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The Lariat

Summer 2015

Volume 22, Issue 4



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President's *Perspective*

A Message from Paige Pate



Celebrating 85 Years of Promoting Health and Nutrition has been the perfect way to conclude our 85th Anniversary year! I have watched with pride this spring as JLFW volunteers organized an incredible Pancake Picnic benefiting Cook Children's Medical Center, planned our annual *Kids in the Kitchen* initiative, and assisted with local traditions such as Mayfest and the Colonial golf tournament.

Throughout the 2014-2015 year, JLFW volunteers worked together to serve our community, just as we have every year since 1930. And, thanks to the dedication of each and every one of our members, we made a little history of our own!

This year alone, JLFW volunteers contributed more than 50,000 volunteer hours and impacted nearly 100 non-profit agencies through Placements, Projects, Done-in-a-Day, and Day of Giving service.

It has been an award-winning year. As you will read in this issue, Tiffany Rubenkoenig, Kristy Odom and I attended the AJLI Annual Conference in Los Angeles where JLFW was presented with the prestigious *Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures Community Impact Award* for our work with Opening Doors for Women in Need (ODWIN). What an incredible honor for our League and for our partners at ODWIN!

It has been a record-breaking year. A particular source of pride is that each of our fundraisers not only exceeded budget this year, but set all-time records. *Christmas in Cowtown* reported net proceeds of nearly \$415,000, *Grand Entry Gala* net proceeds exceeded \$210,000, and Rodeo Program Sales hit an all-time high of \$29,000.

This makes me proud not just because of the dollars raised, but because I know those funds will support our Mission and our community work for many years to come. I am also pleased to announce that a 100th Anniversary Fund has been created as a gift to the 100th Anniversary from the highly successful 85th Anniversary year.

I look forward to watching our League continue to grow and thrive as we approach our Centennial Anniversary and beyond. We will continue to impact the city that we love thanks to one, great Mission. One Mission that has promoted voluntarism, developed the potential of women, and improved our community for 85 years. **J**

2014-2015 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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President Photo Provided by Gittings

League Focus

Leading Local with Kristy Odom

By Elizabeth Fitch

As Kristy Odom steps into the big shoes of her next adventure as President of the Junior League of Fort Worth, she brings with her a simple but powerful message: Lead Local.

For Odom, the meaning of that phrase is clear: Focus on your growth opportunities in JLFW, and apply them to your careers, family, schools, church and other local opportunities to lead.

That philosophy and focus on leadership has been on display throughout Odom's time with the League through In-League Placements ranging from Fund Development Assistant Vice President, Rodeo Committee and Done in a Day Co-Chair to Community Placements like Project Development Chair for both Kids Who Care and the JPS "All I Want for Christmas" toy drive. Despite that impressive resume, Odom remains humble and dedicated.

"I'm not sure how these directly led to my becoming President," she said. "I always have the spirit of saying 'yes' even when an opportunity is unexpected. I am an entrepreneur and love learning and trying new things. I also love mentoring the women who might be serving on my committee or in a placement with me."

It is no surprise, then, that Odom notes mentoring, supporting, learning and growing alongside other League members as what she looks forward to most during her tenure as President. "Being part of an organization that truly facilitates innovative solution-making, while supporting and nurturing risk-taking and growth, is a gift," she said.

But despite what will no doubt be a busy, challenging and rewarding year, Odom remains well-rounded and dedicated to her husband of 17 years and their three children, Wilder, 15, Leelee, 13, and Avocet, 12. It is in this spirit, as both a mom and a leader, that Odom delivers one of her first, important messages as President: "Stay off the roads this summer. I am teaching my son to drive!"



Congratulations to the 2015-2016 Nominating Committee

The Membership voted at the April General Membership Meeting for the following Actives to sit on the 2015-2016 Nominating Committee. These members will be selecting the 2016-2017 Board of Directors slate. In addition they will select the candidates for the 2016-2017 Nominating Committee and the 2016 ODI Representatives. Nominations for the Board of Directors are currently being accepted on-line. Please support these ladies' efforts by nominating members you believe will make great leaders for our League.



Shelby Crawford



Becky Escott



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Allison O'Jibway



Junior League of Fort Worth Receives National Award!


By Liz Cortright

The Junior League of Fort Worth (JLFW) received the esteemed Junior League Community Impact Award at the AJLI Annual Conference for its work with the local nonprofit organization Opening Doors for Women in Need, Inc. (ODWIN). Ellen Rose, President of the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI), said, “AJLI’s Community Impact Award is one of the most important awards we make to a Junior League in any year. What JLFW has done so effectively is to demonstrate the power of committed volunteers – working closely with community partners – to create measurable change in their communities. We call this process changing the world, one community at a time!”

The award, sponsored by *Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures*, recognizes Junior League programs that illustrate significant community impact through collaboration, rooted in responding to unmet or under-served needs. Eligible programs must demonstrate long-lasting measurable results that link skilled work of trained volunteers with community agencies and/or other community partners. In 2012, JLFW learned that the Como neighborhood of Fort Worth had a high rate of recidivism, especially among women. As a result, in 2013, JLFW partnered with Sandra Stanley, lifelong resident of Como and Founder/CEO of ODWIN. The collaboration between JLFW and ODWIN now provides services, shelter and opportunities to female residents of the Como neighborhood who are returning to their neighborhood after serving time in prison.

“The JLFW ODWIN project is a wonderful example of the community impact our organization has been making in Fort Worth for the past 85 years,” said JLFW President Paige Pate. “ODWIN takes women who truly desire a fresh start and molds and empowers them through coaching, compassion and introduction to the resources necessary to succeed. I am delighted that this project was selected for national recognition and hope that it inspires similar work in communities across the country.”

JLFW’s partnership has supported this mission in two phases over three years. The first JLFW contribution to this project was the Nehemiah Project (2012-2013), which provided an initial \$40,000 donation toward finishing out and rehabilitating a vacant building within Como. Additionally, JLFW volunteers contributed more than 500 volunteer hours, which included job training and job search training workshops, clothing drives, maintenance of a community garden and coordination of cultural outings in and around Fort Worth for ODWIN clients. The second phase of JLFW’s contribution was “The House the Junior League Built for ODWIN,” which was exactly that. JLFW provided new housing for women in the job-training program. At that time, the JLFW Project Research and Development Committee provided an additional \$75,000 in funding, 750 volunteer hours and a new partnership with F5 Design Build to build the house ODWIN needed.

