most meaningful experiences is the Provisional Bus Tour, a day that brings the League’s impact to life.

This year, more than 170 provisionals visited several JLFW-supported

organizations, including Casa Mañana, the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, Volunteers of America and Rivertree Academy. From behind-the-scenes tours to heartfelt presentations from nonprofit partners, the day offered a powerful, tangible look at how Junior League volunteers make a difference across Fort Worth.

The JLFW Provisional Bus Tour is a cornerstone experience for new members, combining meaningful learning with plenty of fun. This year, Provisionals were divided into four groups, each traveling on its own bus with JLFW Leaders and Bus Hosts guiding the way. Along the route, members participated in interactive games that encouraged teamwork and engagement while visiting key community sites, and of course, no bus selfies to capture the memories.

Beyond the laughter and camaraderie, the tour provides Provisionals with a hands-on introduction to the League’s programs, history, and impact, making it both an educational and unforgettable bonding experience.

For Russo and Cantu, the ultimate goal of the tour is simple: that provisionals leave inspired. “I hope they find their own love for the League,” Russo said, while Cantu reflected on the future, imagining that one of today’s provisionals may one day lead the organization. “I found out what it’s like to be a part of the Fort Worth community as well as make lifetime friendships”, Cantu shared. With a foundation built on connection, education, and service, the Provisional Program ensures that legacy begins from day one. 📸



A Home Away from Home:

JLFW'S IMPACT AT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF FORT WORTH

by Terea Noble

When a child needs critical medical care, the last thing a family should worry about is where they will stay, how they will eat, or whether they are truly welcomed during one of the most stressful seasons of their lives. Through its placement at the Ronald McDonald House of Fort Worth, the Junior League of Fort Worth (JLFW) helps ensure families find comfort, care, and community when they need it most.

Ronald McDonald House of Fort Worth is guided by a powerful mission: to provide essential services that remove barriers, strengthen families, and promote healing when children need healthcare. Their vision looks even further ahead—a world where every family has what they need to ensure the best health outcomes for their children. JLFW members proudly support this mission by showing up in practical, compassionate ways that make the House feel like a true home away from home. As House Volunteers, JLFW members serve in a variety of roles that keep daily operations running smoothly. Volunteers assist in the office, greet residents and guests, and conduct House tours for new families. They help clean and stock the kitchen, sort donations, staff special events, and prepare and serve meals—often the warm, familiar touch families didn't realize they needed after long days at the

hospital. Each task, no matter how small it may seem, helps remove stress from families so they can focus on what matters most: their child's healing. "Volunteering at Ronald McDonald House reminds you how powerful kindness can be," shared one JLFW volunteer. "Something as simple as serving a meal or greeting a family with a smile can bring comfort during a moment that feels overwhelming. It's an honor to be part of that support system." Through this placement, JLFW members extend their hands and hearts to families facing unimaginable challenges, offering consistency, compassion, and care. Together, the Junior League of Fort Worth and Ronald McDonald House of Fort Worth are strengthening families, fostering hope, and creating a place where healing is supported not just by medicine, but by community. 🤝

THE SUNSHINE SINGERS:

Sharing Joy, One Song at a Time

by Julia Sebesta

For more than a decade, the current group of Sunshine Singers of the Junior League of Fort Worth have brought music, comfort and connection to audiences across the community. What began as a simple conversation between two sustainers, Mary Katherin Tetirick and Vicky Andrews, has blossomed into a beloved volunteer tradition rooted in harmony and heart.

"We realized we both like to sing," Tetirick said. "We thought it would be fun to see if there was interest in resurrecting a group of sustainers to do what had been a placement in our League for so many years." Although neither she nor fellow

sustainer Vicki had performed in the original JLFW placement, many of today's singers once did. Early on, they connected with the talented fellow sustainer, Janet Herald, who brought her piano skills and repertoire of Broadway tunes to get them started. Over the years they have welcomed talented directors and pianists, including Lisa Staples and Nancy Hallman, who continue to support their musical mission.

What the members love most about this program is simple yet profound: bringing joy to others. "Regardless of age or health, our audiences appreciate that we've taken the time to come sing to them," Tetirick said. Some of their most meaningful

moments happen in memory care settings, where familiar melodies spark smiles and sometimes even sing-alongs. For the Sunshine Singers, this work is personal. "Being part of the group is a great way to use our gifts to make someone else's day better," Tetirick said. Friendships have deepened, new connections have been made, and the group has supported one another "through all the ups and downs of life."

