



**THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
FORT WORTH®**

Women building better communities

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The Lariat

Spring 2016

Volume 23, Issue 3





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President's Perspective

A Message from Kristy Odom



With the first day of spring just around the corner, I find it difficult to believe how quickly the 2015 - 2016 year is flying by. As I reflect on all our League has accomplished in the past few months, and the hours and hours of hard work that have been logged by our dedicated members to make it all happen, I know that the saying is true: *Volunteers don't necessarily have the time, they have the heart.* You have poured your heart into all you've accomplished!

We kicked off rodeo season, as it's known here in Fort Worth, with another wildly successful *Grand*

Entry Gala. The Fort Worth community really showed up to support our JLFW community projects while enjoying fantastic food and dancing the night away to music by country music star Clay Walker. This led right into an exciting season for the Rodeo Program Sales committee, which debuted a brand new logo, a "Yell & Sell" lapel pin, and even a spot in the All Western Parade. Thank you to each and every one of our members that helped to carry on our long-standing and important partnership with the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo.

At our January General Membership Meeting and Placement Fair, we had the honor of hearing from keynote speaker Lyda Hill, 2015 AJLI Mary Harriman Award Winner. Her words were truly inspirational, reminding us all to find our passion and use it to help others. In February, we honored Sustainer of the Year **Susanne Avondet**. She has committed so much time and energy to our League, and we are thankful for her today and every day. These two ladies provide a shining example of what it means to "**Lead Local**."

Finally, we can't forget the hard work of the hundreds of women who are out serving in community placements. You are making a difference in our community, and living out the Mission of the JLFW each and every day.

I am looking forward to the many fun events we have lined up this spring, including Day of Giving and the Pancake Picnic at Cook Children's hosted by our Provisional members. You won't want to miss these two April Saturdays as our members proudly serve our community and live our Mission. Also, make sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming General Membership Meetings, where we will be focusing on fellowship, nutrition and health, and celebrating the year at our May Annual Meeting and "Pass the Gavel." As we move into another busy season with the League, remember everything you do, no matter how small, makes a difference. Thank you for having the heart to volunteer, even when sometimes it feels like you don't have the time. We couldn't do what we do without you! Lift, Learn, and **Lead Local!**

Proudly serving by your side,

2015 - 2016 President

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.

The Lariat Vision

To inform members and increase awareness of the projects and events of The Junior League of Fort Worth, Inc. *The Lariat* is published four times a year by The Junior League of Fort Worth, Inc. To advertise call the League office at 817.332.7500.

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League Focus

Another Legendary Year with the FWSSR

By Alisha Rosenthal

Another hat tippin', boot scootin', yellin' and sellin' rodeo season comes to a close as the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo (FWSSR) celebrated their 120th year. A Junior League of Fort Worth (JLFW) tradition since 1957, this year marked a new beginning for the League's long-standing partnership with the FWSSR as League members appeared for the first time in the All Western Parade, held each year on the first Saturday of Rodeo. The All Western Parade is the biggest western-themed parade in the world as well as the biggest non-motorized parade in the world. It was a cold and windy morning, but more than 100,000 spectators gathered along the streets of downtown Fort Worth to participate in the festivities.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF FORT WORTH
RODEO PROGRAM SALES

This year was also commemorated with a brand new "Yell & Sell" logo, along with the inaugural "Yell & Sell" lapel pin that was introduced at the *Grand Entry Gala (GEG)* and presented to *GEG* Honorary Chairs Kit and Charlie Moncrief. The new logo was also featured on the infamous red boxes throughout the arena, as well as on the red aprons worn by JLFW volunteers. "Since the debut of the new Rodeo Program Sales logo, we wanted to capitalize on the opportunity to debut the logo at the Fort Worth Stock Show through a few different approaches," Rodeo Program

Sales Co-Chair **Jenna Sykes** said. "Our primary goal is to sell as many programs as possible. Everything else is icing on the cake!"



This year, more than 17,000 programs were sold along with approximately 100 lapel pins. Provisional **Katherine Whitten** and Active **Ashley Reed** earned the coveted top prize-goer award for selling the most programs, walking away with fabulous prizes including a pair of Lane boots, facials, hotel stays and more.

"Our committee and prize-goers are what made this year special," Sykes said. "As much as we love and are proud of the logo, lapel pins, red boxes, aprons and parade, we would be nowhere without the hard work and commitment the committee and prize-goers put forth."



On the final weekend of the FWSSR, **Kathleen Carter** and **Maurie Holster** were announced as next year's Rodeo Program Sales Co-Chairs. Congratulations to Co-Chairs Sykes and **Rachel Manning**, along with everyone who contributed to making this another fantastic rodeo season!



League Focus



Rumor Has It...We Love It Too!

By Alisha Rosenthal

The 4th Annual *Grand Entry Gala (GEG)* went off without a hitch as 813 guests gathered at the Will Rogers Coliseum on Saturday, January 9, to ring in the rodeo season with music, food and festivities. This event is always a big hit and this year proved to be no exception. The *GEG* is a fantastic way for the JLFW to kick off the rodeo season each year and celebrate the important partnership.



The audience danced the night away as Clay Walker provided an entertaining performance complete with leis, streamers and T-shirts. "Clay Walker was spectacular, and the dance floor, our biggest so far, was packed the entire show," said JLFW *GEG* Co-Chair **Robin Bumstead**. Fort Worth Mayor **Betsy Price** graciously volunteered to emcee the event. JLFW *GEG* Co-Chairs Bumstead and **Loren Baker** introduced the inaugural JLFW "Yell & Sell" lapel pin to attendees, and presented a pin as a gift to Honorary Chairs Kit and Charlie Moncrief as a thank you for their service to the community as well as for their involvement with this year's *GEG*.



