

VISIONS



*Women Building
Better Communities*

How Junior League Members are building up Greenville



contents & **FEATURES** // Spring 2023



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Letter from
THE PRESIDENT

From the mundane to the momentous, it has certainly been a memorable year! During the 2022-2023 League Year grounded in a theme of Women Building Better Communities, the women of the Junior League of Greenville have rallied together to wrap up the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan and to refresh our Mission. It has been a privilege to be the first woman of color to lead this 93-year-old organization into a new era while continuing to focus on advancing women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

In preparing for the year, my goals were seemingly simple – a panel of local women leaders, a party, a poverty simulation and partnership with our community agencies – all designed to transition out of the COVID era. Our Committees exceeded those goals. From a charcuterie class to Brunch & Bubbly, a self-defense class and elected officials' panel and this publication, the Junior League had a strong focus on training and rebuilding bonds.

Members also supported JLG fundraisers in a big way, with a sixth successful year of the Little Black Dress Initiative, a robust Annual Fund and Endowment Campaign and yet another record-breaking year for the Nearly New Shop. These fundraising efforts allowed JLG to reintroduce a record-breaking grant cycle! Our membership voted to lay a cornerstone in the Greenville community by funding grants totaling over \$175,000 to three partner agencies – Jasmine Road, United Ministries and Pendleton Place.

In its third year, the Empowered Women of Greenville conference, an event planned and hosted by the JLG, continued to break new ground by providing impactful programming and resources to nearly 100 women from our community. JLG collaborated with Habitat for Humanity and our 6 partner agencies to provide volunteer service shift opportunities for Members through a brand-new Day of Service and year-round service. This resulted in hundreds of woman hours dedicated to building a better Greenville.

As I reflect over years of training and friendship afforded to me by the Junior League, I was reminded of the Bantu word, ubuntu, which speaks of the very essence of being human. It is to say, "I am human because I belong. I participate. I share." It is the word best suited to describe the sense of community exemplified by the 1,100+ women who are Members of this organization - those who selflessly serve the Greenville community and each other in ways seen and unseen. I am and we are because of the Junior League of Greenville.

Kimberly Witherspoon

Kimberly Witherspoon
President, 2022-2023
The Junior League of Greenville, Inc.



A native of New Zion, South Carolina, Kimberly Witherspoon first fell in love with Greenville during a music clinic in middle school. She graduated from Furman University and obtained a Juris Doctor from the Georgetown University Law Center before beginning her law practice at Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A. in 2010. She is passionate about leadership development and building a better community for Greenville. After her presidency, she looks forward to spending time with friends and family, traveling internationally and continuing her goal of visiting all 50 states.

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Annalise Sinclair

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Junior League of Greenville, Inc. is an organization of women committed to advancing women’s leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

FOCUS AREAS

The Junior League of Greenville engages in initiatives that help women in our community overcome barriers, focusing on Human Trafficking and Economic Mobility.

ABOUT VISIONS

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Please recycle after you have enjoyed this publication.

We would love to hear from you! Email us with your thoughts about the magazine or to learn how to become more involved at Information@JLGreenville.org.

For more information about the Junior League of Greenville or becoming a member, visit us online at JLGreenville.org.



Letter from
THE SUSTAINER
REPRESENTATIVE

A little over a year ago, current JLG President Kimberly Witherspoon asked me to go to dinner. It felt like we had known each other for years. It is also the same night that she asked me to serve as the Sustainer Representative to the Board during her tenure. I tease her to this day that she set it up perfectly so that there was no way I would have said no. I humbly and proudly said yes and appreciated that she thought enough of me to ask me to serve in that position.

I have been a member of the League for 26 years. Being the Sustainer Representative to the Board this League year has truly been a great learning experience. It has offered me an even greater insight into how hard the amazing women in this organization work and a reminder of the impact that JLG has on the community and its Members. Serving in the position also offered me the opportunity to share my experiences as a Member, as well as offer thoughts and perspective to the Board as we partnered together on initiatives.

I am so thankful for the many great Sustainers in this organization. With the help of Kimberly Witherspoon, Claire Stam, Karen Arrington, the Sustainer Outreach Committee led by Cayce McCullough and Taylor Limbach, and of course Tina Hampton and Betsy Littlejohn, we were able to hold meaningful social events for our Sustainer Members. I am so thankful for Sustainers Sally Seaver, Leslie Provence, Michelle Shain, and Karen Arrington who graciously opened their beautiful homes to host Sustainer events that were amazing and well attended. I am also thankful for Courtney Thomas and Kim Geddie who led the Holiday Bags for Cancer Patients project and did a phenomenal job. Their hard work and leadership enabled us to donate 350 bags to deserving cancer patients during the holidays.

I would encourage all Sustainers to get involved in some way, attend a Sustainer event, serve as a Sustaining Advisor, donate to the Endowment Fund, help fill Holidays bags or ask an old friend to recommit to the League. Sustainers are a critical and important part of our organization. Please know that you are loved and appreciated!

Emily Sherman Dean

Emily Sherman Dean
Sustainer Representative, 2022-2023
The Junior League of Greenville, Inc.

Emily Dean is the 2022-2023 Sustainer Representative to the Board. Emily serves as Senior Vice President, Director of Consumer Lending for SouthState Bank. She is responsible for leading the Consumer Bank’s consumer loan production and growth performance efforts as well as ensuring loan compliance within the bank’s branch network. In addition to consumer loans, she leads the company’s Credit Card Division. Emily earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the College of Charleston.



Letter from
THE EDITOR

I’ve lived in Greenville the longest of anywhere: seven years in Green Bay, 11 years in an Atlanta suburb, four years in Athens (Go Dawgs!) and now almost 17 years in Greenville.

Settling in a city gives you time to build communities—fellowship with others centered around a common goal, interest or bond. When I think about the various communities I’m a part of, the Junior League of Greenville immediately comes to mind. The League is unique because not only is it a group of women coming together for a unified purpose, but we also use our collective community to build better communities around us.

As Members of the JLG, we know we’re all part of something bigger and that our actions ripple out to have a lasting impact in Greenville and beyond. This is evident in the work we’ve done historically, such as with The Peace Center, Pendleton Place, Roper Mountain Science Center, and the South Carolina Children’s Theatre, as well as our continued work with our current community partners.

This work would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for one woman to accomplish, but together, we have more than 90 years of service to the community, marked by milestones and achievements. We have contributed over \$3 million, supported over 300 agencies, helped to start many organizations, and provided countless hours of volunteer service to the community.

With this in mind, the idea of building community is at the heart of this issue of VISIONS, and it explores the many ways it manifests within the JLG: This issue wouldn’t be possible without the small, but dedicated community that made it happen. Thank you to Committee Members Susan Elliot, Nicole McAden, Kathryn Pond and Annalise Sinclair, Sustaining Advisor Kathryn Freedman, Proofreader Amy Hunter and everyone who contributed to VISIONS.

Here’s to the communities we build—may they inspire, support, and transform us!

Andrea Simrell

Andrea Simrell
Editor, 2022-2023
The Junior League of Greenville, Inc.

Andrea Simrell is the 2022-2023 Editor of VISIONS and has been a Member of the JLG since 2008. She earned her ABJ from the University of Georgia and works in public relations as an Account Manager with Fors Marsh. She lives in Mauldin with her husband Andrew and enjoys reading, hiking, traveling, and spending time with her family and friends (especially her nephews!).



