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contents & **FEATURES** // Summer 2019



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Letter from
THE PRESIDENT

“A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”
- Margaret Mead

The Junior League of Greenville (JLG) has been promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving our community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers since 1929. As we prepare to celebrate our 90th anniversary this fall, we are committed to expanding our impact in the Greenville community.

This past year, following the lead of the Association of Junior Leagues International encouragement to adopt a single Community Impact Focus, we decided to take a deeper look at our community initiatives and determine if our focus should be changed. With this thought, a Community Task Force convened and after extensive research, revealed two underserved and significant issues in our community: Economic Mobility and Human Trafficking. This issue of VISIONS will introduce our readers to the agencies with whom we will be partnering. We are excited about the visible impact the JLG will undoubtedly have on these two critical issues in our community.

I have been humbled and honored to serve as the 2018-19 President of the Junior League of Greenville and remain in awe of the women with whom I have served. I am proud of our many accomplishments and grateful to be part of an organization that continues to impact our community and accomplish our Mission. It has been my pleasure to witness firsthand how *Empowered Women Empower Women*.

Amy Rogers

Amy Rogers
President, 2018 - 19
Junior League of Greenville, Inc.



Amy Rogers



Amy Rogers is a native of North Carolina, but she has called Greenville home since high school. She is a graduate of Clemson University where she earned both a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's in Applied Sociology. She is married to Clem, and they have two teenage daughters, Abby and Liza. Amy works as the Registrar at Christ Church Episcopal School and is a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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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**

Searching for and responding to community need is a hallmark of Junior Leagues. This issue, focused on a Task Force, provides a perfect opportunity to pause and consider some of what the Junior League of Greenville has responded to in the past. With our new Focus and cornerstone partnership with Pendleton Place, we have a wonderful opportunity to examine the process of the JLG establishing Pendleton Place.

Dick Riley, former US Secretary of Education and SC Governor, shared with me an account of the Task Force known as The Community Research Committee. His wife, Tunky, with Charlotte Sloan, Caroline Johnston, and Sheila Ryan Lee learned through conversation with members of law enforcement of the enormous need for a halfway house for abused and battered children. Louise Oxner, President 1974-75, graciously shared with me issues of Piedmont Prattle (as the member newsletter was then known). The November 1974 issue announced, “The Community Research Committee will present at the November meeting a new project that is the biggest project that the League has ever undertaken, both in terms of money and time involved. The purpose of this project is to establish an emergency holding facility for children. Runaways and children who have been abandoned, neglected or abused are now housed in the city jail for lack of a proper facility. In 1973, over 300 children needed such a facility.” The Membership voted on the project in January. Then in the February 1975 issue, President Oxner wrote, “I hope all of you shared the overwhelming sense of pride that I felt for our League at the meeting on January 7. It seems that we have set our sights high and that we are determined to accomplish our aims.” In addition, the JLG held a public meeting with over 450 in attendance. Community response was very positive. From this point, The Youth Hostelry Committee began its work leading to the purchase of a house, Pendleton Place, in April of 1975.

Pendleton Place has served our community well! The fact that 44 years later, through another Task Force, the JLG is entering into a new partnership with this agency holds special meaning for us.

Lesa Kastler

Lesa Kastler
Sustainer Representative, 2018 - 19
Junior League of Greenville, Inc.

Lesa Kastler grew up in a family that moved with her father's position with Exxon. She has now lived in Greenville longer than any other place and considers it home. She received an undergraduate degree from Trinity University and two graduate degrees from The University of Texas at Austin. Currently, she is serving on the Advisory Council for A Child's Haven and is Vice-chair of the Board of Directors for the Community Foundation of Greenville. She is married to Bill and they have two sons, Tres and Robert.



Letter from
THE EDITOR

It takes a village.

Not just to raise a child, but to change the world. To publish a magazine like VISIONS. To bring to life, well, visions that will shape our community.

The League is all about being part of that village. When I agreed to be the VISIONS Editor last year, it wasn't without trepidation. I had just left the industry I had been working in for seven years. At the same time, I was going back to grad school to get my master's degree, and my parents—who are aging, as parents do—just moved to South Carolina from Alabama to be closer to me. I knew fitting in all my responsibilities at VISIONS was going to be tough amid all my other major life changes. I also knew I had huge shoes to fill.

VISIONS is a labor of love. It synthesizes all the efforts of the entire League into 30 pages, twice a year. It has to be timely and also timeless. In the end, it is glossy and beautiful and reflects the work this organization pours into the Greenville community year after year.

This committee is made up of the people that are dedicated to the VISIONS cause. No one person should be expected to uphold the VISIONS legacy alone. When I hold in my hands this physical issue of VISIONS, I know it won't be without tears for all the hard work we've put in this year, my last on the VISIONS committee. I am filled with gratitude for the support I received from my committee staff, the larger JLG Communications team, and our readership. I couldn't have done it without you, and I know that VISIONS—and the JLG vision—is in good hands.