Thanks to the leadership and direction of the Decorations Chair **Stephanie McPeak** and her committee, the Will Rogers Coliseum was transformed into an elegant ballroom with a rustic flair, complete with a stunning installation that blanketed the ceiling. Reata once again served up their delicious Southwestern cuisine, Joe T. Garcia's delivered complimentary Mexican hot chocolate, and Central Market generously donated a variety of flowers that made for beautiful centerpieces to adorn all of the tables throughout the arena floor.



The evening also featured an auction of six pieces of art featured in the Stock Show Art Contest. This annual art contest provides the opportunity for Fort Worth-area students to showcase their artistic abilities for a chance to win awards, scholarships, and cash prizes. JLFW provides a team of five volunteers, led by Team Leader **Amy Patyk**, to assist with checking in entries, setting up displays, and all aspects of the award ceremony. This year's contest had more than 1,200 entries, a 12 percent increase over last year, and the six pieces auctioned off at *GEG* brought in \$22,280.



Hats off to the entire committee that worked tirelessly to produce another fabulous *Grand Entry Gala*!



League Focus

Kicking off the New Year at River Ranch

By LA Shephard

More than 400 Junior League members kicked off the new year with the January Placement Fair and General Membership Meeting held on January 7, 2016 at River Ranch in the Historic Fort Worth Stockyards. The Placement Fair was overflowing with the excited chatter of women catching up after the holidays and planning for their 2016 - 2017 Junior League year.

The meeting kicked off shortly after 7 p.m. with a few words from President **Kristy Odom**. The Mission Moment featured **Amy Patyk** who shared her experience as the Team Lead for the Guns n' Roses Art Contest placement.

Lyda Hill, 2015 AJLI Mary Harriman Award Winner, was recognized and featured as the guest speaker. Hill is highly involved in the philanthropic community both inside and outside the Junior League and shared what she is doing to make the community and world a better place. According to Hill, "It doesn't matter who you are or where you are, there is something you can give and do. You have to identify your passion, what you really want to do.

And the Junior League is the key to helping find that passion."

Announcements included details on placement sign-ups, Grand Entry Gala and the Pancake Picnic, and Rodeo Program Sales Co-Chairs **Jenna Sykes** and **Rachel Manning** debuted the new "Yell & Sell" logo and lapel pin.

Overall, it was a fantastic evening that left the ladies of the JLFW inspired and eager to kick off the new year with the Junior League.



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The JLFW will host the
Kids in the Kitchen
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Saturday, May 21

TCU Recreation Center
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

This is a wonderful partnership
event with Fort Worth ISD, and
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League Focus



Nominating Committee Slate

2016 - 2017 Candidates to be voted on at the April General Membership Meeting

The current Nominating Committee has prepared a slate of candidates for the 2016 - 2017 Nominating Committee. The list of candidates below will be voted on at the April General Membership Meeting. If you have questions regarding the Nominating Process, contact **Alice Pritchett**, 2015 - 2016 Nominating Chair.

Candidates: Median Age and Over (vote for four)



Amy Brown

Placement: C/C Merchant Selection Co-Chair
Previous Placements: C/C Merchant Selection (2x), C/C Volunteers, Cook Children's (4x), Double Exposure



Ashley Davis

Placement: Arrangements Co-Chair
Previous Placements: Day of Giving Chair, C/C Assistant to Co-Chairs (2x), C/C Special Events (2x), Rodeo, Double Exposure
Non-Placements: ODI Representative, Slant 45



Shanelle Reyes

Placement: Community Sampler
Previous Placements: Training Chair, Training, C/C Tickets, YWCA
Non-Placements: Admissions/Provisional (2x), All Aboard Class



Shelley Simon

Placement: Assistant to the President
Previous Placements: Recovery Resource Team Lead (2x), Education VP, C/C JL Booth Chair, Arrangements Co-Chair, In-League Relations Co-Chair, Wings of Hope, Camp Aurora Team Lead, Camp Aurora Counselor
Non-Placements: ODI Representative



Carrie Todd

Placement: Education VP
Previous Placements: Jr. MINTS Team Lead, C/C Volunteer Chair, LFW Class, Admissions/Provisional Co-Chair & Assistant Co-Chair, C/C Facilities Chair, C/C Facilities, Double Exposure
Non-Placements: Nominating Committee, ODI Representative



Meredith Todd

Placement: Annual Fund Co-Chair
Previous Placements: Historian, *The Lariat* Editor & Assistant Editor, Double Exposure
Non-Placements: All Aboard Class



Robyn Windham

Placement: NICU Angels Team Lead
Previous Placements: Membership Co-Advisor: In-League & Assistant Co-Advisor, Double Exposure



Wendy Wright

Placement: C/C Co-Chair
Previous Placements: C/C Assistant Co-Chair, C/C Special Events Co-Chair, C/C Special Events (2x), Transfer Class

Candidates: Under Median Age (vote for three)



Casey Carpenter

Placement: KinderFrogs
Previous Placements: Ronald McDonald House, Mayfest Central Committee, Double Exposure



Kathleen Carter

Placement: Rodeo Assistant Co-Chair
Previous Placements: Rodeo (2x), Double Exposure



Caroline Harper

Placement: C/C PR/Marketing - Program (2x)
Previous Placements: Transfer Co-Chair, *The Lariat* Editor, Joan Katz Breast Center Team Lead, Arrangement Co-Chair, Arrangements, Double Exposure



Mary Lou Hilliard

Placement: GEG Sponsorship Liaison
Previous Placements: Breakthrough FW, Cook Children's (2x), Double Exposure



Laura Mitchell

Placement: Admissions/Provisional Team Lead
Previous Placements: Admissions/Provisional Committee, Tarrant Area Food Bank, Double Exposure



Satoya Williams

Placement: Community Impact Educator
Previous Placements: Day of Giving, Provisional FWISD Task Force

Community

Catholic Charities Mentors & Makeovers

By LA Shepherd

The Junior League of Fort Worth's Mentors & Makeovers project with Catholic Charities Fort Worth is a one-year project toward which the JLFW is providing five volunteers and \$14,000. Junior League volunteers help mentor women enrolled in the agency's job training program by assisting with resumes and preparing for job interviews. On the final day of the program, the funding from the JLFW will provide a makeover day for the women, including a professional clothing allowance and a new haircut.