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Meet the 2022-2023
JLG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Every year the Junior League of Greenville (JLG) elects a new set of leaders within the organization who serve on the Board of Directors—leading the organization in its Mission of advancing women’s leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. Get to know this year’s Board of Directors and how they are embodying the Junior League’s values.



Kimberly Witherspoon
President

Number of years in the League:
13 years

Hometown
New Zion, SC

How do you empower yourself and the women around you?
My leadership has been grounded in the knowledge that every organization, especially one led by volunteers like JLG, is better when leaders are empowered to lead and step into their gifts. Providing guidance allows women to learn, and sometimes fail, through experience, which is the best teacher.



Claire Stam
President-Elect

Number of years in the League:
11 years

Hometown
Greenville, SC

How are you living out JLG’s Mission?
I am living out the JLG Mission by training Members to be effective community leaders and collaborating on ways in which we can increase our impact in the Greenville community.



Adrienne Frain
Communications Vice-President

Number of years in the League:
11 years

Hometown
Knoxville, TN

What do you think building a better community looks like?
To me, building a better community means working to ensure that community members have access to equal opportunities across the board and resources in times of hardship.



Tori Greer
Community Impact Vice-President

Number of years in the League:
6 years

Hometown
Pembroke, MA

How do you empower yourself and the women around you?
I try to empower the women around me by cheering on their successes and never letting them feel as if they have “failed.” We can always learn and grow through our experiences. If something doesn’t go as you had envisioned or hoped, it’s not a failure but an opportunity to reflect and grow.



Elizabeth Campbell
Finance Vice-President

Number of years in the League:
9 years

Hometown
Greenville, SC

How do you empower yourself and the women around you?
I love to build women up! We can do anything, and I think giving others confidence helps them to take on the world!



Christina Auckland
Treasurer

Number of years in the League:
5 years

Hometown
Greenville, SC

How do you empower yourself and the women around you?
I empower myself and the women around me by always taking a step back and making sure we all fully understand the impact any task, big or small, has on the bigger goals. When we all realize we play a role and add value, we are empowered.



Melissa Mascaro
Fund Development Vice-President

Number of years in the League:
5 years

Hometown
Rochester, NY

What do you think building a better community looks like?
I think building a better community means working collaboratively to make meaningful changes. Not simply making changes to make changes, but making changes that are necessary, sustainable and will impact the community for years to come.



Jamie Langenban
Membership Vice-President

Number of years in the League:
10 years

Hometown
Buffalo, NY

How do you empower yourself and the women around you?
I really embrace the fact that the JLG is a training organization. I empower the women around me to try new experiences, take ownership of the tasks assigned to them, and I respect them as decision makers. I am always around to bounce ideas off of and provide a helping hand, but I want them to feel fully empowered.



Amy St. John
Corresponding Secretary

Number of years in the League:
4 years

Hometown
Orange, VA

How do you empower yourself and the women around you?
I feel empowered through my involvement in the League and being surrounded by incredible women who take the time to make our community better. I empower others by listening and encouraging them to find their passions and act on them.



Alex Bridges
Recording Secretary

Number of years in the League:
5 years

Hometown
Gastonia, NC

What does building a better community look like to you?
To me, building a better community means working with-in our community to create meaningful and long-term change. In addition to directly volunteering in our two Focus Areas of Human Trafficking and Economic Mobility, the JLG brings about change in the community through our education and advocacy efforts.

Meet the 2022-2023 JLG BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Jessica Earley
Strategic Planner

**Number of years
in the League:**
18 years

Hometown
Greenville, SC

**How are you living
out JLG’s Mission?**
As an elementary
teacher and sponsor
for our school’s Beta
Club, I get to teach
children about the
ways they can serve
others. If they can
see the benefits of
service from a young
age, hopefully it
will stay with them
throughout their
lives.



Bess Adair
Board Manager

**Number of years
in the League:**
12 years

Hometown
Greenville, SC

**How are you living
out JLG’s Mission?**
I’ve truly enjoyed
working with other
caring and dedicated
women on the JLG
Board of Directors
this year, but I also
enjoy volunteering
and supporting our
partner agencies
independently. For
example, SWITCH
and The Family Effect
improve the lives of
women overcoming
difficult obstacles, like
sexual trauma and
addiction. By help-
ing women recover
from these issues,
these programs help
produce healthier
families, which will
continue to strength-
en and build a better
community for us all!



Emily Dean
Sustainer Representative

**Number of years
in the League:**
24 years

Hometown
Union, SC

**How do you
empower yourself
and the women
around you?**
I believe in giving
back, thinking pos-
itively, empowering
thoughts and tak-
ing care of myself
(physically, mentally
and emotionally).
I encourage other
women to do the
same because it’s crit-
ical that we support
each other on every
level.



Tina Hampton
Executive Administrator

**Number of years
in the League:**
35 years

Hometown
Hendersonville, NC

**How are you living
out JLG’s Mission?**
As a JLG employee
for over 30 years, I
have been fortunate
to watch the inevi-
table adaptations of
the League’s struc-
ture, demands and
expectations to re-
flect societal changes.
One thing remains
constant—we train
women to go into
the Greenville com-
munity and share
what they learned
as a Member of the
JLG. I hope that my
years of experience
as a Member and em-
ployee translates into
future knowledge to
share with up-and-
coming committed
volunteers.



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- ✓ Outlet & Dimmer Switch Installation
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- ✓ Preventative Services

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like our family and because of that they are
our best marketing tool, providing us with
numerous referrals along the way.



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THINGS WE'RE DIGGING

// By *Andrea Simrell*

Greenville is full of great stores, restaurants and other small businesses that contribute to the fabric of our community. Here we're highlighting a few of the businesses that have participated in the inaugural JLG Member Perk Program, which provides exclusive discounts to JLG Members.

We appreciate their support and encourage you to give them a visit—happy shopping!

613 Boutique

613boutique.com
2327 North Pleasantburg Drive Unit E, Greenville

613 Boutique's goal is to put the "fun" in functional fashion. They know that looking stylish can make your whole day better, and that's why they're committed to being your source for the newest trends with affordably unique clothing, shoes, jewelry and accessories.



Alma Rose

Almarose.com
136 Milestone Way, Greenville

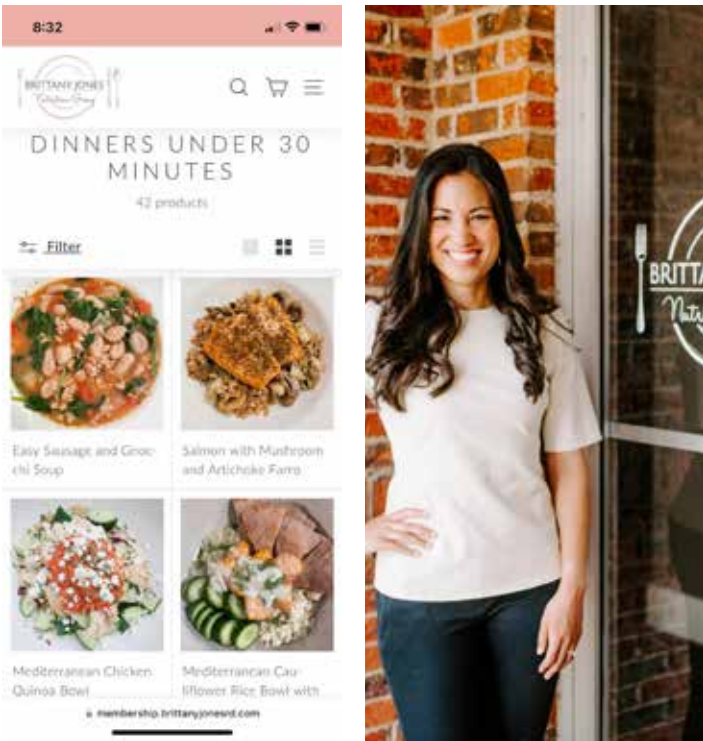
Alma Rose is a luxury med spa that focuses on relationships and results. They take the time to get to know your skin and body goals in order to provide effective, long-term aesthetic solutions. Their treatments include injections, microneedling, laser resurfacing, custom facials and much more.