Emily Clever

Emily Clever
Editor, 2018 - 19
Junior League of Greenville, Inc.

Emily Clever is the current editor for VISIONS. An Auburn alumna, Emily grew up in Mobile, Ala., but moved to Greenville eight years ago. Emily is a product consultant at ClickDimensions and a student in the University of South Carolina's Master of Social Work program. Emily lives in downtown Greenville with her spouse Creighton, two bunnies and a cat.



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TRANSFORMING LIVES

With an investment of time, talent, and resources, JLG hopes to empower lasting change

// By J. Lisa Maronie



At the beginning of 2019, the Junior League of Greenville announced a plan to adopt a new approach to partnering with community nonprofit agencies. This new strategy focuses on two impact areas, economic mobility and human trafficking, that are aimed at helping women overcome barriers. Not only will future funding be awarded to these agencies, beginning with the 2019-2020 League year, the JLG will also supply volunteers who are serving in Community Impact Council Placements.

As recommended by the 2018-19 Community Project Research & Development Committee, the economic mobility cornerstone partners selected were Pendleton Place and The Family Effect. Both organizations help women and their children rise above challenging circumstances, empowering the mothers to provide better lives for themselves and preparing the next generation for greater opportunities.

Pendleton Place

The League’s partnership with Pendleton Place is another pleasant chapter in a long history. JLG Members were instrumental in forming the agency over 40 years ago when they felt convicted to fight the injustices foster children in our community were enduring. Today, Pendleton Place works to keep children safe and build strong families by providing a continuum of services for children, youth and families that intervene when abuse or neglect occurs and help prevent it from ever happening. Pendleton Place offers residential, clinical, and community-based services that include a residential facility for foster care teens and a youth drop-in center & emergency shelter for homeless youth and runaways.

Jed Dews, Executive Director, spoke of a shared legacy and hopes for the future, “The Junior League of Greenville’s support of Pendleton Place reaches back to the organization’s founding in 1975. In the same way that they improved the lives of children experiencing abuse and neglect then, the determined women of the League continue to invest in the lives of traumatized youth who find themselves at crossroads. Together, we can equip them with the safety, skills, and resources they need to live successful, independent lives.”



The Family Effect

The Family Effect is a community partner the League has worked with over the years. The agency is the fundraising organization that supports The Phoenix Center, Serenity Place and Whitehorse Academy and works to reduce addiction as a leading cause of family collapse and harm to children. Their residential facility, Serenity Place, allows children to stay with their mother (only three percent of residential programs for substance abuse in the country do so) as part of a very effective healing process.

“The JLG’s support is multifaceted and sends a strong message to the women and children at Serenity Village,” said Director of Community Engagement, Allison Safford, on the League’s commitment. “The families in our program have often been tossed aside and feel as though their community has given up on them. The dedication of strong JLG women provides our families with newfound hope and motivation to better their lives. We cannot thank the JLG enough for their support and for providing healthy, inspirational role models for the women at Serenity Village – that is something they likely have never encountered and has the ability to transform lives.”



Economic Mobility Volunteer Opportunities

Odds are, JLG Members fulfilling these new Community Impact Council Placements will get more out of their service than they give. Lives will likely be transformed on both sides as Members call on their social capital – expertise, network, talents, etc. – to help women overcome barriers. Training will be provided to achieve the greatest impact teaching life skills; tutoring teen girls living in foster care; providing childcare for residents’ young children; mentoring a mother conquering substance abuse, being an administrative volunteer, or providing event or donation center support; coordinating and serving meals; and serving on Programs Committees. The mothers and young women in these programs yearn for the wisdom and know-how that JLG members possess. Sharing that knowledge will be a victory for all!

During the upcoming 2019-20 League year, advocacy opportunities will be researched so that advocates can champion system and policy changes the following year. Over a two-year Placement, Advocacy Committee Members will be challenged to uncover needs and barriers as well as build relationships with policy makers. There is an Education Committee tasked with creating a service opportunity in which placed Members will be charged with conveying a clear message about JLG’s Impact Areas to both internal and external communities.

The A Nearly New You Committee will also aid and support our Economic Mobility Focus. They are developing a curriculum to help the women of our partner agencies with life skills lessons in financial literacy and professional dress, self-care workshops with activities such as yoga and flower arranging, and fostering workforce development.

PendletonPlace.org
FamilyEffect.org



HUMAN TRAFFICKING: SWITCH

// By Meghan Pavelkae

This year, the Junior League of Greenville’s Community Impact Task Force gathered together to restructure and refocus how the League affects and positively influences the community. This new approach led to the creation of two new Impact Areas: Human Trafficking and Economic Mobility. The Community Project Research & Development Committee then set off to research possible cornerstone partners for these new areas. During the January 2019 General Membership Meeting, Pendleton Place and the Family Effect were presented as partners under Economic Mobility, and SWITCH and Jasmine Road were presented as partners under Human Trafficking. The four nonprofits benefit by receiving JLG grant money and volunteers, while JLG members gain or polish advocacy and community service skills.