Catholic Charities has an entire department devoted to workforce services, which is focused on helping low-income families get out of the poverty cycle with case management, career development and training. The goal is to get each client into a living wage job, and help them retain it.



Since the placement kicked off in June, the Junior League volunteer team has

hosted eight sessions with Catholic Charities' female clients in order to help them find and prepare for jobs in the D/FW area. The team has also hosted two half-day outings for program graduates, helping them shop for interview and office-appropriate outfits. To date, more than half of the women the Junior League has worked with are gainfully employed, and the others are actively interviewing. According to Project Development Chair **Ashley Freer**, what stands out most about these women is that they are not giving up; they desire to work, to feed their families and to have a good job.

"We get to cheer women on as they secure a future for themselves and their families," Freer said. "And I think I can speak for all of



the committee members when I say that it is an incredibly rewarding experience."

Freer shares a story about one woman in particular who started the Mentors and Makeovers program feeling very dejected. She felt like she had been discriminated against, was exhausted from interviewing and was almost closed to the idea of getting help. But she felt like she just might learn something and that prospect kept her coming back. One day about halfway through the program, she walked in with the biggest smile on her face; she had a job. And better yet, she had a job that she liked and felt she was good at. She thanked all of the volunteers and staff for the help she received and the changes she made as a result.

Stories like these help to reinforce the good our JLFW members are doing in our community every day through programs like these.



League Members Give Fun and Hope to Struggling Children

By LA Shephard

Catholic Charities Assessment Center Recreational Outings is a two-year project started in 2015. The Junior League of Fort Worth granted Catholic Charities \$40,000 to help fund outings for children in the organization who are abandoned (immigrant children) or taken from their homes by Child Protective Services.

Most children stay at Catholic Charities for approximately 30-90 days while the court system works through their cases and locates appropriate foster families. These children live on-site at Catholic Charities and attend school there. As part of this project, Junior League volunteers organize activities and outings to give these children something fun and exciting to look forward to and participate in outside of Catholic Charities.

To kick off the new year, last summer JLFW volunteers took the children to eat at a Hibachi restaurant, followed by a shopping trip to Target where each child got a \$200 gift card to pick out new school clothes and shoes. Most of the children had never had the opportunity to buy brand new school clothes, and they were giddy with excitement. The volunteer team has also hosted a fall festival complete with a popcorn machine, pizza, magician, photo booth, and games; a Thanksgiving craft-making party; and a Christmas pizza party with cookie decorating and gingerbread

houses. In January, the children got to experience the magic of the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo first hand.

"It's such a blessing to be able to serve these children and take their mind off the trials they are facing," said **Kelly Kinard**, Project Development Chair. "Some of these children have never decorated a cookie until the Junior League came along, they have never seen a horse in real life until the rodeo outing, they have never been able to have a real live pumpkin. Some of these simple but memorable things we take for granted with our own children, whereas these children could only dream of such thing. Now, because of the Junior League, they are a reality for these precious children."

The JLFW estimates 150-200 children will be served as a part of this project during this next fiscal year. All of the children served have suffered a wide range of trauma and abuse, and throughout their time participating in this program they will learn coping skills and daily living skills which will help them succeed in the future and break the cycle of abuse and poverty.



Fortress UPLIFT Brings a Brighter Future for Urban Youth

By LA Shephard

Fortress Youth Development Center is an organization dedicated to bringing hope to the lives of at-risk children by providing resources that will help them break the cycle of generational poverty. The Junior League of Fort Worth is providing \$25,500 over the course of two years, along with a team of volunteers, to support the UPLIFT program. This program is aimed at connecting parents and care givers with the skills and knowledge needed to support the youth in their school curriculum. From activities geared toward academic success to parenting courses, the team of four JLFW volunteers plans and executes monthly events at the Fortress Community Center

Each Junior League member is actively engaged in making sure to uphold the program's mission by coaching and mentoring Fortress families. By doing so, the families are held accountable as a unit in the progression of their ultimate success within the program and throughout the community.

Junior League volunteers kicked off the school year with a spectacular Back To School Bash for the children and their families. The event had a record number of participants who were engaged in literacy games and had the opportunity to learn about the Fortress Community Center. About 150 fully-packed backpacks were distributed to children within the program. The JLFW has also helped execute two parenting courses, titled "What to Know about Social Media" and "Solutions To Proper Discipline", along with monthly themed events like Trunk or Treat and holiday parties.

When asked about her involvement with Fortress UPLIFT, Project Development Chair **Kimberly Waiters** said, "I pray Fortress continues to advance the lives of our youth because I see (in the children) council members, engineers, inventors and leaders being cultivated."

Community

Alliance for Children

By Leah Griffin

Alliance for Children is Tarrant County's only children's advocacy program, dedicated to the protection and healing of child abuse victims. Since its inception in 1992, this organization has helped protect more than 46,000 children from abuse through teamed investigations, healing services and community education. The Junior League of Worth contributes to this mission through two programs, Kids Crew and Sibling Facilitator.