Brittany Jones Nutrition Group

Brittanyjonesrd.com

Brittany Jones Nutrition Group is a shame-free, non-diet practice established in 2017 by CEO and Registered Dietitian Brittany Jones, MS, RD, LD. Their Real Life Nutrition Membership puts a RD in your pocket with dietitian-approved recipes and meal plans (that actually taste great), done-for-you grocery shopping lists, Meal Planning 101 video modules and monthly coaching calls. Reduce stress around cooking by embracing realistic meal planning where all foods fit into your busy life!



Cottage Grove

Cottagegrovevintage.com
1607 Laurens Rd, Greenville

Cottage Grove is Greenville's go-to destination for vintage home furnishings and all of your favorite brands of jewelry, bags, candles, pillows and more. With over thirty vendors sourcing and curating finds, Cottage Grove is the destination for on-trend vintage gifts and decor.



Good to Go Greenville

Goodtogogvl.com
209 W Antrim Drive, Greenville

Good to Go is proud to offer signature grab & go prepared meals, catering services, and a beautiful boutique marketplace with a variety of fresh and frozen foods and wines. You can also send a Good to Go Meal to a friend or loved one easily by using their Send A Meal service!



M. Judson Booksellers

Mjudsonbooks.com
130 S Main St, Suite 200A, Greenville

M. Judson Booksellers is proud to be downtown Greenville's local independent bookstore. Located in the historic downtown courthouse building, this bookshop offers bestsellers, classics, local specialty items, cards, gifts, and novelties for book lovers.



Sash Clothes

Sashclothes.com

Sash Clothes celebrates the modern woman by creating a convenient, inclusive shopping experience. Shop accessories and sizes XS-3X anytime, anywhere with free shipping nationwide or local pickup.



Yeehaw Brewing Company

Yeehawbrewing.com/greenville
307 E McBee Ave Suite C, Greenville

Yee-Haw Brewing Company has good beer, good people, and good times. Yee-Haw Greenville features an expansive draft beer & cocktail list, beer garden with jumbotron, and Prince's Hot Chicken.



BUILDING

Building Awareness and Raising Funds with LBDI

// By *Annalise Sinclair and Andrea Simrell*

When is a little black dress more than just a classic outfit? When it's a tool for starting conversations, building awareness and raising funds to address barriers to women in the Greenville community.

The Junior League of Greenville's Little Black Dress Initiative (LBDI) is a week-long, social media-driven fundraising campaign that uses the iconic LBD to raise awareness about the mission of the JLG and the restrictions poverty places on choices, opportunities, and access to resources.

The 38 JLG Members participating in LBDI wore the same little black dress for five consecutive days, November 7-11, 2022, symbolizing how poverty gives women fewer choices.

By wearing a button that read "Ask Me About My Dress" participants encouraged conversations with colleagues, friends, and strangers to raise awareness about Human Trafficking and Economic Mobility and what the JLG is doing to impact these issues in Greenville.

Participants also tapped into their social media and email networks by posting about the initiative and sending emails throughout the week. In addition to raising awareness, participants asked for donations to the campaign.

The sixth annual Little Black Dress Initiative raised an impressive \$25,918 to fund League initiatives that help women in our community overcome barriers.



Social Posts from LBDI 2022 Participants

CHRISTINE OWENS
@christineingvl

Today I wear the dress to give everyone a chance to succeed.

The JLG partners with community organizations that lift up and empower people as well as provide much needed resources. Our one-day Empowered Women of Greenville event provides all women with sessions covering topics such as career development, financial literacy, and wellness. We are proud to host participants from our partner organizations in this meaningful event ❤️

Your donation helps us put on community events like this and to offer direct assistance to our Community Partners. Please consider donating...every bit helps!



BRITTANY JONES
@brittanyjonesrd

This week I'll be wearing the same dress for five consecutive days to show the limiting effects poverty has on a woman's choices, resources, and access to professional opportunities 💛

This is a part of the @jlgreenvillesc's Little Black Dress Initiative (LBDI) – a week-long awareness and fundraising campaign that harnesses the power of social media to illustrate the restrictions poverty places on choices, opportunities, and access to resources.

Please consider donating even just \$5 via the link in my stories to help women in the Greenville, SC community overcome barriers!

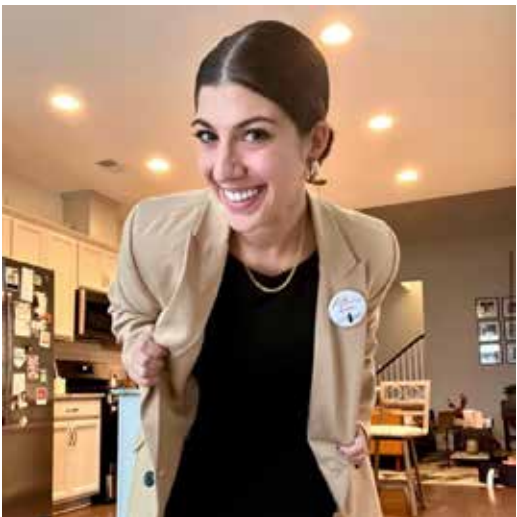


AYLA FITZPATRICK
@aylafitz

On day 4 of #jglbdi2022 I'm challenging you to help me reach a new goal! Supporters helped me pass my \$500 goal yesterday, but can I get to \$700 by the end of Friday?

Your donation helps make Greenville County more equitable. What's the difference between equity and equality? While equality gives everyone the same resources or opportunities, equity gives resources and opportunities needed on an individual basis to reach an equal outcome.

Donate to this awesome cause through the @jlgreenvillesc at the #linkinbio



Interview with Top Fundraiser, LINDSAY HALL

JLG Active and current Arrangements Committee Member Lindsay Hall was this year's top LBDI fundraiser. She raised nearly \$2,150 from 44 donors.

A multi-year participant in the LBDI, Lindsay was motivated to participate in the 2022 LBDI to raise funds for the JLG and improve on her past performance. We'd say she accomplished that goal!

Tell us about your approach to fundraising.

A lot of people I know that would support the campaign aren't really on social media. I found that sending an email asking people to watch my social media and explaining what I was doing, and why, was helpful. I found the videos were the best. I would post a partner spotlight in the morning on LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram; then, I would post videos in the afternoon on Facebook and Instagram.

What was best about the videos was the engagement and conversations I got to have. I had a few folks ask for follow up information, and my family asked me about the videos at Thanksgiving. I was happy knowing I not only raised money but raised awareness for months after.

What was the most difficult aspect of participating in LBDI?

Getting started! If you aren't one to regularly post about yourself, it can feel overwhelming.

How did participating in LBDI help you better understand the discomfort that comes with a lack of access to resources due to poverty?