Though the singers are sustainers with no placement hours to fulfill, their weekly performances remain a highlight. As they look toward the future, they hope to welcome younger sustainers to help continue this joyful JLFW tradition for years to come. 🎶





Wings of Hope: WHEN HOPE TAKES THE REINS


by Libby Maness

Sometimes the most impactful opportunities are the ones you never planned for. That was the case for one Junior League volunteer whose journey to Wings of Hope began with a simple act of openness. After applying for a leadership role and checking the “interested in any position” box, she was unexpectedly offered the Wings of Hope team lead placement. Despite her surprise, she said yes, and hasn’t looked back. With a longtime interest in animal therapy, the placement quickly proved to be a perfect fit.

Wings of Hope provides equine-assisted therapy for children and adults facing a range of challenges. More than just physical support, equine therapy offers emotional and mental healing that can be truly life-changing. The impact of equine therapy reaches far beyond the arena, instilling confidence, resilience and hope in every rider.

For **Katelyn McDonald**, Wings of Hope team lead, the most rewarding

part of this placement is watching the riders grow. “Each rider comes with unique goals and abilities and seeing them thrive each lesson is deeply fulfilling,” McDonald said. She also credits the dedicated staff, who carefully design activities tailored to each rider’s needs, creating an environment where progress feels both intentional and joyful. And, of course, spending time with the horses adds a special kind of magic.

Though this is her first time with Wings of Hope, she already envisions a long-term connection with the placement. The work can be physically demanding and weather-dependent, but the atmosphere is consistently positive and encouraging. It’s hard work, she says, but incredibly uplifting, and always worth it. 



EVERY WOMAN. ALL THINGS.: *Disrupt the Causes of Doing it All*

by Dr. Tara Reed,
Member Support Chair

What does it cost to be everything to everyone? For many women, the answer is lived quietly in the spaces between caregiving, careers, community service, financial pressures, and the mental load of coordinating life for others. The Every Woman. All Things. Initiative was created to name this reality and begin changing it.


National studies show that women shoulder nearly **70% of household organization, caregiving management, and emotional coordination**, even in dual-career families. Add volunteer leadership, community advocacy, and career growth, and the weight becomes both invisible and unsustainable. This initiative grew from a widespread truth across Leagues: the modern woman’s life is rich in purpose, but the systems around her haven’t caught up.

Launched in October 2025 by **The Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI)**, the vision is bold: address role strain, burnout,

and hidden emotional labor while expanding support systems that strengthen well-being. As the inaugural Member Support Chair for the Junior League of Fort Worth, I help implement Every Woman. All Things. through trainings, Member Monthly programs, curated resources, and open conversations that encourage connection, awareness, and actionable change. The goal is simple: support should be shared, not shouldered alone.

To me, Every Woman. All Things. is both an invitation and a declaration. It affirms

that women can lead, care, serve, build, love, and create change...and still belong to themselves. It challenges the belief that exhaustion is proof of commitment and honors the idea that women deserve communities that protect their well-being.

Get involved by attending trainings, sharing stories, leaning into support, and saying “yes” to collective care. 

For more, visit everywomanallthings.org or email membersupport@juniorleaguefw.org





DRIVING SAFETY FORWARD:

The Archway Domestic Violence Survivor Van Project

By Terea Noble


For survivors of domestic violence, safety extends beyond shelter walls—it includes the ability to move freely, securely, and independently toward a new future. The Archway Domestic Violence Survivor Passenger Van Project is a vital investment in that freedom, providing safe transportation that helps survivors regain control of their lives.

The mission of The Archway is to end domestic violence through safety, support, prevention, and social change. A \$40,000 investment will fund a new passenger van for its Fort Worth 24/7 emergency shelter, replacing an aging vehicle that had become unreliable. Transportation is often a major barrier for survivors navigating court appointments, counseling, employment, school

schedules, and escape plans. A dependable van ensures consistent access to essential services and greater protection during times of crisis.

Members of the Junior League of Fort Worth support this effort through year-round volunteer placements at The Archway's shelter and at Berry Good Buys, its retail thrift store that

funds domestic violence programs. Volunteers assist with store operations and provide afterschool activities for children, creating moments of stability and joy.

Together, The Archway and JLFW are not only funding transportation—they are helping drive hope, safety, and new beginnings for survivors and their families. 



Member Celebration

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026 | 6–9 PM



JUNIOR LEAGUE of FORT WORTH

— WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 • 6–9P —

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LIFE IN THE LEAGUE



LIFE AS A PROVISIONAL:
Anika Little

For Junior League of Fort Worth Provisional member Anika Little, this year has been a season of learning, connection, and new perspective. Outside the League, she enjoys time with her husband and sons, cheering at basketball games, exploring new restaurants, and relaxing with puzzles, shopping, or a good audiobook.

Anika describes her Provisional experience as transformative. Trainings and observing League leaders have supported her growth while helping her build meaningful relationships she may not have formed otherwise. One of her most impactful moments came during the Community Bus Tour, where seeing the work of JLFW partners—especially Volunteers of America—brought the mission to life. “Meeting the women supported by Volunteers of America transformed them from numbers into individuals,” she shared, reinforcing the importance of service and fundraising.