Kids Crew is a team of trained JLFW volunteers partnered with Alliance for Children who spend time with child abuse victims who are hospitalized. Cook Children's Medical Center is the primary medical provider for severe child abuse cases, and volunteers are notified when a victim of child abuse is at Cook Children's. Many children who have been victims of child abuse are in the hospital alone

with no family members to care for them. JLFW volunteers spend time with these children at the hospital, whether it be rocking an infant or visiting with an older child.

JLFW volunteers also support Alliance for Children by serving as sibling facilitators during group support meetings. This could include entertaining babies and toddlers, supervising art projects for younger children, or chatting with teenagers. Because the sibling facilitators volunteer on the same evening every week, they become a familiar face and add a sense of normalcy for the children and families attending these sessions.

"Volunteering with Alliance for Children has been a very rewarding experience," said **Kathleen Levens**, Kids Crew Team Leader. "Although it can be heartbreaking, it is nice to be able to give your time to these children who have been through so much."

Tarrant Area Food Bank Mobile Pantry

By Leah Griffin

Tarrant Area Food Bank (TAFB) Mobile Pantries are used every day to deliver fresh and frozen meals to families across North Texas. These mobile pantries travel to nine locations in Arlington, Fort Worth, Hurst, Denton and White Settlement. The Junior League of Fort Worth (JLFW) provides four volunteers to support this important effort. These ladies serve the southwest side of Fort Worth at the Alta Mesa Church of Christ.

Allison Gross serves in this placement as the Project Development Chair, along with Actives **Meghan Sheehan**, **Sheri Chipman** and **Katy Parsons**. "This placement has been such a wonderful glimpse into the amazing attitudes, resilience and community spirit this great city has," Parsons said.

On the second Saturday of each month, the JLFW volunteer team begins distributing food at 9 a.m. Unlike many other food banks that only serve non-perishable canned and boxed foods, the TAFB Mobile Pantry distributes fresh foods such as bread, dairy products, fruit and produce, yogurt, and meat.



It is estimated that approximately 100 to 200 individuals come through the line each month. Food recipients sign in and list the number of people in their household as well as their monthly income. The number of individuals in a family dictates the quantity of food that they receive. While only 100 to 200 people are actually in line, as many as four to five times that amount of people are served through the added members of each family.

"One of my favorite parts of serving at the food bank is seeing the direct impact our League is making on those in need in our community," Gross said. "I was especially humbled when we served in January. January was cold, there were children and babies that were toted along and elderly people who shuffled through. Poverty has no bias. It knows no specific gender or race. It does not work around the meteorologist's schedule."



SafeHaven

By Alisha Rosenthal

SafeHaven of Tarrant County was established through the 2006 merger of The Women's Shelter and Women's Haven. These emergency shelters have served domestic violence victims in Fort Worth, Arlington and the surrounding areas for nearly four decades. SafeHaven is now the largest and most comprehensive agency in Tarrant County providing services at no cost to domestic violence victims. The Junior League of Fort Worth has partnered with SafeHaven of Tarrant County to provide them with the SafePlay program, which allows mothers living at the shelter the opportunity to participate in group workshops and training sessions while their children are supervised in a fun and safe environment.



JLFW Active **Kelly Scimeca** is a volunteer for SafePlay this year. "It has been an amazing experience," Scimeca said. "The SafeHaven staff and women staying there are so appreciative of the Junior League's volunteers. To hear children say 'thank you for playing with me' or having their mothers say 'thank you for all you do' makes all our hours of volunteering worthwhile. After all, it's why we are there to serve."

The JLFW volunteers play games with the children, watch movies, sing songs, help with homework, and create fun holiday and seasonal activities for the kids. For Halloween, volunteers carved pumpkins with the kids and helped them decorate festive place mats for Thanksgiving dinner. The kids also made gingerbread houses with League volunteers during the Christmas season.

"As JLFW volunteers, our focus is entirely on the children and we plan our activities based on their needs, which also means no two evenings are ever the same," said JLFW SafePlay volunteer **Michelle Arceneaux**. "At a recent SafePlay shift I judged a play-doh 'cooking' competition for eight-year-olds, only to rock and feed an infant for the entirety of the following visit."

According to SafePlay Project Development Chair **Christina Turner**, the JLFW also partnered with the Arlington Junior League and worked booths for the joint Halloween Carnival. In addition, Turner said when JLFW first began volunteering at SafeHaven, they noticed many of the mothers and children were in need of basic care items. Once they spoke to JLFW leadership about specific needs, they held a drive for toiletries and were able to donate these basic care items to the residents. JLFW also donated toys for children of all ages so every child would have something under the tree on Christmas morning.

"My placement at SafeHaven is an absolute joy," Turner said. "The families at SafeHaven pull on your heart strings, and getting to know the children and working with them every other week is just delightful. The part I look forward to the least is when families leave. I feel proud of them for their accomplishments, but the connections with the family is lost. There is no place like SafeHaven. I would recommend this placement to anyone. The work of the staff and their partnership with us as volunteers is remarkable."

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JL Snaps



Junior League of Fort Worth volunteers in action!