The AJLI conferences throughout the year are attended by various members of the JLFW Board of Directors. The September 2014 AJLI Conference was attended by JLFW President Paige Pate and President-Elect Kristy Odom. This conference provides intimate opportunities for discussion about everything from public speaking to impactful fundraisers and trainings, and the speakers are from all over the country. The January 2015 AJLI Conference is attended by the President Elect and the President Elect-Elect because it provides introductory trainings for women stepping into high-level positions. “I enjoy bringing back to JLFW what the AJLI conferences have to offer,” said President-Elect Kristy Odom. “It is humbling to be in this position, to attend conferences and realize how solid JLFW is in the community and at the national level,” said Odom. “Different Leagues turn to JLFW for ideas, and we are pleased to mentor other Leagues. We are a solid foundation within a larger foundation, and JLFW is recognized as a leader among the Leagues.” 



League Focus

Kids in the Kitchen

By Liz Cortright

This year's *Kids in the Kitchen* event was held at the Texas Christian University Recreation Center. The event was a fun-filled morning of activities including the TCU mascot Super Frog, a DJ, a rock climbing wall, obstacle courses and interactive cooking demonstrations provided by Blue Zones Project®. Blue Zones Project is a community-wide well-being improvement initiative to help make healthy choices easier for everyone in Fort Worth.



The main focus of the *Kids in the Kitchen* event is to get the parents and caretakers involved, and to provide education about wholesome nutrition and safe environments for families. The goal is for this event to be the vehicle that connects those parents and caretakers to community organizations that can foster health and wellness for families, and make healthy living a reality.



JLFW partnered with FWISD and TCU, and one of the goals for the event was to collaborate with community partners already involved with JLFW, such as Cook Children's Medical Center and the Tarrant Area Food Bank. According to *Kids in the Kitchen* Co-Chair JK Doyle, the generous funding provided by Mayfest allowed JLFW




to expand the program offering. "We wanted to partner with more JLFW community partners to increase awareness of the Fort Worth community resources that help support and foster health and wellness in under-served families," said JK. "As a committee, we realize we can teach the concept of health and wellness, but if we do not connect the families with agencies that can provide help to bring that concept to a reality, then, ultimately, we will not have done our job."

As part of that community collaboration initiative, the Cook Children's Medical Center provided information about health clinics, subsidized insurance and drowning prevention. The Fort Worth Fire Department provided information about helmet safety, fire safety and drowning prevention in collaboration with Cook Children's Medical Center. The Tarrant Area Food Bank provided nutrition information, including resources on how to obtain food through their agency and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), as well as demonstrations on gardening as a means of food supplementation. Blue Zones Project was also on-site the day of the event to provide a cooking demonstration of a plant-based meal.



This amazing event provided over 1,300 people with fresh fruits and vegetables. *Kids in the Kitchen* Co-Chair Erica Fisher shared a story from the day. "I had the privilege to share a sweet moment with an event attendee. As she stood in line at the farmers market, she asked if there were any mangoes available. I told her

that, in fact, mangoes were being offered at the next table. Her face lit up and she replied, 'If I can have two we can all share.' (Mind you, she had just told me they were a family of 8.) As I handed her a box of 8 or 9 mangoes she responded with quizzical delight, 'All for me?' I stood there and contemplated my own personal level of disregard for the variety of colorful produce that I am able to serve my family on a daily basis. As a mom, I thought about what it must feel like to NOT be able to serve a variety of fresh food to your family. A box of mangoes was like winning the lottery to that lady. I certainly left our exchange with a heavy heart and an appreciation for the food in my own kitchen." 

The WARM Place 85th Anniversary Project

By Mary Meadows

The 85th Anniversary Signature Project is complete, and the families of The WARM Place are enjoying a brand new kitchen! After touring The WARM Place house last summer and determining the greatest needs for the renovation, the JLFW project team, led by Project Development Chair Brooke Scogin, hired Designs for Living to serve as the head designer/contractor for the project. Construction began in late February, and the first family dinners were held in the new space the week of April 27.

The budget for the project was \$85,000, and as of May 7, the project was under budget with only one outstanding invoice. The JLFW project team secured more than \$4,700 in donations of goods and services for the project.



“I feel that one of the main reasons this project has gone so well is because Designs for Living was such an amazing partner, and because the WARM Place staff were so excellent,” Scogin said.

The WARM Place hosted the JLFW for a training event on May 20, allowing members to get a look at the brand new kitchen. Scogin, along with the incoming and outgoing Community Vice Presidents, made presentations sharing more information about this project, and about how other projects work at the JLFW. David Goodroe, owner of Designs for Living, also spoke about his company’s contribution to the project.



“The kitchen is awesome,” said Shirley Bowen, Executive Director of The WARM Place. “It is beautiful, efficient and a dream-come-true. Our families were so glad to get back to our evening meals before group. We all missed the camaraderie, not to mention the good food, more than we ever realized we would. We are so grateful for the generosity of the JLFW, and we know the kitchen will provide comfort and healing for many, many families for many years to come.”

SafeHaven Camp Heart

By Liz Cortright

SafeHaven is the oldest and largest Tarrant County organization that provides no-cost services to domestic violence victims and their children. Camp Heart is a biannual three-day camping trip, which is designed to serve children who have experienced domestic violence in their lives.

Children of mothers in SafeHaven’s two-year supportive housing program who participate in the camp connect to and learn from each other in a traditional camp environment through a variety of fun, supportive and engaging activities. The camp is designed to help children cope with their life experiences and provide tools to recognize they may not have control of their present circumstances, but empower them to have control of their future.

SafeHaven staff and Junior League of Fort Worth (JLFW) volunteers come together with 20 children, ages six through 12, to participate in Camp Heart twice per year. This year, the camp was held October 3-5, 2014, and May 1-3, 2015. Campers participated in three support groups facilitated by SafeHaven staff members over the course of the weekend. Topics of the groups focused on self-esteem, anger control, family violence, safety, teamwork and communication.

When campers were not in support group, the weekend was filled with exciting activities, such as fishing, canoing, hiking, arts and crafts, games, cookouts and more. All of the activities were designed to increase social skills, self-esteem and coping abilities and were free of charge for participants.

Community

The YWCA Summer Scholars

By Leah Griffin


The YWCA Summer Scholars program took place from May through August 2014. The Junior League of Fort Worth (JLFW) partnered with the YWCA to reduce the “summer slide” that occurs when students spend the entire summer disconnected from an educational environment. Many young children tend to spend the summer months with older siblings watching TV or playing video games, which can put them behind when the school year begins.



The Summer Scholars program created a fun-filled summer for preschoolers at a reduced or no-cost rate. The program began with a picnic kick-off where students created their summer keepsake box. Each week the kids played games, learned, crafted and took home projects based around that week’s nursery rhyme.

The children went on two field trips, one to the Amon Carter Museum and the other to BNSF command center. These unique outings allowed the children to experience a world outside of their normal routine. Parents were able to participate in

activities during a “parent night.” Together parents and children made crafts, played and took home games important to the children’s development. The summer ended with a celebration. The children shared their keepsake boxes with their parents, along with songs and a drama of the summer’s nursery rhymes.