When I voted [in the 2022 election] during LBDI week, I tried to take away resources to make it more difficult for myself. I had no cell phone use, no internet, no money and no car. Walking there was time consuming. As I got inside, I was asking poll workers things like 'who here speaks another language,' 'what if I can't read,' and while I could tell the workers thought I was annoying, I felt embarrassed to even ask the question. It really got me thinking about the humility it takes to ask for help and how hard it must be to find resources when you don't even know who to ask.



Do you have any stories from the week?

I took a Soul Sculpt Class (a HIIT Class in 90 degree temps). I go a few times a week, but the Lycra material in my dress was so hot I had to leave the room a few times I thought I was going to throw up from the heat. I also spent quite a bit of time trying to keep my dress on. But after the class, the two gals next to me asked about my dress, and they said "Wow, that's awesome."

Also, on Thursday the zipper got jammed, and I was nervous I was going to have to safety pin the dress closed on Friday, but I got it to work!

SUSTAINERS: THE FOUNDATION OF THE JLG

68% OF OUR
MEMBERS
ARE ...
SUSTAINERS

766 OF MORE THAN 1,100 MEMBERS

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

AGES RANGE FROM
35-100
YEARS OF AGE

THEY CONTRIBUTE
THEIR



TALENTS



EXPERIENCE



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

TO THE JLG

SUSTAINERS IN LEADERSHIP ROLES

29
SUSTAINING ADVISORS
TO COUNCILS &
COMMITTEES
1
SUSTAINER
REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

DONATIONS

received today are
32 times the amount of
the first donations
received in 1995.



HOLIDAY BAG PROJECT

IS ONE OF THE
BIGGEST IMPACTS
MADE BY
SUSTAINERS
EACH YEAR SINCE 1992.

OVER THE 30 YEARS OF THE
HOLIDAY BAG PROJECT, MORE
THAN 6,500 BAGS HAVE BEEN
DELIVERED TO PATIENTS
DEALING WITH CANCER.

THE FIRST YEAR, THE SUSTAINERS
CREATED 169 BAGS, AND NOW
EACH YEAR OVER 350 BAGS ARE
GENERATED BY JLG'S SUSTAINERS.

BUILDING

Building The Future of Greenville

// By *Kathryn Pond and Nicole McAden*

The infrastructure of the Upstate has seen vast improvements over the last 20 years. Junior League of Greenville Members have been a part of it all and are continuing to invest in Greenville. We've highlighted accomplishments from a few of our Members who are shaping our community and building the future of the Upstate.



DESIGNING OUR COMMUNITY



Meg Terry, Principal and CMO of DP3 Architects has seen firsthand how architecture and design play a key role in the Upstate.

What role do you see architecture and design play in a community?

Architecture and design help create place and culture. While a single piece of architecture cannot change a community, it can be the catalyst for change. It is through architecture that communities develop their identity and provide the critical services for people to live their lives.

What is something that you wish people would know about when it comes to architecture and design?

While the profession seems to be a simple concept, “go build a building,” it is really not that simple. Architects and designers become the conductor of the project. We typically coordinate everyone who has anything to do with the project from the client, engineers, general contractor, to the municipality where the building is being constructed.

What project would you say you are most proud of?

That may be the hardest question I get asked. I am proud of every project we do because they are all meaningful to the people who use them in a different way. They may not always be award winners, but they all contribute in their own ways to the fabric of the community.

Is there a dream project you'd love to work on in Greenville?

I'm not sure there is a dream project, but my favorite projects to work on are those that impact the most people and make their lives better in some small way.

In what other ways do you see yourself helping to shape the future of Greenville?

I have served on many task forces, boards and commissions for the City of Greenville. I currently serve as Chairperson on the Planning Commission. My service on the Planning Commission has opened my eyes to the complexity of how a city grows in smart ways. Affordability and infrastructure are the biggest challenges in the County right now. While conversations are being had about the struggles surrounding these topics, there is a long road ahead to solve those challenges.

A new comprehensive plan, GVL2040, brings a new Development Code to the City of Greenville. I believe we will see the landscape of Greenville evolve from a suburban city to a more urban city in the next 20 years. I am excited to be a part of that change and the success it will bring to Greenville.

SUPPORTING
A BETTER
COMMUNITY
THROUGH
NONPROFITS



Gina Bohlm, Director of Development at the Community Foundation knows that it is through the people within our community that we can only grow stronger.

What is your favorite part about working at the Community Foundation of Greenville?

My favorite part about working at the Community Foundation of Greenville (CFG) is collaborating with people that are invested in creating a place we all want for our families. It has been rewarding to work directly with past JLG Presidents and many JLG Sustainers.

I love learning what drives their desire to give back. I am fortunate to work with families who are new to town and families who have lived here for generations, all of which have different philanthropic interests. However, the one thing they all have in common is that they love calling Greenville home.

The CFG provides multiple grants and scholarships every year. Can you provide a program or grant recipient that exemplifies the Community Foundation's values?

The CFG has provided \$1.2 million in grants to OnTrack Greenville. OnTrack is an initiative that provides resources to keep students in middle grades to help keep them on track toward high school graduation. Our organization believes in their mission to eliminate barriers to success for the students, families and educators they serve. It aligns well with our vision that Greenville County is a thriving community where everyone can reach their full potential. We are proud to support this work with our partners at Hollingsworth Funds, United Way of Greenville County and the Jolley Foundation on such an important initiative.

Individual donors may sometimes feel apprehensive about giving small amounts. Could you provide insight as to how even small donations can have larger impacts?

The CFG was founded on the premise that together, community members can do more for their city than they can alone. We raise more than \$400,000 each year in our annual campaign with gifts ranging from \$20 to over \$10,000. These gifts are all appreciated and allow us to be responsive to our community's evolving needs.

One of the CFG's roles is to build collaborative relationships between nonprofits in order to support the evolving needs of our community. How can someone apply that same value to their personal life? How do you build relationships to better understand others?

I think it's important to be open-minded and to be a good listener. When we take time to build relationships with those we work with, we find opportunities to connect them with nonprofits doing meaningful work in our community that they may not have known about otherwise. I believe this is why the CFG tagline is so spot-on: Bridging philanthropy and purpose. We strive for this each and every day.

RECRUITING NEW
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS



Tavia Gaddy, Project Manager, the Greenville Area Development Corporation is shaping the economy in the Upstate with new business recruitment.

Describe your role at Greenville Area Development Corporation and how your position collaborates with others in the community?

As a Project Manager with the Greenville Area Development Corporation (GADC) my role is to facilitate the recruitment of new business into Greenville County and assist our existing industries with any inquiries or expansions. I collaborate with others in the community to accomplish these things.

GADC helps recruit businesses to the greater Greenville area. What do you think makes Greenville so unique?

There is no arguing that out of the 30+ cities and counties named Greenville, "That Greenville" (as in Greenville, South Carolina), is one of the most well-known. Our scenic downtowns, proximity along I-85 in between Charlotte and Atlanta and the ability to hike, cycle and enjoy a lake view makes Greenville obviously unique. Additionally, Greenville stands out because of all of the philanthropic partners. Without the efforts of these visionaries, "That Greenville" would not be what it is today.

What is a recent "win" you're proud of with respect to recruiting business?

Asking me what win I am most proud of is like asking a mother to reveal her favorite child. I am proud of all of them. Some are more complex than others, but I love them just the same.