In their second year of partnership with the JLG, SWITCH, a human trafficking prevention organization, is looking forward to growing through their relationship with the League. Through the partnership, one of the main goals of SWITCH is to educate both League members and the community about the realities of human trafficking in the Upstate. With awareness as a main goal, SWITCH believes that victims can be more easily spotted and helped. Once these victims are recognized, helping them find healing and the services needed to rebuild their lives is key. Breaking free from the unhealthy cycles created in the life of a sex trafficking victim is a tremendous challenge. A victim needs support, love, understanding and resources to help overcome the obstacles of their past and start a new, healthy life for themselves.

Zaina Greene, Executive Director of SWITCH, explained that the money and volunteers received from the League “allowed us to extend the depth and reach of our prevention program through Love

146’s Not a Number curriculum.” She explained that this prevention tool “goes beyond a basic awareness discussion for youth and seeks to equip them with a strong understanding of how a trafficker creates a false sense of safety and slowly tricks a person into taking small steps that lead them to becoming a victim of trafficking and exploitation.” Volunteers from the League help SWITCH with this curriculum by completing multiple hours of training to ensure they are well-educated, informed and equipped leaders who can speak and spread awareness in the community. Volunteers in the program can also teach prevention skills to young people in the community and build relationships with those who have been affected by human trafficking.

One of the most important aspects about the partnership between SWITCH and the JLG is “the energy, professionalism and heart for service that League members bring to the table” states Greene. The support of the JLG brings extra strength and renewed energy to the fight as SWITCH faces a dark crime on a daily basis. Together, the strong and powerful voices of the JLG and SWITCH can help to speak out against human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Bringing as many voices to the fight is what it will take to see this epidemic come to an end.

Not only has the restructuring of the League led to updated Community Impact Areas, it has also changed how League members are placed. While the Junior League will be supplying volunteers to the connected organizations, these volunteers will work in direct connection to the League and not under the organization they are volunteering for. The goal of the restructuring effort is to have League members feel more connected to the JLG.



JLG Embraces Diversity & Inclusion

// By J. Lisa Maronie

During the week of March 11, the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) held an online Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) boot camp. The five-part series consisted of live video chats facilitated by a team of experts from various Leagues who engaged members on critical topics. They shared best practices for embedding D&I into a local organization and discussed addressing resistance and unconscious bias, building competencies to lead D&I conversations, and what an inclusive environment looks like. President-Elect Sarah Lynne Howie and Recruitment Chair Jessica Sharp wrapped up the series the final day by diving deeper into viewers' questions that emerged from previous sessions.

The Junior League of Greenville has adopted AJLI's Diversity and Inclusion Commitment Statement, "The Junior League welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations and communities." This statement supersedes the 1978 Reaching Out Statement in order to expand beyond race, religion and national origin. Diversity and Inclusion is not a fad; it's a wise investment.

JLG has addressed D&I in various ways through the years. That prior experience and Sarah Lynne and Jessica's enthusiastic participation at the AJLI Area III Conference in February helped seal the deal for JLG's leadership representation at the D&I boot camp. Their eagerness to quickly implement some of the suggested best practices caught the eye of Janine le Sueur, VP of Programs at AJLI, and earned them the privilege to co-host a web chat session and open dialogue for all Junior Leagues. Sarah Lynne believes it was a helpful process for others who are also fairly new in the D&I journey and that it assured them that they aren't alone.

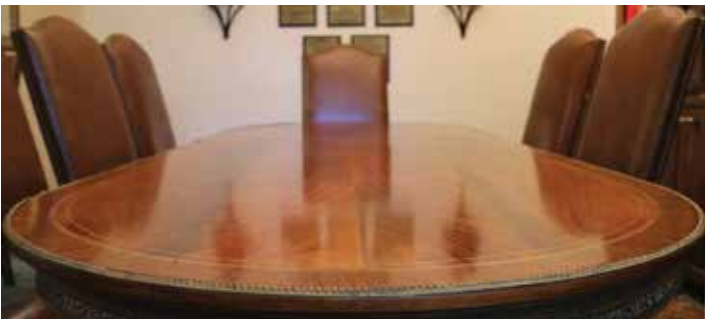
Jessica has worked in D&I in both professional and community capacities. That strong background will certainly help ensure JLG gets it right, which she places emphasis on rather than doing it fast. Jessica explains, "There is an overwhelming amount of data that says diversity is good for business because of the increase of ideas and creativity that comes with it. To get those benefits of diversity, we have to have diverse minds at the table. While there is certainly a sense of urgency related to this work, it is more important to make sure there has been intentionality around who is at the table and that they feel comfortable and included. If they are not, they may walk away feeling excluded, dissatisfied and unhappy. Diversity without inclusion is detrimental if people don't feel welcome."