The Starpoint School, through their relationship with the JLFW, donated books that they collected through a used book drive. 




Alliance for Children Kids Crew

By Elizabeth Fitch

As Alliance for Children, a children’s advocacy center, fulfills its mission of protecting and healing child abuse victims across Tarrant County, the Junior League of Fort Worth (JLFW) is fortunate enough to play a vital role in the organization’s services. Through a group called the Kids Crew, JLFW members visit children at Cook Children’s Hospital, while the Alliance for Children investigates the children’s cases.

“Kids Crew volunteers play, hold, talk to and spend time with the children to give them the one-on-one attention and help them heal,” explained Selena Godoy, Project Development Chair for the Alliance for Kids Placement. “This is particularly important, given that some of the children have to stay in the hospital alone because they do not have family members to visit them.”

As Alliance for Children works to spread awareness and prevent child abuse, Kids Crew works on the ground level to support the children. This includes JLFW volunteers signing up on an “on-call” list so that Cook Children’s can bring them in for a child who needs immediate “TLC.”

“The impact of this placement was real,” Godoy said. “When you left Cook for the day, there was no doubt in your mind that you made an impact on that child’s life.” 



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JLFW Celebrates Non-Profit Partners

By Courtney McDonald

Each spring, the Junior League of Fort Worth (JLFW) hosts a community agency breakfast as a way to reach out to their non-profit partners and discuss the many ways JLFW can support their work with volunteers and funding. "This year, we decided to make it a special celebration in honor of our 85th anniversary," said JLFW President Paige Pate. "So on April 8, we hosted over 130 representatives from more than 60 non-profit agencies for breakfast in the beautiful Catholic Charities meeting room, celebrating our 85 years in Fort Worth with our non-profit friends."



Incoming Community Vice President, Carrie Cappel, and her Community Council presented an informational session to explain how non-profit agencies can apply for Done-in-a-Day, Day of Giving, Project, Placement and Community Opportunity Fund support next year. In addition, JLFW shared their anniversary video with agencies and announced the 2015-2016 Project recipients with a special check presentation ceremony. "It is very rewarding to watch these worthy community agencies we selected connect with our League and see the Projects being implemented in 2015-2016," commented Cappel.

"Special thanks to the 85th Anniversary Co-Chairs Kim Blouin, Brook Whitworth and their committee for adding special touches to the event, allowing us to make it an extra special celebration this year," said Pate. "We could not do what we do without our non-profit partners, and it was wonderful to have this opportunity to celebrate our anniversary with them." JL

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Member Focus

JL Birmingham: Beeson Community Fund Makes Lasting Changes

By Mary Meadows


In 2001, the Junior League of Birmingham (JLB) received a generous and unexpected gift from a local philanthropist, Lucille Beeson. Ms. Beeson transferred into the JLB as a Sustainer, and although she was never actively involved in the JLB, she bequeathed 4.3 percent of the net income of her residual trust to the JLB, which equated to approximately \$13 million. She requested that the JLB use the funds to expand its charitable reach, enabling a greater impact in the Birmingham community.

“While (Ms. Beeson) wasn’t a Past President or even a super-involved member, when she looked at the city, she chose organizations whose mission she felt passionate about and who she felt would be good stewards of her money,” said Alison Scott, 2014-2015 JLB President.

Annually since 2002, the JLB Beeson Community Fund has granted \$210,000 - \$349,000 to non-profits whose missions align with those of the JLB and whose work in

the community will make a lasting change. The Beeson Fund Committee consists of 12 members, both Actives and Sustainers, that are past and present JLB leaders who have a passion for and knowledge of the Birmingham community. The fund has allowed the JLB to make a million-dollar gift to build the Hugh Kaul Children’s Zoo and a three-year gift to help build a children’s counseling center, among many other grants to deserving organizations.

“The Beeson Fund has allowed us to make transformational gifts that we couldn’t do with the smaller money we have set aside,” Scott said. “Not only do we have our fundraisers, but now we have this amazing trust that is game-changing in terms of what the JLB can do.”

For additional information on estate planning with the Junior League of Fort Worth, please contact Donor Relations Coordinator Reece Small at 817.332.7500 or funddevelopment@juniorleaguefw.org. 

Oil Rush: Susan Irvin Howell

By Lauren Sadler-Davis

Sustainer Susan Irvin Howell recently wrote and published a book, *Oil Rush: The International Tug of War*. Here she gives the members of Junior League a behind the scenes look into the process and inspiration behind her novel.

What inspired you to write *Oil Rush*?

My inspiration came at the time we had to sell our home after living there for close to 45 years. It was a large 85 acre estate that has a New England village replica where I raised my four children. After my father died we sold the home and I spent the last day there by myself saying goodbye. After turning over the keys to the house I went back to the house I had moved my mother into and sat down to write what it was like to say goodbye to that life.


Are experiences based on events in your own life?

The plot was developed based on stories I took from the lives of five oil men who had a huge influence in our discovery of oil in the Middle East and how the US was able to secure a presence over there. I put them altogether in one man, Alexander Wyatt, who ended up getting his granddaughter, Melanie in a world of trouble that she had to find her way out of and to still retain the family’s interests in the Middle East.

Do you have any advice for aspiring writers?

My advice to new authors is not to be discouraged if someone criticizes your work. Your book may not be for everyone but will more than likely be valuable to some. One of the most important things to do when you have finished your work is to copyright it. If you own the copyright no one can steal your body of work and you stay in control.

I enjoy the actual process of letting my imagination go and see my characters come to life. I hope you all enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it.

Susan resides in Fort Worth where she is busy writing a sequel. For more information about the author visit www.susanhowell.com. 



A banner for Sr. citizen services. The top part is blue with the text 'Sr. citizen services' in white and red, and 'Volunteer for these or other positions today! Visit www.scstc.org'. Below this is a red section with two white icons: a hand pointing to a dollar sign and a group of people. The text next to the icons reads: 'FINANCIAL LITERACY LAY LEADER Helping seniors avoid scams, manage credit cards, and budget more effectively.' and 'GRANDPARENT DAYS AT SENIOR CENTERS Families can serve lunch, host activities and games, and meet the seniors and their grandchildren.'



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Special Projects include: General Membership Meetings, Junior MINTS, Kids in the Kitchen, Provisional Pancake Breakfast, Rodeo Program Sales

Provisionals

Pancake Picnic

By Jen Floyd Engel

There are many reasons why we do what we do as part of The Junior League of Fort Worth (JLFW). In the case of the Provisional Pancake Picnic at Cook Children's, the why is a who. A who like Blake Hyland.



Hyland was a patient at Cook Children's in 2014, which was a stressful and emotional time for his family. So imagine their great joy and surprise when they were told of a pancake picnic taking place on the hospital grounds, provided for free by the JLFW and other community partners.