1. Careity Celebrity Ribbon Cutting DIAD event
2. Jr. M.I.N.T.S. Winter Party
3. NICU Helping Hands Committee
4. Mayor Price and Marty Leonard at the Sustainer of the Year Luncheon
5. Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo Art Show Committee
6. ODI Representatives Vivian Campbell and Sarah Webb
7. Making Centerpieces for the Mayors' Breakfast
8. Wild About Smiles DIAD event
9. Sunshine Singers



Junior Leaguers of Old

An Excerpt from *The Corral*, 1965 - 1966



Greetings from our little KORNER of the League. We are so happy to have the opportunity to establish our own line of communication. The purpose of this column will be to acquaint you with us working gals and let the League know what we are doing and thinking. (Believe it or not, we do have useful thoughts sometimes).

Last year we had several night meetings and corralled our own thoughts into focus. Though our days are crowded with KAREER, home, and all the necessary running around, we decided we wanted a definite direction and a permanent liason with you regulars.

This year Corky Friedman will be our Mother Confessor and of course, Virginia Simons will act as Mother Superior. They both are extremely interested in working with us and I know that each of us is proud to have such esteemed company. We will try to be fruitful and repay their time with earnest work.

Believe it or not, Tom Barnett doesn't feel that Neiman-Marcus can quite afford a delivery room, so ANN QUINN has received permission, reluctantly, for a little time off before her big day. Please don't think that she is lost to NM or to our working group. She plans to return after her new addition is born.

PAT PATTON has had two wonderful trips to sunny California this summer, which have refreshed her spirits and enabled her to model those divine new wools with the greatest of ease. If you are wishing for a dreamy new home, don't fail to have a look at Pat's beautiful house in Ridgmar. It is NOW on the market.

ALANN and ED SAMPSON'S Three thousand mile motor trip through New Mexico, Nevada and to Lake Tahoe was just in time to relax her before she adds French to her already busy schedule at Country Day this fall.

Our trusty agent 6034 at Neiman's has been on the job working hard all summer to see to it that we have the right clothes for this fall with all of the new looks, but those your husband will give to you will be OLD HAT. If you are in need of uplifting your morale, call for CLERK 6034 and if you don't know who that is, ask for JANE BORDEAUX.

Corrections from the Winter Issue:

The October General Membership Meeting photo featuring **Trevone Boykin** was at the home of **Amy Yudiski**. It was incorrectly identified as the home of **Jean Roach**.

The *General Membership Meetings* article in the Winter Issue was written by **Alisha Rosenthal**. The byline incorrectly stated it was written by **LA Shephard**.

The *Sustainer and Actives Building Bridges* article was written by **Leah Griffin**.

We sincerely apologize for these errors.

"Kids Still Say the Darndest Things"

A Look Back 50 years

Top Rail

Those of us with little ones, and those of you who have survived this exciting, trying, amazing adventure, must surely agree with Art Linkletter when he writes that "Kids Say the Darndest Things."

MARY CARTER BURDETTE, four year old daughter of ELLIE and CARTER BURDETTE, is a prime example. Upon being told her mother was going to the beauty parlor to have her hair frosted, she wondered out loud how long her Mommy would have to stay in the refrigerator.

SALLY and CLARK NOWLIN'S middle son, SCOTT, six, solemnly asked his folks if he could do "summersaults" in the winter. He also informed them that dogs were kept in barking lots.

CEE YAGER, four year old son of GAIL and EDDIE, informed his mother that the hamburger meat he was eating tasted like dog food. GAIL reports she casually asked him how he knew — but she knew!

Little MARY LOU WILKES, four and a half year old daughter of BETTY and BOB, became quite indignant when she heard her grandmother tell her mother her coloring and skin-tone was like that of her daddy. "It is not!" she exclaimed. "I don't shave!"

Sustainers

Sustainers Busy Making an Impact in Our Community

By Leah Griffin

It has been a busy year for Sustainers!

Sustainer outreach dollars raised this year went toward the Weekend Backpack Program, which the Nighttime Book Club (AKA Literary Society) took on as their holiday project. The purpose of the Weekend Backpack Program is to provide backpacks full of healthy food for children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches to take home from school on Fridays to ensure they will have food to eat over the weekend.

The Sunflower Shoppe hosted a health and fitness workshop organized by Sustainer **Kristin Henderson**. Sustainers learned about how to maintain a healthy immune system, as well as the value of essential oils. With wellness in mind, Henderson also arranged for Sustainers to attend a Barre Code class, which was met with enthusiasm.



The Sustainer stitching group “Loosely Stitched” continues to meet once a month at League headquarters. Ladies bring needlepoint projects as well as smocking and crocheting. It provides a great opportunity to ask questions, visit, share experiences and help one another.

Sustainers also had the chance to participate in a Done-in-a-Day event at the Senior Spirit Awards in September. Sustainers assisted with check-in and ushering. The Senior Spirit Awards DIAD was met with such success that Sustainers were also offered the opportunity to volunteer at a red carpet event at Thistle Hill in November. Actors, actresses and athletes were all in attendance, and the event featured famous celebrity costumes from the TV show Dallas, Ruth Buzzi from Laughing, Van Cliburn, and many more.

SAVE THE DATE

Volunteer opportunities at the Lonesome Dove Reunion in Fort Worth

**Monday, March 28 through
Thursday March 31**

Lectures and panels will be held at TCU with the stars from the TV show and much more!

Please contact Peggy Sims
(psims2002@msn.com)
for more information.

Other recent Sustainer events include:

- Active **Carrie Morris** provided a Health and Fitness Training on the Top 10 Aging Myths and Treatments.
- **Kim Epstein**, the Day Book Club Coordinator, hosted a Christmas party at her home over the holidays for the book club members.
- Fall Social in September at Bravo Cucina Italiana
- Sustainers took a Healthy Choices Tour at Central Market. They were able to visit the Blue Zone Project.