What does the future of Greenville look like to you in regards to employment opportunities? What types of businesses or industries do you hope we'll see more of and how will this impact the job market for the next generation?

The future of Greenville, in regards to employment and types of businesses or industries, will continue to have a thriving manufacturing community. The future also includes more automation, such as robots, and an even more skilled workforce. I also hope to see more company headquarters and bioscience companies relocate to Greenville. The job market for the next generation is exciting. The growth and advances we have seen in just the past five years is breathtaking. Change is inevitable, and I feel like Greenville's next generation is up for the challenge.

BUILDING OUR
COMMUNITY



Cayce McCullough, Communications & Marketing Coordinator at Bunnell Landings Engineering is making space for women to pursue careers that continue to build our community.

You recently made a career switch to this industry, what made you consider the firm and what excites you about the industry?

I am the Communications and Marketing Coordinator at Bunnell-Lammons Engineering (BLE). We are an Environmental, Geotechnical and Construction Materials Testing firm with locations in Greenville, Asheville and Columbia. I manage the firm’s marketing and communication efforts in all three service areas.

After over 10 years of nonprofit fundraising, I found things starting to become very routine and began looking for something fresh and exciting. I’ve always had a connection in the Architectural Engineering and Construction fields. When I worked in nonprofits, I met people in the industry through networking events. I am married to a Professional Engineer and land surveyor. My father-in-law is a Professional Licensed Surveyor, and my late father managed a large construction materials store. I thought my marketing and communications skill set and my knowledge of the industry would be a great asset at BLE. It’s been a good fit so far, and it excites me everyday to tell BLE’s story and what we do. The impact this industry has on the greater Greenville community is unreal, from development to employment. Greenville is growing extensively, and it’s these local firms that are making it happen. I love being a part of it!

BLE provides engineering and construction services on many projects – what project were you most impressed by when learning about BLE’s work?

BLE has done a lot of incredible work in its 26-year history. Obviously, I gravitate to those projects we’ve been a part of in Greenville County. The Camperdown Redevelopment and Grand Bohemian are two of our more recent projects downtown. During my first week of work, I took a tour behind the scenes of the Grand Bohemian with one of our Senior Geotechnical Engineers before it was completely finished. I was wide-eyed realizing that I was now working with some very smart people. I also have to mention that as a Clemson alumna it has been really cool to see all of the projects we’ve been a part of there as well. We most recently were part of the construction of the new scoreboard at Memorial Stadium and the Wilbur O. and Ann Powers College of Business. I am so proud to say “BLE helped build that!” every time I walk or drive by one of our projects!

Construction and engineering is a male-dominated industry. Tell us what it means to be a woman working in this field.

We currently have 27 women on staff at BLE, and I am proud of each of them. Our women work so hard each and every day. They are smart, talented and very good at what they do, especially our engineers and geologists. It is a privilege to show off their projects. It’s part of my job, and one I don’t take lightly, to make sure women are well represented in our marketing efforts because it is

important we recruit and retain more women engineers, geologists, environmental scientists and technicians. I want women, especially young women looking at career options, to realize they belong in this industry too.

Do you have any advice for women looking to break into an industry like this?

Former UN Ambassador and first female Governor of South Carolina, Nikki Haley, once said “In every situation, go in knowing that you deserve to be in the room and prove it.” Prove to everyone you deserve a seat at the table. Work hard and don’t be afraid to stand up for yourself and what is right. Be able to balance grit with a little grace.

As the Upstate continues to evolve, it’s great to know that our Members are continuing to support it both within and outside of the League.



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TOWN

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Building Up the Community – And Your Closet

// By Susan Elliot and Nicole McAden

The Nearly New Shop (NNS) is the Junior League of Greenville’s largest fundraiser. Not only does the shop provide an affordable option for high-quality items—both for JLG Members and the public—but NNS proceeds support the JLG’s work by providing revenues needed for its annual events, grants, community outreach and other operational costs.

Additionally, the NNS helps JLG’s partners by donating housewares to Jasmine Road’s newest residential house, donating clothing to the Empowered Women of Greenville clothing drive, and donating dresses to the Cinderella Project pop-up shop event for high school students seeking prom dresses.

You can help support the JLG, and in turn support the work JLG does in the community, by shopping at the NNS!



NEED STYLING INSPIRATION?

Look no further than style influencers on social media! JLG Members recreate their favorite looks with NNS finds:

outfit 1 Happy Hour



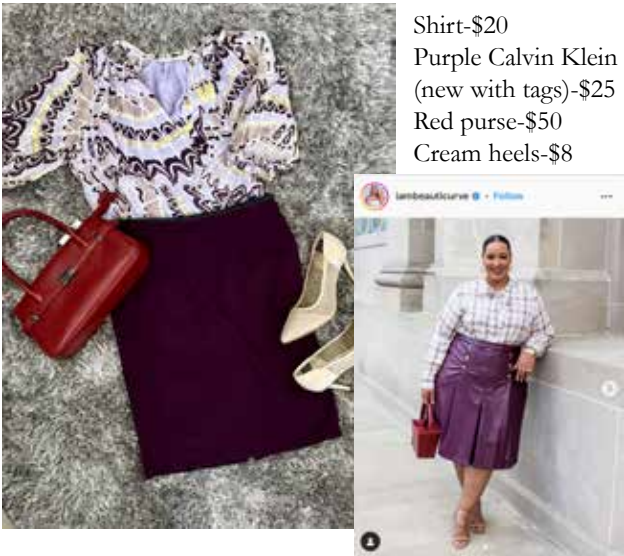
Ripped jeans-\$8
Grey sweater top-\$10
Black round purse-\$12
Steve Madden shoes-\$8
Pink belt-\$1

outfit 3 Work Chic



Black pants-\$16
Black purse-\$4
Cream blazer-\$40
Long sleeve black shirt-\$8
Salvatore Ferragamo leopard shoes-\$15

outfit 2 Office Attire



Shirt-\$20
Purple Calvin Klein skirt (new with tags)-\$25
Red purse-\$50
Cream heels-\$8

outfit 4 Farmer's Market



Tan/taupe purse-\$8
Seersucker pants-\$8
Pink top-\$8
Floral scarf-\$2
Strappy flats-\$8

outfit 5 Weekend Errands



Tan crossbody purse-\$6
White pants-\$8
Coral shirt-\$8
Tretorn sneakers-\$8



outfit 7 Girls’ Night Out



Red floral dress - \$30
Nine West shoes - \$6
Gold clutch - \$10
Gold earrings - \$5



outfit 6 Afternoon Brewery



Hat-\$1
Seahorse bag-\$20
Loafers-\$15
Belt-\$4
Black jeans-\$8
Jacket/blazer-\$15
White long sleeve shirt-\$6



outfit 8 Formal Event



Calvin Klein black platform heels-\$8
Black purse-\$12 (new with tags)
Pink necklace-\$7
Black dress (Ella Moss)-\$25



NNS BY THE NUMBERS

20,566 Transactions Per Year (2022)
a 49% increase since 2020

71,735 Total Items Sold (2022)

25,059 Total Women’s Items Sold (2022)

HOW TO THRIFT

Tips for Getting the Most Out of Your Trip to the Nearly New Shop

Prepare ahead of time:

- Make room - clean out your closet and dresser to make room for your new finds!
- Know what you have - while you’re purging items that no longer suit you, take note of what items you already own so that you don’t end up with duplicates.
- Missing pieces - what items are missing from your wardrobe? Make a list of items you could see yourself wearing that compliment your existing clothes.