"It was so nice to get outside of the hospital walls and eat a wonderful breakfast outside," said Hyland's mother. "The breakfast provided us a time to "eat out" as a family for the first time in over two months, and we couldn't have asked for anything better. Thank you, again, and please know that you are

a blessing to so many when they need it most, as it truly provides our families a sense of normalcy at the most stressful time of our lives."

The JLFW Provisional Class of 2015 was back at Cook Children's bright and early again this year. More than 350 adults and children were in attendance for the Pancake Picnic, and included among them were families like the Hylands. What they were treated to was not simply pancakes but a pancake bar with every topping imaginable. There was sausage and bacon and eggs. There were activity stations, face painting and dunking booths and even a booth allowing kids to decorate their own chef's hats.

Every child who came left with a stuffed pig in a JLFW t-shirt and a goodie bag including the book from which the theme originated, "If You Give A Pig A Pancake," thanks to our friends at Cash America, and a dental kit provided by Fort Worth Children's Dentistry.

"After hearing stories of how special the event was to Cook Children's patients and families in the inaugural year, we were excited to grow the picnic and continue it as a Provisional tradition," said Provisional Co-Chair Charity Aughinbaugh. "I saw patients of all ages who stepped foot outside of the hospital to enjoy and maybe even temporarily forget what they battle daily inside of the hospital."

The why of giving is often a who. Thanks so much to the Provisional class, the firefighters and community supporters who helped make this event such a success. **JL**




Provisional of the Year, Alli Bequette

By Leah Griffin

Congratulations to the 2014-2015 Provisional of the Year, Alli Bequette! Provisional Co-Chairs Charity Aughinbaugh and Rachel Hopper identified Bequette for this honor because she went above and beyond the requirements and took on additional leadership roles throughout her provisional year.

Bequette, a Houston native, moved to Fort Worth in 2011 and is the HR/Communications Manager for Sally Beauty Holdings Inc. When she is away from her volunteer opportunities with the League, you can find her spending time with family and friends, running marathons, trying out new recipes or exploring Fort Worth. Next year she will serve as the Community Newsletter Editor and is excited to share the League's story to those in the community.

"There are so many ladies that stand out in one area or another, but the qualities of a superstar are hard to miss," said Lisa Ferrand, Bequette's provisional advisor. "It's in the head, it's in the heart, it's a quality sometimes you can't even put your finger on, but she had it. Watching her throughout her provisional year has been a rewarding experience. She often talks about people who inspire her, but what she doesn't realize is that she is an inspiration."

When asked what the award meant to her, Bequette responded, "There aren't enough words to describe how honored I am to be this year's Provisional of the Year. I am so thankful I said "yes" to our League and for all of the wonderful opportunities I was given because of that small, but mighty, three-letter word. A special thank you to the incredible leaders who have been by my side for this wonderful journey and to my provisional class – you all are amazing women. It is important for me to stay connected with our city, and volunteering is one of the ways I feel most connected. I look forward to living out the League's Mission, and together, I look forward to us all continuing to make a difference as we Lead Local!" 



Local Law Firm to Support JLFW Membership

By Leah Griffin

Attorney Steve Westermann's office is located just across the street from the Junior League of Fort Worth (JLFW) headquarters building on Bailey Avenue. Westermann has graciously offered to sponsor his Associate, Katie Anderson, to become part of the Provisional class of 2015-2016.

Westermann's decision to sponsor Anderson was influenced by personal factors. His wife, Jenny Westermann, a Sustainer, experienced her Provisional year while pregnant with their first son. "I remember dropping her off to sell Rodeo programs," Westermann recalled.

Anderson, a TCU alumnus, joined Westermann & Associates in 2014 after attending Law School at SMU. Originally from Arizona, Katie has an affection for the Fort Worth community. Her decision to move back to Fort Worth after law school stood out to Westermann, who acknowledged that many who move to Dallas do not often come back to Fort Worth.

When Anderson expressed interest in getting involved with the Junior League, the firm was happy to sponsor her. Katie's previous exposure to the League comes from former sorority advisors at TCU who were JLFW members, including Melanie Hanna.

Westermann says he hopes JLFW will provide Anderson with the opportunity to get involved in things that she enjoys and can be passionate about. "Give back to the community and the community will give back to you," he said. "I hope she becomes engaged in a way that interests her, and through that everyone will benefit."

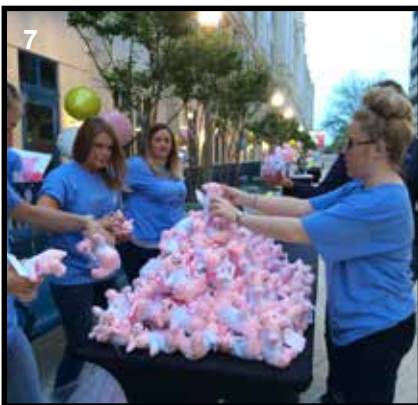
"I expect (my Provisional year) to be a chance to meet new people and see parts of Fort Worth that I haven't been exposed to," Anderson said. "I am learning that for a big town, Fort Worth is a small town."

We look forward to you becoming part of the Junior League community. On behalf of all of us at JLFW, welcome!! 



Junior League of Fort Worth volunteers in action!

1. Fort Worth Fire Department at *Kids in the Kitchen*
2. May General Membership Meeting
3. Past Presidents Susanne Avondet and Janeen Lamkin at the 85th Anniversary Breakfast
4. "Don't Forget to Feed Me" Day of Giving
5. Mayfest Volunteers
6. Day of Giving at JDRF Promise Ball
7. Pancake Picnic
8. Healthy food provided by the Tarrant Area Food Bank at *Kids in the Kitchen*
9. Provisional Philanthropy Project - NEDA Walk



The Passing of the Gavel

By Alisha Rosenthal

On May 7, the annual “Passing of the Gavel” meeting concluded Paige Pate’s theme *85 Years. One Mission.* and commenced Kristy Odom’s theme *Lead Local.* Several Past Presidents of the Junior League of Fort Worth (JLFW) attended to participate in the ceremonious event, in which Odom compared the “Passing of the Gavel” tradition to the passing of the Olympic torch, the flame symbolic of JLFW’s Mission continuing.

“It is hard to describe the feeling of taking the podium for the first time as President of JLFW – it is an honor to represent the group and also very comforting to look out and know what an incredible team is in place,” said JLFW President Paige Pate. “Nobody could ever truly do this job alone, and we have so many wonderful women participating in JLFW that work together to meet our Mission.”



1973-74 President Marty Leonard begins the “Passing of the Gavel”




2015-16 President Kristy Odom accepts her gavel

added, “When I see the women that I admired as leaders when I first joined the League gathered together, it is impressive. To be standing among them? It is truly quite an honor.”