This League year, the JLG took a different approach to recruiting and considered how diversity interacts with recruitment efforts. The type and frequency of events were adjusted, going from two which tended to be at night, to offering more events at timeframes that accommodated more Prospective Members, and at locations connected to JLG.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

In the League's 2019-20 rollout year, Leslie Latimer will lead the D&I task force as JLG's first D&I Coordinator. Leslie will be dedicated to research, training and data, and she will focus on assessing where we stand in being a diverse and inclusive organization. JLG will implement initiatives into our Strategic Plan that are specific to D&I. Additionally, we will ask a group of JLG members from varied backgrounds, ages and ethnicities to participate in a D&I Task Force to assist our D&I Coordinator in this process. Eventually, we will offer training opportunities, both in-person and online to our Members, as well as include "D&I Moments" in our meetings.

In the past 15 years of Sarah Lynne's JLG membership, she has witnessed much evolution where diversity and inclusion are concerned. She describes the League as having "more women of color, a more varied age representation as Active members and a more diverse image in the community." However, she cautions, "without dedicated resources to the cause, it's difficult to set goals and measure them successfully. We serve a great, diverse community. We need to ensure that our membership reflects the same image and culture. We also need to *talk* more openly about our differences in order to better understand one another, and thus better serve our organization and the Greenville community."



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Shopping for a Cause

// By Meghan Pavelka

Shop for Greenville, the Junior League of Greenville’s spring fundraiser, has completed its second year. This event promotes Greenville County businesses through a ten day shopping event that took place from March 15-24. Before the event began, shopping cards and books were purchased by League Members and the Greenville community. These books detailed each participating business and the discounts they offered. Over 95 businesses participated this year, including the JLG’s very own The Nearly New Shop, The Chocolate Moose Bakery, Paisley and Paper and many more! This year, the Committee made a few changes to make it a easier to navigate the whole event. In the book, additional pages showed each participant by geographic region. Shop for Greenville Committee Chair, Mary Kay Heffernan, said, “We are hoping this helped people find some new stores to check out and made for easier shopping.”

Last year, Shop for Greenville replaced Big Night Out as one of the League’s fundraisers. In order to continue the social aspect of the fundraiser, Shop for Greenville had a kickoff party at Pour Taproom in downtown Greenville on March 19. The Shop Night featured five participating businesses that stayed open for extended hours exclusively for JLG members and guests that purchased the discount shopping card. Shop for Greenville Committee members were placed at each of the five participating business to hand out event maps and talk about the impact of Shop for Greenville. At Pour Taproom, members and their guests could purchase raffle ticket for amazing baskets featuring donated items from participating businesses with values on some topping \$1000. League member Megan Jarrett remarked, “The GMM at Pour was very relaxed and fun. I liked being able to meet new members at the League and do some shopping too!”



Ashley Chaffee, a Shop for Greenville Committee member, explained one of the benefits of the event: “while speaking to business and boutiques I realized that many places we partner with are owned by women... they can be exposed to a larger audience.” one hundred percent of the proceeds generated from the sale of the JLG Shop for Greenville discount cards support the League’s programs and projects as we work together to improve the lives of women and children. With the generous support of our Members and community partners, the 2019 Shop for Greenville raised over \$16,000 for the JLG and we look forward to continued growth and success for this event in the years to come.

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JLG Member Jessica Sharp Is Helping Shape the Future of Greenville

// By **J. Lisa Maronie**

Jessica Sharp is dedicated to advancing the rights of our community's underserved people. As a steering committee member on Greenville 2040, the City's comprehensive plan to influence decision making regarding regulations, policies and projects that will impact development over the next 20 years, she has the privilege to serve all of Greenville's citizens.

Jessica is the Director of Development and Recruitment as well as Founder and Chief Brain Educator with Sharp Brain Consulting, where she works with youth and the adults who serve them. She has extensive nonprofit experience through past employment at Meals on Wheels, and Prisma Health (formerly Greenville Health System), for the teen services branch of the YMCA Greenville as well as her volunteer service on JL Mann High School's School Improvement Council, United Way's YP Leadership Giving Society Council, and for Greenville Theatre, A Child's Haven, Greenville Chamber of Commerce, LeadHER Greenville, the Urban League's Upstate Network, and Better Business Bureau of the Upstate. In addition, the 2017 Rising Star of the Association of Junior Leagues International is a graduate of Leadership Greenville, a Diversity Fellow with the Riley Institute and was recently named the 2018 Young Professional of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce.

Jessica Sharp is undeniably qualified to serve on Greenville 2040. She is one of 38 individuals selected from 200+ applicants working with elected officials, the City's Planning & Development Division staff, Planning NEXT consultants and other community members. Over the course of 20 months, they will explore population, natural resources, housing and transportation to develop long-term recommendations for land use, community facilities, connectivity, open space and recreation areas (like Unity Park), cultural and natural resources, and economic development. The plan will be rolled out next spring.