On the day of your shopping trip:

- Don’t go hungry - thrifting takes time, as each item is unique. You’ll want to make sure you’re in a good mood and won’t fall prey to hunger pains that could make you rush the experience.
- Start with your list - thrift stores can feel overwhelming, so it’s best to start with your list of missing wardrobe pieces.

In the dressing room:

- Don’t succumb to the deal - thrift store price tags can often present a deal too good to walk away from. But, it’s more important that you feel good wearing it.
- Ask yourself when you’ll wear it - think about the occasions that you could wear the item. How does this piece fit in with what you already own?
- Don’t be afraid of alterations - often, a simple alteration can perfect a piece of clothing. So, don’t be afraid of an inseam that’s too long or a waistline that needs to be taken in.



Building Up the Next Generation

// By Nicole McAden

JLG Members spend a lot of time advancing women’s leadership opportunities, impacting the community, volunteering and attending training. We assume that these efforts will leave a lasting, positive impression on the children in our lives. To appreciate their understanding of the Mission, vision and values of the JLG, the following questions were posed to Little Leaguers.



What does it mean to volunteer?

“It means to help someone and not get paid.” - Noah, 9
“To help the community and those in it” - Jack, 10
“If someone needs you to do something, you do it to help that person.” - Mia, 8

What does mom do when she goes to Junior League?

“Work. Important work. She works and plays and all that kind of stuff.” - Presnell, 3.5
“She helps stop human trafficking” - Jack, 10
“Feels happy from seeing friends” - Jeanette Marie, 6

Can women be good leaders?

“YES!! Because if only boys were leaders, it wouldn’t be fair. Women can teach other people to be good friends.” - Mary Ellen, 6
“Yes, because they’re sometimes moms and moms are the awesomest. Girls that aren’t moms can be good leaders too because they are kind.” - Finnegan, 5
“Yeah, because women can rule the world!” - Charlie, 9

What type of training would help someone be a good leader?

“Ninja training” - Finnegan, 5
“I think they’d have to have a lot of experience so they can understand other peoples’ experiences and help them from that understanding.” - Noah, 9
“5K. I learned it’s good to stay away from snakes and spiders.” - Ansley, 4

What does a safe, healthy and nurturing community look like?

“Well, it would be a place where people eat healthy food, are nice to each other, and where people are friends.” - Mary Ellen, 6
“Mommy’s and daddy’s” - Luke, 5
“I think it looks like people smiling, enjoying the activities I see them doing. A community free of abuse, homelessness and drugs.” - Avery, 13

What does it mean for an organization to be diverse?

“Like a pile of leaves!” - Nora, 2 (I took this to mean that each leaf is unique and different ;))
“When you don’t just have the same kind of person, because that is boring!” - Mia, 8

How do you show compassion?

“With hugs and being loving and sharing gifts” - Jack, 5
“Say things like I love you and I hope you live your dreams. Give them gifts and toys.” - Presnell, 3.5
“I like to spread kindness and joy by saying nice things to people and using friendly facial expressions such as smiling and laughing.” - Avery, 13
“Showing compassion would be helping someone when they need it, or maybe even doing something nice for them, like giving them a flower or going over and helping them if they’re hurt.” - Charlie, 9



BUILDING

Building the Framework for Change

// By *Kathryn Pond*

The Junior League of Greenville is continuously adapting to meet the needs of our growing community. While each Committee strives to make an impact in the Upstate, the Advocacy and the Education Committees have worked together this year to better understand and mitigate the barriers that women encounter, particularly around Economic Mobility and Human Trafficking.

Members learn about our Focus Areas by attending events held by partner agencies, such as the SWITCH Gala



The Advocacy Committee hosted a panel of female elected officials in the Greenville area to share their experiences and expertise with JLG Members.

The Advocacy Committee has long been a part of the JLG. In the past, the Committee has focused on researching the impact of Economic Mobility and Human Trafficking within the Upstate. Now that the research has been established, the Committee took a turn to provide more training opportunities this year. The Advocacy 101 Training that the Committee developed includes forums with the Greenville Chamber of Commerce and elected women officials in the area.

Chair Mary Latrick recognizes that once politics are involved, it is important to steer away from polarizing positions, but at the same time encourage Members to speak up for what is important to them. She believes: “As League Members, we can coalesce around causes that directly affect our Focus Areas in order to advocate for the most vulnerable among us in our community. We have the power to remove politics from real issues that people around us deal with every day and simply use our voices to amplify awareness of areas needing action and care.”

One such example of how the Advocacy Committee showed their commitment to empowering women to speak on issues that matter to them was the non-partisan voting guide for the 2022 midterm elections. The guide included information on voting registration, dates and links with information on each candidate. As a shareable document, the voting guide was a great way to give League Members and other local citizens a base to stimulate conversation around the issues.

You might say that knowledge works hand in hand with being an effective voice for change, and that’s why the Education Committee works hand in hand with our Advocacy Committee within the JLG. Newly formed in 2019, the Education Committee was developed to foster a better understanding of the JLG’s new Focus Areas of Economic Mobility and Human Trafficking. Not only is the Committee focused on informing Members of our core focus, it also works with our six Community Partners to see how we can support them in these causes.

Meghan Chaney, Chair of the Education Committee, has been with the Committee for three years and has found how a League opportunity can fuel a personal motivation for a deeper understanding of Economic Mobility and Human Trafficking. She has seen firsthand how the League has made a difference. One memorable event was gathering Community Partners to be a part of a panel to discuss how the issues within these Focus Areas intersect and affect one another.

Both the Education Committee and the Advocacy Committee are a part of to the Community Impact Council. The structure of the Council will have some exciting changes next year to look forward to based on the ever-evolving needs of the Upstate. We can’t wait to see the strides that will be made both within the League and around Greenville!

BUILDING

Building the Potential of Women: 2023 Empowered Women of Greenville

// By *Andrea Simrell*

“...I’m a woman Phenomenally. Phenomenal woman, That’s me.”

Excerpt from “Phenomenal Woman” by Maya Angelou



Jennifer Jones began her morning keynote by reciting this poem—setting the tone for what would be an inspiring Empowered Women of Greenville conference (EWG), the Junior League of Greenville’s signature Community Impact event.

EWG is a free, day-long conference focused on helping women reach their full potential. Now in its third year, the 2023 program included featured speakers, breakout sessions and opportunities for networking for around 100 JLG Members and women served by our partner agencies, along with women from the greater Greenville community.

In addition to sharing the beautiful Maya Angelou poem, Jennifer Jones, told the story of Beauty Marks for Girls, the non-profit organization she founded geared toward empowering the lives

of girls whose mothers are incarcerated. Within the framework of the program, Jennifer aids to instill in participants the values of self-belief, confidence and resilience.

In her presentation, Jennifer spoke of her belief that every scar has a story to tell and that story deserves to be told and deserves to be heard. She shared three things women need to turn pain into power and that power into a platform: vulnerability, community and grit.

After that powerful message, EWG participants attended breakout sessions grouped into four categories: health & wellness, financial literacy, career & job search and building community. Learning insights and beneficial tips from local experts in these fields, women came away with a better understanding of how to set goals and take action to better their lives.

In between sessions, attendees could visit the Complimentary Clothing Closet where they could take home donated clothing, shoes and accessories. They could also speak to the Community Resource Fair participants to learn more about the services they offer, including counseling, physical therapy and financial assistance.