Past President Suzie Russell concludes, “I think I can speak for all Past Presidents by saying that the time we spent in that role



Incoming President-Elect Tiffany Rubenkoenig with Sustainer Debby Brown

was meaningful in so many ways – being part of an organization that has positively impacted our community in human services, education, the arts, health care and more, having the incredible opportunity to work with local, regional and national women who are focused on a common goal of promoting voluntarism, as well as the strong friendships that are formed when working – and playing – hard together. Standing in a row at the final membership meeting is a visual reminder of the strong foundation on which the JLFW is built and the exciting future ahead.” 

Past President Susanne Avondet described what this tradition means to her. “For me, it is such a privilege to be connected to those that came before us, the pioneering spirit of those in the beginning years that set the course for JLFW to meet great needs, to positively impact our wonderful community. Many non-profits and organizations that continue to greatly benefit Fort Worth were started by these amazing women who were willing to roll up their sleeves to tackle big issues.”

When Past President Janeen Lamkin was asked to comment on what this tradition means to her, she said, “This fairly new tradition is such a nice way for the Past Presidents to applaud the outgoing President for a job well done, as well as support the incoming President as she receives the gavel.” She

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Transfers

Meet the 2014-2015 Transfer Class

By Lauren Sadler-Davis



Natalie Baldwin
JL of Dallas

"I just got back from my dream vacation. We went to Paris, Munich, Dublin and London. I got to go the real Oktoberfest in Germany."



Lindsay Bullard
JL of Tulsa, OK

"I love the fact that I am a mirror images identical twin, and she is my best friend in the whole world!"



Naisha Covarrubias
JL of Sacramento, CA

"My first language was Spanish and I am a total sucker for a theme party - I LOVE dressing up."



Lauren Creekmur
JL of Austin

"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say,

I used everything you gave me." *Erma Bombeck*



Megan Culver
JL of Houston



Kelly Dando
JL of Nashville via Dallas

"I graduated from Univ. of Alabama, and I am married to an Auburn grad. Makes SEC football interesting!"



Caroline Featherstone
JL of Oklahoma City

"I quit my job in OKC, found an apartment in FW and moved two weeks later, after being hired for my current position over a 10 minute phone call. I didn't meet anyone until my first day! I love my job!"



Claire Florsheim
JL of Dallas

"I recently learned (the hard way) that I don't remember how to ride a bike (so I guess some things aren't like riding a bike!)"



Melissa Gervase
JL of Nashville

Favorite quote: "You cannot act like a flip flop and expect to be treated like Louboutins."



Andrea Goins
JL of Dallas

"I'm a FW native and am happy to be back in Funkytown with my hubby and our two pups, Shelby and Artemisia Gentileschi."



Christi Grudier
JL of Beaumont

"I am in the middle of reading and watching the Harry Potter series for the first time."



Sam Jordan
JL of Washington, D.C.

"My eyes change color and run the spectrum from gray to blue to bright green."



Susanna Knouse
JL of San Antonio

"I don't know how to ride a bike!"



Elizabeth Laborde
JL of Dallas

"I met my husband in dental school - we sat next to each other in alphabetical order!"



Megan Mayo
JL of San Antonio



Molly McClung
JL of Dallas



Paige McNamara
JL of San Antonio



Rachel Miller
JL of Dallas



Carrie Morris
JL of Chattanooga, TN

"I can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens me" Phil 4:13



Stephanie Murray
JL of Dallas

"I am a dual citizen"



Ashley Neill
JL of Lubbock
 "I met my husband while we were studying abroad in London!"



Paige Sagon
JL of Champaign-Urbana, IL
 Favorite quote: "Every day may not be good but there is something good in every day."



Kathryn Whitten
JL of Charlotte, NC
 Favorite quote: "The most wasted day of all is that in which you have not laughed"



Aarti Puskoor
JL of Richmond, VA
 "I grew up in Fort Worth, but I've never been to Mexico! Hoping to change that soon!"



Dora Sargeant
JL of Pine Bluff, AR
 "I really want to go snorkeling, but I can't swim!"



Allison Youngblood
JL of Dallas
 "I have run a bajillion marathons (one with the flu). I'm a universal blood donor and I get sea sick sitting on a dock."



Megan Reinkemeyer
JL of Shreveport-Bossier
 "I enjoy reading cookbooks and finding new recipes to cook."



Karen Stiles
JL of Houston
 "I've visited all seven continents."

Transfers as of 4.1.2015

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Old Shoe Award Presented to Teri McGill

By Courtney McDonald

Teri McGill was honored with the “Old Shoe” award at the May GMM. As she was presented with the award, her peers described her as intelligent, so happy, organized, positive and kind and said it is a blessing to know and work with her. Through JLFW placements including Mayfest, Placement Co-Chair, Membership VP, Communications VP, Grant Writing Chair, Performing Arts Fort Worth Project Development Chair and many others, McGill has certainly left her mark on JLFW and the community, and she truly possesses all of the qualities of an “Old Shoe.” McGill says her 17 years of service to the League have been a huge part of her life, and she encourages new Actives and Provisionals to make the most of their JLFW experience.

You have worn many shoes over the years. What is your favorite “shoe” that you’ve worn and why?


I have worn many shoes, and they all have provided very different but engaging experiences. I would say my favorite is Communication VP. I worked with a fantastic committee of passionate and knowledgeable women, as we revamped *The Lariat*, emphasized communication of our work and impact to our membership and strategically used social media to raise awareness. As VP, I sat on the Board with a very special and talented group of women

who worked together to grow and enhance our League. Our Board group still gets together for lunch to catch up.

What has JLFW brought to your life, and how has it helped you in areas outside of League service?

JLFW has brought friendship, a sense of community, satisfaction of giving back and a desire to do something bigger than me. Professionally, through JLFW, I have grown in leadership skills and confidence in my abilities. JLFW gave me the opportunity to take on leadership roles and responsibilities in a safe and supportive environment of women who believe in each other.


What advice would you give to Provisional and Active members of JLFW?

Step up and get involved to the extent you can. That may be more in some years and less in others, and that is fine. Get to know some Sustainers. Collectively, they are a group of women who have a wealth of talents, knowledge and experience and are willing to continue supporting our Active members in many ways. I look forward to being a Sustainer. 



Highlighting Our Council Sustaining Advisors

By Alisha Rosenthal

The 2014-2015 Sustaining Advisors for the Junior League of Fort Worth (JLFW) councils include both family-oriented and career-minded women that exemplify what it means to be a member of JLFW. Several of these women have served as past presidents of the JLFW, and all have made it a priority in life to give back to their community, not only through their many years of commitment to JLFW, but through their charitable efforts outside of the League, as well. Our final two Sustaining Advisors have a combined 34 years of service to the League. They are amazing women doing amazing things to better our community. 