- Thursday, January 21 was Sustainer Yell & Sell at the rodeo coordinated by **Amy Chambers**

Sustainers



Susanne Avondet, Sustainer of the Year

By Guest Contributor Christi Grudier

The Junior League of Fort Worth is honored to present this year's Sustainer of the Year award to **Susanne Avondet**.

Susanne grew up in Natchez, Mississippi and later attended Louisiana State University. She moved to Dallas after graduation to begin a 10-year career in the wholesale apparel industry as a marketing executive. During her time in Dallas, Avondet met her husband Kevin. After marrying and having their first son James in 1992, she and her new family moved to Fort Worth where she became a stay-at-home mom and later gave birth to William and Andrew.

Avondet's journey in the Junior League began in 1994. She had made a few close friends in the area and they encouraged her to join the JLFW to meet people and get

to know the community. From the beginning, Avondet emerged as a leader, serving as a Project Development Chair during her first Active year in the League. Placements to follow ranged from Project Volunteer all the way to League President.



Avondet enjoyed a variety of placements over the years, but that doesn't mean she didn't have a favorite. "My favorite placement would have to be Performing Arts Fort Worth," she said. "JLFW was asked to create and implement a Children's Education Outreach Program for Bass Hall. So, we rolled

up our sleeves and went to work for three years creating and implementing a program that would introduce a broad range of classical performing arts to educate children from all social and economic backgrounds to this beautiful hall. Our goal was every child, every grade, every year, free of charge. The first year it started was 1998 and over 40,000 school-age children attended performances in Bass Hall. Today, over one million have attended."

Avondet's advice to those aspiring to take on a leadership position is to serve on the Board or ask to attend a Junior League conference. "I signed up in areas I was interested in participating and learning while balancing In-League placements and placements in the community. Whatever path you choose, I really encourage members to find what they are passionate about and serve in the community. You meet so many wonderful people that want to contribute their time and talents to help those in our community that need a hand up."

The hard work and passion Avondet has put into the Junior League and the community over the last 20 years makes her a well-deserving recipient for this year's award. It is no wonder why her friends affectionally refer to her as Wonder Woman. Join us as we celebrate her achievements.



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Provisionals

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2015-2016 Provisional Class



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2016



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-
11 a.m.
(8 a.m. - 9 a.m. for inpatients only)

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Provisionals



Provisional Update

By Luci Hoad

This year's Provisional class has embarked on six new projects, along with their third year of involvement with the successful Junior M.I.N.T.S. program. The Fort Worth Drowning Prevention Coalition, ACH Child and Family Services, the Fortress Youth Development Center, the YWCA Financial Empowerment program, Easter Seals, and Rivertree Academy are all organizations benefiting from the service of this year's Provisional class.



The Junior M.I.N.T.S. planned and staffed a winter-themed party for Western Hills Primary in December. It included hand-crafted decorations, games, and snacks that were such a huge hit that the attendance swelled to 300 guests, almost tripling the attendance from last year.

Sarah Elliott, one of the Junior M.I.N.T.S. Co-Chairs, was particularly impressed with the work ethic the Junior M.I.N.T.S. demonstrated in planning the event. "The girls showed unmatched responsibility and organization creating these activities and decor all while staying in our budget," Elliott said. "To see a student's face light up as they make a craft, or win a prize from a game, or eat a special treat made by one of our many volunteers is truly priceless!"



Rachel Shackelford is a Junior M.I.N.T.S. volunteer, and her favorite moment was manning the bounce house at the winter party. "As one little girl was putting her shoes back on, she said 'This is the best party ever! Thank you so much!' then gave me a big hug. That makes all the work Junior M.I.N.T.S. does well worth it."

Some members of the Provisional class coordinated a volunteer appreciation luncheon for the Fortress Youth Development Center in February. This was a great way to honor the people who dedicate their time to making a difference for young people in need.

Another exciting event on the horizon is the 3rd Annual Pancake Picnic benefiting Cook Children's Hospital. It will take place on Saturday, April 9 and seeks to provide a day of fun for children who do not often get to venture outside of their hospital rooms. Junior League members are encouraged to come participate with their children. There will be a game truck, photo booth, art projects, face painting, a dunk tank and more, and each child will leave with a bag full of books, games, and prizes!

These are just a few of the many ways the 2015 - 2016 Provisional class is making a difference in the community this year!

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Member Focus

Casual Conversations Series Kicks Off

By Mary Meadows

The Training Committee recently launched a new training series called Casual Conversations. As the name suggests, these trainings depart from the typical format where attendees simply listen to a speaker, instead creating a more interactive setting in which League members can actively engage with community leaders.

The Casual Conversations series kicked off in November with JLFW Sustainer **Mary Katherine Tetirick**. Tetirick was an Active in the JLFW for more than a decade, and has served as a Sustaining Advisor for the Membership and Finance Councils. She is also actively involved in the Fort Worth community and serves on the board of directors for several organizations including CASA of Tarrant County and All Saints Health Foundation. During the Casual Conversations training, Tetirick shared with attendees her advice for getting involved with organizations, including

how to get invited to serve on boards and the questions one should ask before accepting a board position. She also suggested volunteering with an organization to get a good understanding of their mission before joining a board.

In January, **Marty Leonard** hosted the second Casual Conversations Training. Leonard is a JLFW Sustainer and

Past President, and currently serves as Sustaining Advisor to the Board of Directors. She also serves as Secretary on the board of directors for the Tarrant Regional Water District, and remains actively involved in the community through other board and committee positions.

During the January session, JLFW members sat down with Leonard over lunch at the headquarters building and engaged in friendly conversation. The discussions focused on finding a passion and following that passion to figure out how best to make an impact. The



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group also discussed the vast opportunities available to learn new skills through placements in the Junior League, and how to apply those skills to careers and other community volunteer opportunities. Leonard also stressed, as important as it is to be engaged, it is OK and sometimes equally as important to know when to say no.