Pleased that the committee is comprised of a distinctive group of change makers, heavy hitters and boots-on-the-ground crusaders, Jessica notes it is also intentionally diverse in terms of race and age. She is optimistic that her community involvement, age (millennial) and education (marketing degree from the University of

South Carolina, Master's degree in Public Affairs from the University of Missouri, and Doctorate in Leadership Psychology she is pursuing from William James College) give her a unique perspective and make her voice worthy of being listened to.

Jessica is an Alabama native whose family was living in New York during her teen years. They jumped at the chance to return south when a job opportunity brought them to Greenville. Now that she has made a conscious decision to make Greenville home, she feels a responsibility for "keeping it good and making it better," and especially preparing a brighter future for the students she works with. Jessica's love for her new hometown stems from Greenville boasting both a big city and small-town feel, and from its abundance of philanthropic people committed to bettering our community. However, as wonderful as Greenville is, Jessica believes there is still a lot of work to do to shrink the widening gap of Greenville's two realities between the unparalleled existence of fortunate citizens and those who are born poor and likely to die poor. One of the contributing factors to that gap that she particularly wants to tackle is transportation.

The goal of Greenville 2040 – that the entire community be more prosperous and reap improved quality of life – aligns with one of the Junior League of Greenville's Community Impact Focus Areas of helping women overcome barriers by advancing Economic Mobility. Jessica believes one way to solve economic immobility is to "give people ladders" to rise out of poverty.

You don't have to be on the steering committee to make Greenville better. Jessica encourages you to do something in the area(s) you are passionate about to wield your sphere of influence. If you would like to share your insight with Greenville 2040, the city welcomes your input in order to produce a plan thoughtful of everyone. There will be opportunities for the public to participate by attending a workshop, joining a focus group or expressing your ideas online.



Visit **GVL2040.com** for more information and to learn how you can be a part of Greenville 2040.

Connect with Jessica on Instagram and Twitter at **@SharpJes**. Read her guest blogs at **GenTwenty.com**, a website for millennial women.

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Hi Deb, I received a call from Augusta on December 1st and have been accepted to The Dental College of Georgia! Thought I would share the good news. I couldn't have done it without your help!! Best ~ JW

I just wanted to let you know how much working with you has helped me. The career fair was a huge success and I literally had people calling that day wanting to set up interviews. I have been through several interviews, both phone and in person, and each time is getting better and easier. I have had great feedback from the recruiters and HR people about my performance. I just wanted to update you on how positive my performance has been up to this point. Thank you again for helping me! ~ HS

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Like Mother, Like Daughter

// By Elizabeth Barnhill

The Junior League of Greenville is 90 years old, so it’s no surprise that there are many families that include generations of Members—grandmothers, mothers and daughters who have all made a meaningful impact in the League and community!

Spring is the perfect opportunity to explore how the JLG has nurtured generations of women who have loved the League from a young age. This Mother’s Day, I spoke with three mother/daughter pairs that illustrate how the League runs deep with family ties: Taylor Sarvis Johnston (Active) and Charlotte Hoffman (Sustainer), Meredith Yelton (Active) and Kim Yelton (Sustainer), and Harriet Kilgore Scully (Active) and Aline Kilgore (Sustainer).

MOMS: WHAT MADE YOU INITIALLY WANT TO JOIN THE LEAGUE?

Sustainers Charlotte, Kim, and Aline all said they all felt the call to serve their communities and felt the Junior League was the best place for it.

Aline, who grew up in small town in the lower part of South Carolina, said she watched both her mother (Betty Ruth Crews) and her grandmother (Aline Peoples) actively participate in volunteering at their church, as her hometown did not have a Junior League. So, when Aline moved to Greenville after getting married, she too became active in her church and joined the Junior League shortly thereafter.

Kim joined the League to volunteer, but also to meet engaged and motivated peers after relocating from North Carolina. She reflected on how some of her best friends are ladies she met through the League and how they have supported her through very difficult times in her life, such as the passing of her daughter, Emily. It’s no surprise that she made such a meaningful impact on the League, even serving as the President of the Junior League of Greenville, in 200-01

Charlotte joined the League later in life when her daughters were in elementary school. However, joining later in life had no small impact, as Charlotte also went on to serve as President of the Junior League of Greenville.

DAUGHTERS: DID SEEING YOUR MOTHER BEING SO INVOLVED WITH THE LEAGUE MAKE YOU WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER?

Taylor, Meredith, and Harriet all answered with, “Absolutely!” Bearing witness to the impact the League had on their mothers’ lives and, inadvertently, theirs as well, these women felt the call to serve.

Taylor reflected on watching her mom take such an active role with The Nearly New Shop and accompanying her during pick-ups, watching her coordinate efforts, and actively spending time working in the Shop.