The event wrapped up with lunch and the closing keynote speaker, Meliah Bowers Jefferson, Executive Director of The Jolley Foundation. Meliah is a top-level attorney, spokesperson, motivational speaker and heart attack survivor who used her childhood, wrought with tragedy, as the very foundation on which she built a life—and legacy—of purpose.

“I’m a first year Active, and the Empowered Women of Greenville Committee was my top choice for a Placement. I am passionate about empowering women and helping them discover solutions by providing strategies and solutions, like through this event. It’s something the JLG should be proud of!”

Samantha Zimmerschied
EWG COMMITTEE MEMBER

The themes of Meliah’s presentation were resilience and purpose, or your “why.” In addition to sharing her inspiring story, she concluded with three takeaways that attendees will remember well beyond the day’s events:

- Resilience is a group activity.
- A well-lived life is not a perfect life.
- You need to be at the top of your priority list.

EWG aligns with the JLG’s Mission of advancing women’s leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration and training. Although the 2023 EWG event has ended, the JLG’s work to help women in our community overcome barriers, specifically related to Human Trafficking and Economic Mobility, continues.

“Working with the Empowered Women of Greenville Committee to put on the EWG event was an incredible experience. The women of the Junior League of Greenville are impressive in their willingness to give back to our community. Throughout this League year, I’ve continued to improve my organizational and time management skills. The details are a lot but having such a great Vice Chair and Committee was the key!”

Jen Compton
EWG CHAIR

EMPOWERED WOMEN OF GREENVILLE 2023 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Health & Wellness

- Meal Planning and Movement on a Budget with Brittany Jones, MS, RD, LD
- Mindfulness for Stress Management and Well-Being with Sherrie Turner
- Sleeping to Success with Navina Mehta, MD

Financial Literacy

- Building Credit with Kristin Huntman
- Review, Reflect & Set Financially Empowered Moves for 2023 with Sara Carter
- The Path to Financial Wellness with Roslyn Gilstrap

Career & Job Search

- Finding the One: Resume Tips and Job Search Strategies for Empowered Women with Diane Iseminger
- Get Fired Up with Confidence and Passion with Angela Gaines
- Start with What’s Strong: Identifying and Developing Your Assets with Janna Pennington

Building Community

- Find your Voice in the Crowd with Mary Sturgill
- Creating Unshakeable Confidence: How to Overcome Negative Self-Talk and Achieve your Goals with Karin Freeland

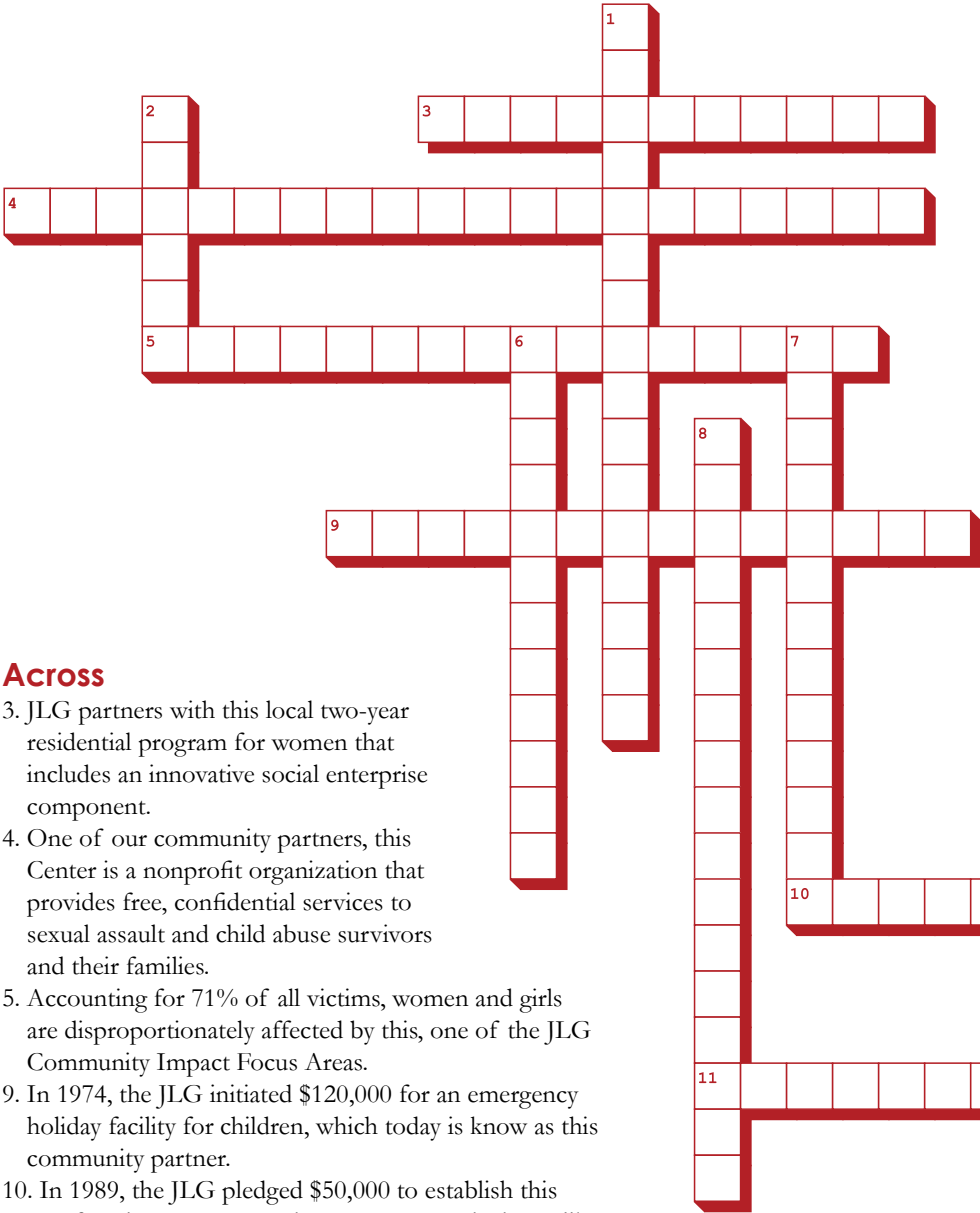
“The impactful speakers and people who attended helped make the EWG event a success. I personally have felt so much joy being a part of the EWG team the last three years, and it’s been great to see its impact reach more people each year.”

Stacy Martin
EWG COMMITTEE MEMBER



JLG Crossword Puzzle

// By Annalise Sinclair



Across

- 3. JLG partners with this local two-year residential program for women that includes an innovative social enterprise component.
- 4. One of our community partners, this Center is a nonprofit organization that provides free, confidential services to sexual assault and child abuse survivors and their families.
- 5. Accounting for 71% of all victims, women and girls are disproportionately affected by this, one of the JLG Community Impact Focus Areas.
- 9. In 1974, the JLG initiated \$120,000 for an emergency holiday facility for children, which today is know as this community partner.
- 10. In 1989, the JLG pledged \$50,000 to establish this performing arts venue where you can catch shows like Hamilton and Wicked.
- 11. Greenville has been noted as one of the most challenging places in the country for someone born into poverty to climb the economic ladder; hence why this is one of the JLG Community Impact Focus Areas.