“Marty Leonard is a trailblazer for our community and League,” said **Lisa Schuessler**, JLFW Active and training attendee. “It was a drop everything and be present kind of opportunity! The things I valued and expected to hear from Marty revolved around civic service, loving this community and finding where you can make an impact. Unexpected things I learned were straight from her heart when she shared that there is a season in life for everything and that family is the most important. More specifically, there is not a more important role than being a mother.”

Thank you to these leaders for serving as an example of what it means to **Lead Local**, and for sharing their experiences and their valuable time with the JLFW. Be on the lookout for more opportunities to have a casual conversation with a local leader in the coming months - you won't want to miss out!



Active Mindy Hollan was so excited to meet Marty, “Got to meet my @jrleaguftworth hero, Marty Leonard!! She’s such a fierce, inspirational, and funny trail blazer!!!!” #JLvolunteersdoitforfree

Engagements & Weddings

Aly Pollard
married
Gregory Gilmartin
November 21, 2015

Devin Wenske
engaged to
Connor Sanders

Angel Rothrock
engaged to
Jared Mikeska

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Membership

Membership Vice President's Report

November 1, 2015 - January 22, 2016

TRANSFER IN

Sarah Gostkowski A
JL Corpus Christi
Carleen Kizer S
JL Westchester on the
Sound NY

Lori Lutz A
JL Dallas

Rebecca Walden A
JL Birmingham

TRANSFER OUT

Holland Hardin Fyfe
2016-17 NR Provisional
JL El Paso

Krista Kresta A
JL Austin

Grace Lee A
JL Houston

Callie Rigney A
JL Little Rock

Kelsey Smith P
JL San Antonio

Julia Stellars A
JL Chicago

REINSTATE

Carolyn Freese Roberts S

REINSTATE / TRANSFER OUT

Virginia Roberts A
JL Austin

Brandi Scasta
JL Collin County

CONDOLENCE

Lindi Bourgeois A
Loss of Father

Kathy Kyle S
Loss of mother

Melinda Klabzuba S
Loss of mother-in-law

Jane Klabzuba Korman S
Loss of mother

Mary Beth Millett S
Loss of mother

Sandy Dickerson Register S
Loss of daughter

Rachel Rosenbaum P
Loss of grandmother

Mary Nan Doran S
Loss of mother

Kelly Hanley S
Loss of mother

Adele Hart S
Loss of husband

Kathi Mahaffey S
Loss of father-in-law

Leslie Pennebaker S
Loss of mother

Family of Dr. W. S. Lorimer

Peggy Booher S
Loss of father

Judy Escher A
Loss of father

Carolyn Lorimer S
Loss of father-in-law

Pat Lorimer S

Loss of father-in-law

Family of Doug Tatum:

Barbara Tatum
Sustainer Emeritus
Loss of husband

Netetta Tatum S
Loss of father-in-law

Danielle Dollahite A
Loss of grandfather-in-law

IN MEMORY

Eda Whitehead
Sustainer Emeritus
January 3, 2016

Marcia Cato S
January 13, 2016

Little Leaguers

Our Growing Community



Emily & J.B. Strong
Active
Daughter, Eleanor Mary
April 7, 2015



Virginia & Grady Turner
Active
Daughter, Josephine Alston
"Josie"
May 30, 2015

Sabrina & Steven Gebhardt
Active
Son, Paxton Thomas
May 1, 2015



Katie & Chris Copeland
Active
Daughter, Penelope Lucille
June 4, 2015



Jolynn & Nick Wanzor
Active
Son, Nathan Lawrence
June 24, 2015



Kate & Scott McGregor
Provisional
Son, Benjamin Scott
August 19, 2015

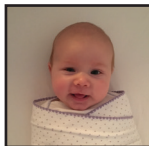
Andrea & Jay Lambert
Active
Daughter, Elizabeth "Grace"
October 8, 2015



Laura & Trevor Armstrong
Sustainer
Son, James Robert Hale
October 28, 2015
Forever a Family
November 6, 2015



Merrill & Blayne Rhynsburger
Active
Son, Charles Henry "Charlie"
November 1, 2015



Anne & Doug Wright
Active
Son, William "Hayward"
November 19, 2015

Kary Johnson & Victor Contreras
Sustainer
Daughter, Clara Elizabeth
December 5, 2015



Meredith & Heath Todd
Active
Daughter, Greenley Grace
December 5, 2015



Andi & Court Goodroe
Active
Son, David Courtney III
"Tre"
December 6, 2015

Mollie & Minh Nghi
Active
Son, Stewart Nhon
December 7, 2015



Jessica & Jason Walsh
Provisional
Son, Beckett Randall
December 24, 2015

Luci & Cory Hoad
Active
Son, Luke William
January 7, 2016



Amy & Nick Brown
Active
Daughter, Leah James
January 18, 2016

Abby Flack Membership Vice President

Abby Flack is serving as the 2015 - 2016 Membership Vice President. She and her husband John have two children, almost-five-year-old son Jax and 11-month-old daughter Sims. Originally from Houston, Flack met her husband while attending the University of Richmond in Virginia, and the two lived in New York City, London and Amsterdam before settling in Fort Worth to raise a family. Flack is a Managing Director with Blue River Partners, LLC and is also the owner of Your Munch, a service that delivers fresh, healthy lunches to childcare centers and private schools in Fort Worth. Flack joined the Junior League while living in New York City, and was also a member of the Junior League of London before transferring to the JLFW in 2007. Her placements have included Transfer Co-Chair, Placement Co-Chair and Double Exposure Co-Chair. Flack and her husband are involved with the Ronald McDonald House and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. She and her family are also avid skiers, spending approximately 30 days a year on the slopes of Utah.