Meredith reflected on how she grew up going to Headquarters and playing under Tina Hampton’s desk. She watched as her mom took on an active role in serving the League.

Harriet recalled her mom taking on a coordinator role for Dinamation, a dinosaur-themed event that taught young schoolchildren about the prehistoric beasts and the importance of recycling. She also remembered going with her mom to help set up and get ready prior to the event.

Watching their mothers be so involved taught them the importance of being involved as well!

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE MEMORY OR PLACEMENT?

Charlotte: *The Nearly New Shop will always hold a special place in my heart.*

Kim: *Being in the JLG Singers – we went to the nursing homes to sing to the residents, and the residents always enjoyed us singing and visiting with them.*

Aline: *I loved my Active years, and in my current time as a Sustainer, I just feel so blessed to be able to serve.*



Meredith: *My time with Provisional Development has been the best, and I just adore my committee!*

Taylor: *I loved serving on the Nominating Committee and look forward to the coming year and being able to serve, as JLG has made some exciting changes to Placements.*

Harriet: *My time at the Children’s Museum has been so fulfilling, and I also enjoyed my time on the Oscar Night America® Committee.*

Having had the opportunity to chat with these women was reflective in the way that I thought about the advice our mothers and grandmothers give us over the years. Clearly, this amazing group of women all felt the call to volunteer and serve, something that was undoubtedly passed down from generation to generation. Here’s to continuing the legacy for the next 90 years!



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My First Placement

// By **Kate Hudson**

ASHLEIGH HAMBRIGHT

DESCRIBE YOUR FIRST PLACEMENT AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE JLG? WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

My first Placement as an Active was a Girls on the Run (GOTR) coach in 2012. I chose this Placement because I enjoy running and working with young girls. I knew I wanted to do something in the community so why not channel towards my love and expertise?! Honestly, my favorite days of the week were Tuesday and Thursday. I had 3rd-5th grade girls. We would have our lesson, talk about fun (and sometimes not so fun) girl things, and then run! These girls worked hard, pushed each other, encouraged one another, and blossomed into young ladies.

WHAT WAS THE MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT OF YOUR PLACEMENT?

My most memorable moment was the 5K at the end of the program. Several of the girls were brand new to running and to think of running three miles was a huge goal to obtain. Every girl finished the race! The joy and smiles on each of their faces was priceless!

HOW DID THIS PLACEMENT SHAPE YOUR PATH IN THE JLG?

After being a GOTR coach, I knew I had found my home for volunteering to give back to the Greenville community. It was evident the JLG's heart and Mission aligned with mine.

LESA KASTLER

DESCRIBE YOUR FIRST PLACEMENT AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE JLG? WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

My first Placement was with a program called SEEDS that was in partnership with Greenville County School District. SEEDS was a literature-based enrichment program for grades K-3 that focused on critical thinking skills, problem solving and decision making. I worked alongside a friend, Amy Inglesby, who I had recently met through the League. As volunteers, we were provided with a curriculum and would present a piece of literature to students. The two of us went weekly to Grove Elementary.

WHAT WAS THE MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT OF YOUR PLACEMENT?

When I think back to that Placement, I remember the sense of appreciation from the teachers for us to come in and present to their classes, as well as the engagement of the children. It was a special opportunity, and I loved being able to interact with the children. The program was a great fit for both schools and teachers, as the children always enjoyed new visitors in their classroom, and the teachers were appreciative for us to prepare lessons for the day.

HOW DID THIS PLACEMENT SHAPE YOUR PATH IN THE JLG?

My first Placement gave me a sense of the League's outreach. It was a perspective-gaining opportunity to see firsthand how the League was able to work in collaboration with the community. One of our Focus Areas at the time was Children's Education, and the SEEDS program was certainly a good fit. The year after my first Placement, I got involved with a more long-term planning role which set my path for my involvement in the League.

EMILY CLEVER

DESCRIBE YOUR FIRST PLACEMENT AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE JLG? WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

My first Placement as an Active was, surprisingly, as the VISIONS Senior Writer. I had a somewhat nontypical Provisional year because I actually ended up working on the VISIONS committee in addition to my provisional obligations; I have professional experience as a copywriter, journalist and editor, and the VISIONS committee was understaffed that year. So, in my first year as an Active, I already had experience working on VISIONS and immediately became the Senior Writer, which is a pre-placed position. I was happy to be doing something impactful immediately that played to my existing skill set, but I also wanted to experience everything the League has to offer as a new Active. This was the year before we switched from having community Placements, and I'll always be slightly disappointed I never had the opportunity to participate in a community Placement, but I think our restructuring around the new task force is going to make us stronger than ever.

WHAT WAS THE MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT OF YOUR PLACEMENT?

My most memorable moment was when I first held the physical copy of the winter VISIONS issue. It felt like all our hard work finally paid off, and I was able to see the fruits of our labors. I also really enjoyed meeting the winner of the Young Women's Writing Contest that year, which—as the Senior Writer—I facilitated. She was so excited and grateful!