Michelle Marlow
Membership Council

Marlow’s career in the League began in 1996, and she served as an Active in the League for more than 15 years, serving as the 2013-2014 JLFW President. Among her many accomplishments as President, Marlow was responsible for creating the first annual pancake breakfast at Cook Children’s Hospital last year, modeled after the book “Curious George Makes Pancakes.” In addition to her involvement with the JLFW, Michelle works part time as a speech pathologist and spends the rest of her time with her husband, Scott, raising their four lively boys.



Cathy Sewell
Nominating Committee

Sewell began her career in the League in 1998 and served as an Active for more than 10 years. In addition to being involved with many projects and camps over the years through the JLFW, she also served as In-League Relations Co-Chair, Training Chair, Nominating Chair and Administrative VP. Sewell has volunteered with many other charitable organizations in Fort Worth. She and her husband, Hal, have five children and three granddaughters.

Membership

GMM Highlights

By Courtney McDonald

85 Years of Helping Children in Need

March 17, 2015

Nieman Marcus

- Lindsey Sirowy, 85th Anniversary Committee Member, relayed the story of the JLFW and Nieman Marcus partnership. JLFW used funding from the store's Grand Opening event to fund the Child Study Center
- Lori Calicott, Child Study Center Team Lead, presented current JLFW involvement with the Child Study Center, including tutoring, the 5K race and Party on the Patio
- Liz Fahy, Bylaws Chair, presented a Bylaws amendment to push the dues deadline to April 1, if passed
- Melanie Hanna, Nominating Chair, announced the Nominating Committee slate to be voted on at the April GMM
- Kate Team, Rodeo Co-Chair, shared that net results from program sales was \$29,000
- Special Event: JLFW members were treated to a fashion show by Neiman Marcus
- Rodeo Program Sales Committee Member, **Holly Farmer**, was named Active of the Month

85 Years of Promoting Health and Nutrition

April 9, 2015

JLFW Headquarters

Cook Children's Medical Center

- We held two meetings: one at noon at JLFW Headquarters and one in the evening at Cook Children's
- Elizabeth Basham, Mayfest Executive Director, discussed JLFW's founding partnership for Mayfest
- Grant Harris, Cook Children's Health Foundation VP, shared information about the Cook's Medical System
- Terri Ford, Cook Community Health Outreach Director, spoke about a program to teach families about oral hygiene
- Jenn Kirby and Candace Casper reminded Members about the upcoming Pancake Picnic
- JK Doyle and Erika Fisher, *Kids in the Kitchen* Co-Chairs, spoke about the upcoming *Kids in the Kitchen* event
- Voting: Membership voted on several issues, including the Bylaws amendment, Nominating Committee and Fundraisers and Collaborations vote
- **Alli Bequette** was chosen as Provisional of the Year
- **Nancy Jeter** was chosen as Active of the Year

Meet Reece Small

By Alisha Rosenthal

The Junior League of Fort Worth (JLFW) is pleased to announce that Reece Small is the new Donor Relations Coordinator. She will be working on Mondays and Wednesdays in the fund development office.

Small brings to the League 10 years of relative experience in the fund development area. She worked for various nonprofit organizations, including KERA Public Broadcasting, the American Red Cross and SafeHaven of Tarrant County. Small graduated from The University of Texas at Austin, where she met her husband, Don. They moved to Fort Worth in 1971, where Small was an Active in JLFW from 1981 to 1987. Small says that the friends she made in JLFW are still her friends today. She recalls serving as Training Chairman and participating in Facilitation placement during her time in the League, where she received invaluable training in meeting management and goal setting, skills she has utilized throughout her career.

Small has two daughters, Regan Small Reed and Brook Small Whitworth, who is now a JLFW Sustainer, and four grandchildren, ages 2-13, that attend Tanglewood Elementary and McLean Middle Schools. Small and her husband enjoy traveling, and they recently went on a river cruise in Russia. She is so thrilled to have the opportunity to once again serve JLFW, and is really looking forward to meeting and working with all of the current members and donors. **JL**



Active of the Year, Nancy Jeter

By Mary Meadows

Congratulations to Nancy Jeter for being named the 2014-2015 Active of the Year! A member of the JLFW since 2012, she and her husband Ross have a four-year-old daughter, Reese. Jeter currently serves as the Director of Development for the Ronald McDonald House of Fort Worth (RMHFW) and has held leadership roles with various philanthropies in Fort Worth, in addition to her involvement with JLFW. Her hard work and willingness to “say yes” has not gone unnoticed. She recently sat down with us to answer a few questions.

All of your placements thus far have been In-League, including serving as Board Leadership Training Chair and Grant Writing Co-Chair. What has drawn you to focus on In-League placements? Which placement was your favorite?

I only feel comfortable with In-League placements due to my professional responsibility to RMHFW. I love many non-profits in our community but feel like my interests are best served if I can focus on fundraising for one main mission. As much as we complained at the time, my 50 hours at the Double Exposure were great. So many of us got to work together, laugh and play dress up; it is where I made many of my lasting connections.



Did you know from the beginning that you wanted to have leadership roles with the JLFW?

Yes! My career goals are to lead a local non-profit. To get to this juncture, I am interested in learning all I can through the League and other organizations that will help me be a well-rounded leader.

What is your advice to women who want to have a leadership role in JLFW but don't know where to start?

I would like to encourage our women to say yes to opportunities to lead in our community. Fort Worth is craving the next generation of leadership, and I think JLFW can answer. I would like to encourage participation in more training, applying for *All Aboard* and self-nominating for leadership positions. Tell someone you are interested. Seek a mentor. JLFW has amazing women who are very open to teaching, training and mentoring.

You are the perfect example of someone who is “doing it all” – maintaining active involvement in the JLFW, while having a family, career and involvement in other organizations in the community. What is your advice to women who may be struggling with maintaining involvement while juggling so many other commitments?

We are all busy; if you make a commitment, make it a priority. You are only going to get back what you put in. Self-reflect and make decisions for yourself and your family; talk to your spouse and your kids. Tell them why you want to volunteer and gain their support. If you have an idea, share it. If you have a question, ask it. Try a different placement, take a break, change it up. There are hundreds of opportunities within the League to find your passion.