Carrie Cappel Community Vice President

Carrie Cappel is serving as the 2015 - 2016 Community Vice President. Cappel grew up in Gilmer, Texas and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Baylor University. She joined the Junior League of Fort Worth in 2004, only to head back to Baylor in February of her Provisional year for law school. She was a member of the Junior League of Waco for two years before moving back to Fort Worth. She is now a commercial real estate attorney at Harris, Finley & Bogle, P.C. Cappel says she ranks Mayfest and PR&D Chair among her favorite placements. She has served as Media Relations Co-Chair of Mayfest since 2008. Cappel also enjoys the unique hobby of competitive barbecuing; she is a member of a competitive barbecue team that travels across the state several times each year to participate in local and regional competitions, and even qualified for the national competition two years ago.



Kelly Decker Administrative Vice President

Kelly Decker is serving as the 2015 - 2016 Administrative Vice President. Decker and her husband Olyn have three children, William (3), Thomas (2) and Quinn (8 months). Decker is a family and litigation attorney at Decker Jones. She grew up in California and moved to Fort Worth when she was 12 years old, leaving only to attend college at the University of Texas in Austin and law school at Texas Tech. A member of JLFW since 2006, Decker's past placements have included Catholic Charities Assessment Center, Fort Worth Teen Court, and Grant Writing Chair. She says teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) to refugees through her role with Catholic Charities was her favorite placement over the years. In her spare time, Decker loves all things outdoors and a good TV binge. She is also on the Board of Directors of the Multicultural Alliance of Texas and the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce.



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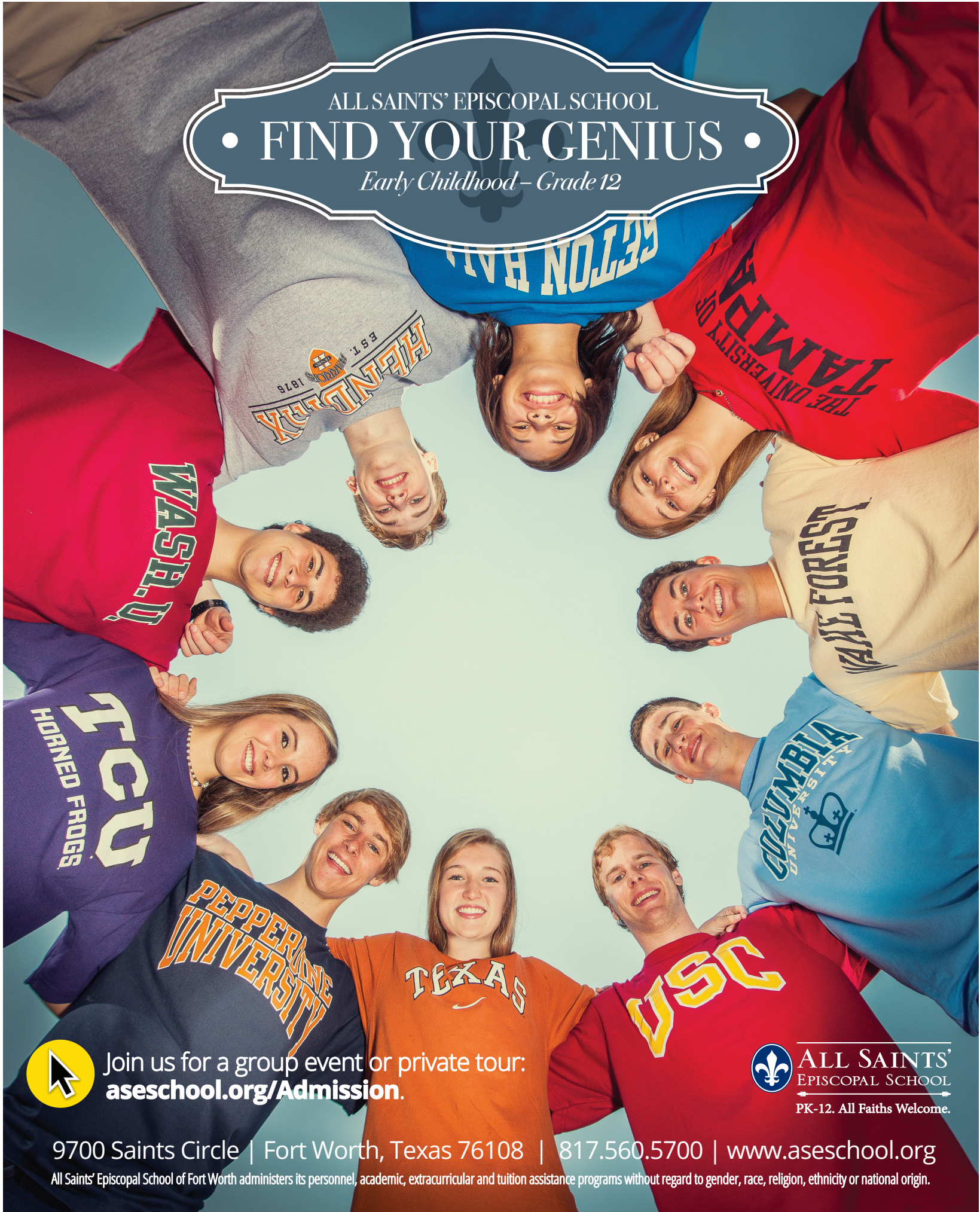
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