HOW DID THIS PLACEMENT SHAPE YOUR PATH IN THE JLG?

The Senior Writer's pre-placement track involves becoming the VISIONS Editor the following year, which I am now! However, in the midst of all that, I switched careers and decided to go back to grad school—separately, but simultaneously. I was nervous about being able to fulfil the obligations of the VISIONS Editor, particularly in the gigantic shoes left to fill by my predecessor, but I knew I'd have a great team behind me.

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YOUNG WOMEN'S *Writing Contest*

This year, the Junior League of Greenville held its 5th annual Young Women's Writing Contest. Female students in grades 6-12 from Greenville County public, private and home schools submitted original essays on the following topic:

Over the past several issues, Teen Vogue has received a lot of attention for covering topics outside its traditional commentary on fashion and pop culture with articles on politics, activism, and current events. Regardless of where you stand on the issues covered, we'll bet you also are engaged with the world around you beyond Instagram trends and celebrity couples. As a young woman in 2019, what issue do you care about the most and how are you using your voice to elevate that cause?

Moving Women Forward

// By *Janine D'Souza*

Some kids had families that would give them nicknames like “sport” or “buddy” or “pumpkin,” but my family had a favorite nickname for me growing up: “lahan Mulan.” In my native language of Konkani, “lahan” means “little,” so “lahan Mulan” means little Mulan, a very fitting nickname as I wanted to model every part of my life after my favorite Disney heroine, Mulan, the Chinese warrior who protected her father, her family and her country. While the story of Mulan may be a legend, the tale nonetheless represents the difficulties experienced by young women more than two thousand years later. Disapproval, societal expectations and gender-based discrimination faced within male-dominated sectors have discouraged women from engaging in activities, areas of study and jobs that they wish to pursue. However, even in the 21st century, we have our own “Mulans” that defy expectations to penetrate areas that have

been dominated by men for years. Despite the hard work of these women, the responses to their accomplishments are disappointing; women in fields with little female representation are delegitimized because of their gender. There is no doubt that these women are just as competent as, if not superior to, their male counterparts, but by discouraging their skill, we discourage generations upon generations of potential female scientists, engineers, politicians, journalists, etc. from following their passions and breaking down the barriers for more women to follow them. It is because of the interests of “Mulans” everywhere that women should be welcomed as equals in whatever field they wish to enter, a change that extends from a basic to a widespread level, and it is our duty as the next generation to use our voices and abilities to make this change happen. My personal experience has taught me that just by simply engaging in the activities which I enjoyed could help open the door for girls after me to do so as well, and that makes the difficult path to accomplishment all worth it.

One of the easiest decisions that I, as an argumentative 13-year-old, made was to join my school's debate team. Although debating seemed daunting at first, as I spent every weekend at debate tournaments growing accustomed to the activity, an incredibly informational and enjoyable activity for me. With the more experience I gained in debate, the more acclimated to debate culture I became. Unfortunately, a big part of debate culture is as male-dominated as any other part of society. Assertive female debaters are called derogatory terms for their abilities, lost rounds are blamed on “stupid feminist judges,” numerous female friends of mine have received sexist comments from judges on their ballots, and male debaters who do nothing to encourage women's rights out of debate rounds write arguments centered around women's rights in order to gain the sympathies of female judges. One might ask, how do you fix this problem if it's so hard to trace? The answer is difficult; the issues faced by female debaters across the country can vary based on region and the activeness of their team. But like most uphill battles fought by women entering male-dominated fields, change starts small. Although debate is a highly competitive event, women in debate face two options: allow excessive competition which makes it easier for them to be discredited or band together in order to fight sexism. From my experience with the women I've met debating in Greenville, we mostly pick the latter. Having conversations and forming relationships with girls from other schools and grades has been one of the most rewarding parts of my debate career, and there are tangible impacts of these relationships with every new class of high schoolers who join this program; from numerous schools across the region, I have seen more female debaters now than I ever did as a freshman in high school. When I decided to ask some newer female debaters why they decided to join debate, they told me that it was because of the girls on their teams that mentored them and fostered their growth as people and as competitors. The reason they stayed, however, is because they too became incorporated into this cycle of mentorship and camaraderie, which they wanted to spread to younger girls who would later enter the program. Without strong women entering debate and claiming their stakes in the program, it would be impossible to keep this activity alive for girls to participate in in the future, and thus, much more difficult to encourage girls to form and substantiate their unique perspectives and opinions independently, which I believe is a crucial element of women being able to enter male-dominated spaces.