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Membership


Welcome 2015-2016 Provisionals

Katie Anderson	Alexandra Dekleva	Bridgette Hornbeck	Taylor Miller	Kate Stephens
Tiffany Anderson	Erin Dewald	Melissa Hudson	Monica Napier	Ali Stowe
Julie Anthony	Catherine Dunham	Cameron Hughes	Nicole Novroski	Shannon Street
Kelsie Arnold	Morgan Dupre	Helen Husbands	Claire O'Connor	Morgan Strub
Deborah Bankhead	Katrina Duvall	Julie Idoine Fries	Kim Outerbridge	Allison Sulivant
Devon Batjer	Lauren East	Amanda Irvin	Gina Patel	Lea Thomas
Cathy Bennett	Simone Elices	Carly Jackson	Emily Paul	Martin Twiss
Emily Boyle	Katy Farley	Chelsea James	Katie Peters	Alicia Ulmer
Katy Branch	Brittney Gallagher	Claire Kelly	Laura Rau	Erin Verrett
Lauren Brown	Vaughna Galvin	Laura Jo Klein	Kelsey Ray	Claire Vess
Erin Bryant	Jackie Gonzalez	Melanie Kurkjian	Amber Reed	Lindsey Viotto
Ann Burgess	Lauren Grady	Cathy Lammers	Hendricka Rhoad	Jessica Walsh
Ellecia Butchard	Leslie Guisinger	Kenya Landers	Brenda Rios-Reyna	Danielle Warren
Elizabeth Butler	Cathy Gullo	Wendi Latham	Katie Rogers	Brianna Washechek
Clara Cantu	Jennifer Hale	Megan Leger	Rachel Rosenbaum	Grace Waters
Danielle Carpenter	Ashley Hall	Kelly Leito	Angel Rothrock	Katy Watson
Michelle Chapellier	Mia Hall	Breanne Lilley	Sarah Ryan	Stephanie Weikel
Amanda Chromaster	Emy Hanna	Andrea Llewellyn	Emily Samuelson	Tricia Weskamp
Skyla Claxton	Wendy Hansen	Christy Luke	Maggi Seidler	Kayla Williams
Jenna Conan	Courtney Harbuck	Sarah Marshall	Rachel Shackelford	Monica Wyatt
Katie Cooper Drew	Isis Hargrave	Kate McGregor	Mackenzie Shelton	Mackenzie Zwick
Eleanor Cormack	Jenn Heald	Joy McHugh	Kimberly Sheppard	
Michelle Crim	Simone Hildner	Marlowe Melton	Kolby Simonson	
Ashley Cupp	Adrienne Holland	Skies Miles	Kate Sprague	
Kelly Dees	Savannah Hollowell	Stephanie Miller	Ashley Shea Stella	

JLFW is All A-Twitter! Social Media Makes a Huge Impact

By Katherine Curtis, 2014-2015 Social Media Chair

Telling the story of 85 years of the Junior League of Fort Worth in 140 characters or less, hashtags and photos was quite a fun challenge this year. Through increased use of Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram, the Fort Worth community, our JLFW members, friends and family learned what #JLFW85 does for the extended Fort Worth community. With exciting events like #ChristmasInCowtown, #GEG, #JLFWYellandSell and #DayofGiving, our social media presence was shared across the country and beyond.

If you aren't following us on social media – grab your phone, open your apps and find us now. 



Followers

June 2014 276
April 2015 469

Twitter: @JrLeagueFtWorth



Followers

June 2014 2
April 2015 301

Instagram: @JrLeagueFtWorth



Likes

June 2014 1,546
April 2015 2,069

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/juniorleaguefw



Followers

June 2014 17
April 2015 82

LinkedIn:

www.linkedin.com/company/junior-league-of-fort-worth

Welcome New Actives

Chloe Anderson
 Sara Anstoetter
 Michelle Arceneaux
 Lauren Aycock
 Kara Bennett
 Amanda Benson
 Alli Bequette
 Sarah Blalock
 Mary Brezik
 Emily Brown
 Cherrie Cannon
 Codi Clark
 Jessica Collins
 Amber Corbin
 Courtney Cox
 Veranna Crews
 Ryan Cullinan
 Annie Cummins
 Katy Cyr
 Lauren D'Acerno
 Jacqueline Dearden
 Emily Delgado
 Sally Dellamura
 Danielle Denning
 Danielle Devoto
 Allison Doornik
 Andrea Durkin
 Stephanie Ellis
 Haley Felker
 Angela Ferris
 Laura Fincher
 Pamela Gilchrist

Andrea Gordon
 Hilary Gray
 Allison Gross
 Layne Haggberg
 Katherine Hand
 Gwen Harper

Jennifer Kirby
 Caroline Kleuser
 Megan Koval
 Kathleen Larson
 Nicole Larson
 Jamie Lasher



Chelsea Hart
 Stacey Hatch
 Emily Hawkins
 Ashley Healey
 Allison Hemer
 Jennifer Herren
 Dana Herrin
 Jillian Hollis
 Olivia Jacobs
 Caylin James
 Candace Kaspar
 Shannon Kelley
 Tiffany Key

Janie Latimer
 Laura Lawrence
 Whitney MacDonald
 Brittany Marshall
 Channing Martin
 Mallory McDonald
 Chelsi McLarty
 Stephanie McPeak
 Elyse Menger
 Kelsey Mildren
 Lyndsay Mojica
 Stephanie Moncrieff
 Anna Moore
 Berry Morton
 Brittany Needler
 Lauren Nixon
 Alison Orne
 Kathryn Palma
 Trina Pecina
 Savannah Petronis
 Mary Madeline Pierce
 Alyson Pollard
 Amy Porter
 Allison Presley

Meredith Ray
 Lauren Reasoner
 Ashley Reed
 Michaeldae Reinhardt
 Caitlin Reynolds
 Sarahy Rodriguez
 Summer Scheideman
 Mary Katherine Scherer
 Allison Schluckebier
 Kelly Scimeca
 LA Shephard
 Brooke Shuman
 Alisha Smith
 Laura Standish
 Elizabeth Stenberg
 Carrie Stires
 Katherine Sumner
 Melissa Swan
 Caroline Tabor
 Genevieve Talbott
 Kelsey Thompson
 JuliAnna Townsend
 Lauren Trodden
 Christina Turner
 Alexandra Von Kaenel
 Sheridan Wade
 Leslie Wade
 C'Rhys Walters
 Marie Woerner
 Amanda Wood
 Mary Young
 Rachel Yurek