Down

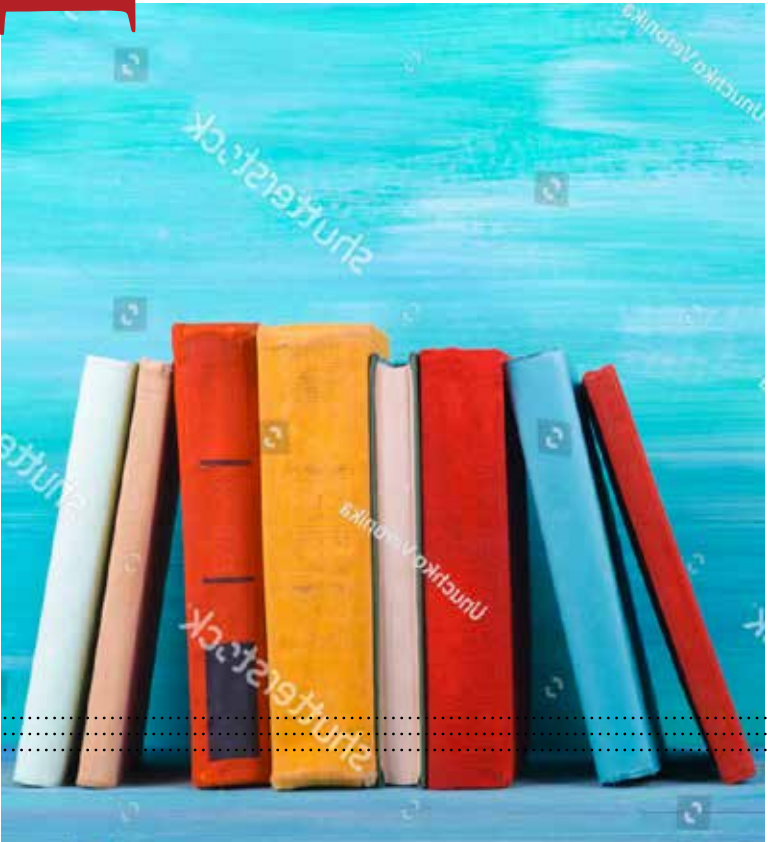
- 1. Focused on serving and empowering members of the Greenville community on the path to self-sufficiency, this community partner helps individuals overcome homelessness, obtain GEDs, and learn financial literacy.
- 2. This community partner is a grassroots organization leading the movement to end sex trafficking and sexual exploitation in the Upstate.
- 6. Through programs like Serenity Place, this community partner works to reduce addiction as a leading cause of family collapse and harm to children in South Carolina.
- 7. Originally called The Opportunity Shop, this is the JLG's largest fundraiser.
- 8. This program helps financially challenged young women to feel like the belle of the ball at their high school formal events.

Key
1. Jasmín road
2. switch
3. juvenile center
4. pendleton place
5. family effect
6. united ministries
7. peace center
8. nearby shop
9. children's project
10. economic mobility
11. human trafficking

BUILDING

Book recommendations and food and beverage pairings from JLG Book Club Members

// By Nicole McAden



Madhouse at the End of the Earth

by Julian Sancton

“I liked this because it was a window into the passionate curiosity of the times and the zeal for expeditions.” - Marianne Ballard

Pairs well with: A nice fresh citrus salad (Vitamin C helps sailors prevent scurvy!)

Rock, Paper, Scissors

by Alice Feeney

“This was a really fun and quick read with a wonderful twist I didn’t see coming. With so many flawed characters, there was tons to discuss.” - Meredith O’Malley

Pairs well with: Fish and chips or a Scotch and Coke (maybe even together), as the story takes place in Scotland

Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead

by Olga Tokarczuk

“Superb writing, enchanting story and surprise ending. A worthy read; it won a Nobel prize for fiction. Can’t get much better than that.” - Liz Basnight

Pairs well with: Root vegetables to honor the main character’s love of nature

The Dictionary of Lost Words

by Pip Williams

“It is fiction based on the true story of the writing of the first Oxford English Dictionary. I was fascinated with the picture at the end of the book.” - Sue Ellen Harvell

Pairs well with: Hot English Breakfast tea and scones

Lessons in Chemistry

by Bonnie Garmus

“This is a fun, heart-warming read about a woman trying to follow her true calling. Filled with interesting characters you grow to care for, the end will leave you feeling full and satisfied.” - Nicole McAden

Pairs well with: Homemade lasagna. The novel’s heroine loves to make hearty stews and casseroles

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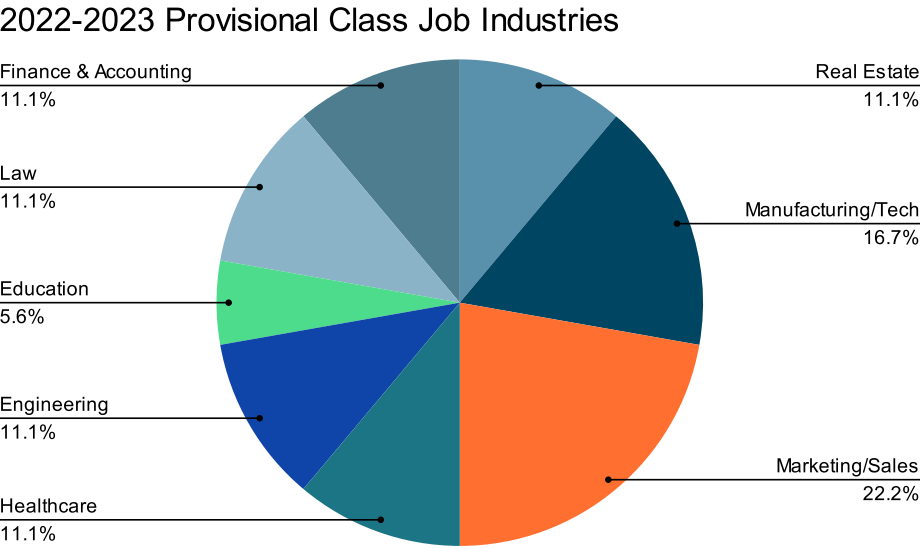
JLG 2022-2023 PROVISIONAL CLASS

Building Strong Relationships in the Community

// By Kathryn Pond

One thing all of our League Members have in common is a passion for being a part of our community. There are a plethora of contributions that each Member makes, both within and outside of the League, to ensure the Upstate is a safe and enjoyable place to live. This year's Provisional class is no different.


When Provisional Members were asked what they hope to get out of the JLG, an overwhelming amount said a larger professional network. This pie chart shows the diverse fields of expertise represented by the Provisionals' careers. It's great to see diverse career paths as an opportunity to synergize our strengths.



Because the Upstate has seen and continues to see exponential growth year over year, there are a myriad of organizations that support causes similar to JLG. Involvement in these organizations brings a unique perspective to help the League have greater visibility into issues within the community. We are proud of the work that our Provisionals are doing through these avenues. Here is a list of just some of the many organizations they contribute to that might spark an interest in other Members, too.

- Project Management Institute
- PTSA
- Greenville Bar Association
- Church
- Sorority alumni
- Greenville Young Professionals
- Greenville Chamber Pacesetters
- Friends of Reedy River
- Upstate Forever
- Habitat for Humanity
- National Association of Professional Mortgage Women


And many more! Next time you meet someone new in the JLG, good topics of conversation would be fields of work and involvement in other organizations within the community. The work our Members do throughout Greenville brings greater growth and diverse perspectives to the JLG.



S

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