Looking ahead, Anika hopes to continue growing within JLFW and serve as a Provisional Group Advisor, offering future Provisionals the same welcoming support she received.



LIFE AS AN ACTIVE:
Rosemary Cruz

For Junior League of Fort Worth Active member Rosemary Cruz, life is rooted in intention—showing up for her family, community, and meaningful work. Outside the League, she enjoys time with family and friends, cheering on her nieces and nephews at sporting events and planning special outings with her son, Jack.

Within the League, Rosemary has served across Community, Membership, and Administrative Councils, including roles as Co-Chair for Como Community Center and Little Leaguers, and currently Chair of the 100th Anniversary Celebration. She is also a proud member of the All aBoard Class. Rosemary credits JLFW with significant personal and professional growth. Standout experiences include promoting inclusion through Little Leaguers and supporting the Diaper Bank Distribution hosted by Goodwill North Central Texas, where her professional and volunteer roles aligned.

Looking ahead, she is excited about expanding partnerships, especially with Volunteers of America, and remains proud of JLFW’s compassionate service to vulnerable neighbors.



LIFE AS A SUSTAINER:
Suzanne Sanders

As a Sustainer of the Junior League of Fort Worth, Suzanne Sanders reflects decades of leadership and service to the Fort Worth community. Outside the League, she co-founded Sorority 101 in 2021, helping more than 650 young women at over 40 colleges navigate NPC sorority recruitment and build confidence, connection, and leadership skills.

Suzanne’s service includes roles such as President of the National Charity League Fort Worth Chapter, Board Chair of the Susan G. Komen Foundation of Greater Fort Worth, Chair of the Kupferle Health Board, and Chair of Puttin’ on the Pink.

During ten years as an Active JLFW member, she rose through leadership and served as President from 2010–2011, guiding the purchase of the League’s headquarters—creating lasting stability and equity. Today, she remains inspired by members and looks forward to serving as Sustainer Chair, continuing her legacy of leadership and mentorship.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

TRANSFER IN

- Mary Katherine Bergman, JL Midland
- LaStarr Hollie, JL Springfield, MA
- Sara Norman, JL Beaumont
- Shannon Okou, JL Dallas
- Elizabeth Conn Waddill, JL Beaumont

REINSTATE

- Kelly Decker
- Barbara Klein
- Christina Hanson

CHANGE OF STATUS

- Meghan Collier, A to A: LOA
- Allison Valley A to A:LOA
- Ashley Barbee Christman A to A: LOA

CONDOLENCES

- Emily McCarthy, Loss of grandmother
 - Madison Obregon, Loss of uncle
 - Andrea Halbach, Loss of stepfather
 - Jayne Landers, Loss of husband
- McKenzie Montague, Loss of grandmother in law
 - Lea Payne, Loss of father-in-law
 - Carolyn Roberts, Loss of mother

CONGRATULATIONS



Micaela Mead married Josh Johnson on October 3, 2025



Kathryn Kwiecien was promoted to Talent Acquisition Manager – University Relations at GM Financial



Kaci Lightner Married Sean Gibeault on October 11, 2025



Chandra Matthews was appointed to the inaugural Emerging Women's Leadership Network Alumni Committee



Danielle Teagarden was recognized at the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) North Region Conference



Jordan Stimpson was recognized by Fort Worth Magazine, among the 2025 Top Attorneys

LITTLEST LEAGUERS



DaNae and Geoffrey Lowe welcomed daughter, Landan Elizabeth on September 4, 2025



Emily and Brax McCarthy welcomed son, John on December 8, 2025



Amanda and Timothy Wylie welcomed daughter, Stella Grace on October 3, 2025



Sydney and Matt McGraw welcomed son, Cyrus Benjamin on December 10, 2025



Storey and Dave Crabtree welcomed daughter, Tillie Mae on November 17, 2025



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Testimonials

Thank you so much for taking care of my clients, who are family. I couldn't have asked for a better team than yours. – Kimiko DeGuchi, ONE Sotheby's International Realty

★★★★★

Thanks for all your hard work on this one! – Randy Berg, Russ Lyon Sotheby's International Realty

★★★★★

It's so funny—when I was going through people's bios, something about yours caught my eye. I just knew I could trust you! – MB Darcy, Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty

★★★★★

Thank you so much! I know they're excited and have loved working with you! – Cassidy Hiepler, Sotheby's International Realty – Westlake Brokerage

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LEAGUE *Queens*





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- The Mary Harriman Society - \$930**
- The Katherine Carlock Society - \$500**
- The Leader Society - \$250**
- The Volunteer Society - \$100**
- The Supporter Society - \$30**
- The Friend Society - \$19**

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