Membership

Membership Vice President's Report

February 1 - April 30, 2015

TRANSFER IN

Julia Allison S
JL Houston

Angela Cochran S
JL Dallas

Naisha Covarrubia A
JL Sacramento

Mary Foose SE
JLFW Past President
JL Jackson

Beth Fulgham Long A
JL Toronto

Carrie Morris A
JL Chattanooga TN

Stephanie Murray A
JL Dallas

Johnica Reed A
JL Washington DC

Kelly Roberts A
JL Chicago

Andrea Severin A
JL Dallas

Lindsey Tieken A
JL Dallas

Monique Waggoner A
JL Midland

Katherine Whitten 2015-16 P
JL San Antonio

TRANSFER OUT

Catherine Becker A
JL Dallas

Rachel Tarbox S
JL Memphis

REINSTATE

Nancy "Nanny" Christie S
Molly McClung A

CONDOLENCE

Kathe Ambrose Goodwin S
Loss of mother

Kay Fortson Baldwin S
Loss of nephew

Beccy Egger S
Loss of sister

Kathryn Egger A
Loss of aunt

Jen Engel A
Loss of father

Kay Carter Fortson S
Loss of son

Jennifer Flippo A
Loss of Father

Christine Gores A
Loss of brother-in-law

Marcee James S
Loss of mother-in-law

Kary Johnson A
Loss of grandfather

Kathy Johnson S
Loss of Father

Lauri Lawrence S
Loss of mother

Nancy Madsen S
Loss of mother-in-law
Loss of father

Carter Johnson Martin S
Loss of uncle

Vivienne Boswell Mays S
Loss of mother-in-law

Amy Shackelford A
Loss of grandmother

Carol Stripling S
Loss of husband

IN MEMORY

Betty Bell Ambrose
Sustainer Emeritus
March 2, 2015

Becky Schulz Harper
Sustainer
March 30, 2015

Engagements & Weddings

Christal West
married
Jack Atkinson
December 6, 2014

Kimberly Waiters
engaged to
Jamison Heiskell
March 4, 2015

Kary Johnson
married
Victor Contreras
April 25, 2015

Amanda Smith
married
Brent Landfried
May 23, 2015

Little Leaguers

Our Growing Community

Marlie & Andrew Thomas
Active
Son, Eli Philip
November 5, 2014



Laura & Case Martinec
Active
Son, Charles Brenner
(Charlie)
February 26, 2015



HaleyBritt & Norm Robbins
Active
Son, Wynn Thomas
April 3, 2015



Amanda & Clayton Lundgren
Active
Twin, Lucy Carter &
Copeland Clark
March 6, 2015



Alison & Chris Edwards
Active
Daughter, Lena Elizabeth
January 10, 2015



Abby & John Flack
Active
Daughter, Sims Adelaide
April 7, 2015



Michael Anne & Price Pritchard
Active
Son, Cannon Curtis
January 13, 2015



Brandy & Jacob Schwarz
Active
Daughter, Caroline James
March 10, 2015





**Kristy Odom
2015-2016 President**

Since beginning her Provisional year in 2007, Kristy Odom has served JLFW in many capacities. Her placements have included Van Cliburn, Rodeo, JPS Partners Together for Heath PDC, Kids Who Care PDC, DIAD Co-Chair, Assistant Fund Development VP and President-Elect.

A Fort Worth native, Kristy graduated from Grapevine High School. She attended the University of Colorado at Boulder, where she met her husband, Rob. She and Rob have three children, Wilder (15), Leelee (14) and Avocet (12.5). With a background in metalsmithing, Kristy loves making jewelry, and she and her husband enjoy designing and building things together. Kristy is currently on the Board of Mayfest, Inc., serves on the Community Cabinet for the United Way of Tarrant County and will serve on the Board of the Van Cliburn Foundation in the fall.

**Amanda Martin Osburn
2015-2016 Finance Vice President**

Amanda Martin Osburn's service to the JLFW began with her Provisional year in 2007. Her placements have included C/C Tickets Committee, DE Co-Chair, Presbyterian Night Shelter Women's Project and CASA.

Amanda grew up in Amarillo and attended Texas Tech University. She currently works at Southwest Bank, and is the proud mommy of two dogs, Dexter and Griffin, who think they are children! She and husband, Jeff Osburn, just married on May 23. Amanda enjoys listening to live music and trying out new restaurants around town.

Amanda is so excited to serve as Finance VP and has enjoyed really learning the history of our League and how it has impacted the community. She loves that women in JLFW are so diverse, yet all work together for one Mission.

**Mireya Gideon
2015-2016 Fund Development Vice President**

Mireya began with the League in 2009. Since transferring into JLFW from San Antonio in 2013, she has served on the *Christmas in Cowtown* PR committee and as Assistant Fund Development VP. She looks forward to learning from the smart, talented women on her council next year, whom she predicts will make a lot of money for the League!

Mireya grew up in Edinburg, Texas, and attended the University of Texas at Pan American on a tennis scholarship. She works at CBS 11 as an investigative reporter and has won three Emmy awards for her work uncovering corruption, scams and fraud in our school systems. She is married to her best friend and partner in crime, Matthew Gideon. She and Matthew have no children – yet! But they do have a six-year-old Basset Hound, Biggie. When Mireya is not volunteering with JLFW, she enjoys running, cooking and playing tennis.



Spotlight on Your Board of Directors!





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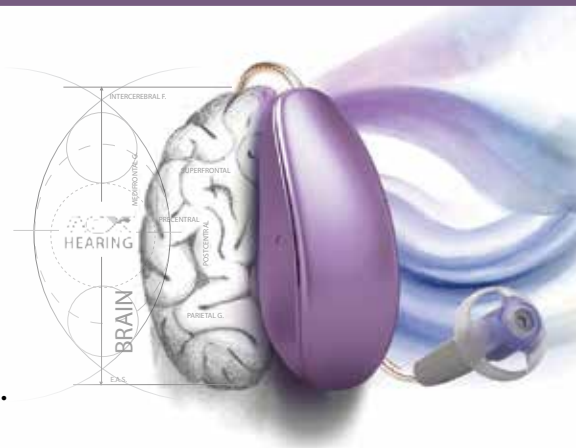
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Founded in 1929, the JLFW 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 1,800 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 www.juniorleaguefw.org.



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WHAT'S YOUR



In celebration of our 125th anniversary, the YMCA of Metropolitan Fort Worth in partnership with FitWorth is encouraging everyone in our community to take the 125 Challenge. Listed are some examples...or create your own 125 challenge! **What's YOUR 125?**

Track your challenges at www.fitworthtrack.com.

YFW125 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

- Read 125 books/pages to a child
- Spend 125 quality minutes as a family each week
- Give 125 hugs or smiles to youth
- Spend 125 hours as a mentor for youth
- Volunteer 125 minutes a week in your child's school

YFW125 HEALTHY LIVING CHALLENGE

- Log 125 miles running, walking or biking
- Take the FitWorth Fit15 Challenge for 125 days
- Track 125 hours of group exercise classes
- Work out 125 minutes per week
- Eat healthier by cutting 125 calories from meals

YFW125 SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY CHALLENGE

- Volunteer 125 hours as a coach, board member, etc.
- Donate \$125 to the YMCA or charity of your choice
- Deliver 125 acts of kindness to strangers
- Commit to 125 ways to advocate for your beliefs
- Clean our community by picking up 125 pieces of trash

Share your 125:

#YFW125 @YFW125