While the mass growth of high school debate and its inclusion of women is relatively recent, there are other areas in which women have struggled to gain legitimacy and attention, one which I have witnessed personally: politics. While we may be familiar with the double standards which women are faced with in national politics, like the rest of the political process, we ignore the importance of female representation in local politics. Particularly in regards to women's

healthcare, childcare, and the expansion of laws against sexual harassment in the workforce, a woman's perspective is crucial to creating effective, multidimensional legislation. This is why, beginning last summer, I began interning for my local political party, working on the campaigns that I believe will expand opportunities for women across South Carolina, which led me to be the youth coordinator for a special election in Greenville. As a coordinator for the campaign, I've attended events and rallies, made numerous phone calls, traveled across the city to knock on people's doors, and recruited other high schoolers to join the campaign effort. The latter part of my job dealing with recruitment, however, might be the most significant work I've done in my (very short) career: meeting with girls from across the county to discuss the interests of high school girls and how to make change within our political process and system to better include our interests. While dialogue about women's issues is good on any level, being able to discuss these issues with an adult who could potentially be in a position to effectuate this change through the system makes a huge difference. By working through the system and spending days and nights making connections with people across Greenville country, I have been able to gain a proper enforcement mechanism of the change which numerous other young women want.

While there is still an infinite amount of progress to be made to make our society more inclusive to women, I indulge myself in taking time to think about how far the fight against sexism has come and the role that I, amongst other young women, have played in continuing the fight to keep the movement relevant. While the changes that I have helped make might seem small, knowing that I have worked with brilliant women to make these changes shows the widespread growth of the modern women's rights movement and the work we have yet to complete in the future. While we don't have time to pat ourselves on the back for our work, I'm sure that somewhere out there, Mulan is doing it for us.

Janine was born and raised in Greenville, SC by her loving parents, Renita and Jeewan, who have always encouraged her to know her worth and work hard. A junior at Riverside High School, Janine is the co-captain of her school's speech and debate team, a co-head of BackPAC SC, a youth political action committee to encourage youth engagement in politics, and head of Greenville County High School Democrats. In her free time, Janine loves watching late night talk shows and TED Talks and hopes to study political science/ international affairs in college.



The 2018-19 Frances Pearce Steele / Provisional of the Year Award Winner: Sunny Hahn

The 2018-19 Frances Pearce Steele Award winner exemplifies the spirit of Frances Pearce Steele. She has given far and above her 40 Provisional hours to the Nearly New Shop: 88 to be exact! She travels a great deal for work and when she is in town, frequently devotes extra hours to the Shop. Not only has she far exceeded her 40 hours, but she has done so during her personal time when most people who travel a great deal would be catching up or relaxing.

In addition, she has been very hands on at the Shop and has done everything from sorting clothes to cleaning toilets. She is always willing to help out where needed and completely puts her heart into whatever she is doing rather than just doing it to check off hours. Like her name, she has brought a bright ray of light to her Provisional class and also to the Shop where she has found joy in serving.

The 2018-19 Helen Horton Hunt / Active of the Year Award Winner: Rachel Vick

The 2018-19 Helen Horton Hunt winner has been a Member of the Junior League since 2012 and transferred to the Junior League of Greenville in 2016. Since transferring her Membership to the JLG, she has served on the Arrangements Committee. She unexpectedly took over the role of Arrangements Chair, which ultimately means she will serve in this role for two years in a row. She first stepped up to the plate in September when our Arrangements Chair was put on bedrest the day before the first GMM of the year. As a result, Rachel seamlessly stepped in to manage all the last-minute details and make sure the GMM and social went off without a glitch! She then handled everything Arrangements for the next few months, including Tacos and Tailgate, which the weather moved indoors, creating some last-minute changes. Soon after that, we learned that our Arrangements Chair would be moving to France and that Rachel would continue

to handle everything Arrangements for the remainder of the year. She pulled off everything that was already planned and more. She attended many extra meetings and turned in reports that Chairs are responsible for. It seems like a curve ball was thrown at every turn, yet she not only pulled it all off but planned great events and attended to every little detail, all with a positive attitude and a smile on her face! To quote one of her nominations, “She essentially took over as role of Chair unexpectedly. She planned some awesome new events this year (Fall Fiesta, Aerie Lane painting workshop, Sierra Nevada bus trip) that Members could really look forward to and pulled everything off so well. She has had a great attitude about all of the changes this year and gives so much of her time and effort to the JLG.”

The 2018-19 Jane Cardwell Hughes / Sustainer of the Year Award Winner: Sallie White

The 2018-19 Jane Cardwell Hughes Award winner has been a Member of the Junior League since 1982. When she was an Active member, her Placements included chairing the Transfer Committee, serving as the Volunteer Coordinator for Partnership for Families, and working on the Dinamation Preview Party. Additionally, in the community, she has served on the Board of Greenville Women Giving, is an elder at Westminster Presbyterian Church, is active in the Colonial Dames, is a master gardener, and has served on the boards of Beck Middle and J.L. Mann High School PTAs and as President of Sara Collins PTA. Her most recent role is as a new grandmother to Margaret. It’s no surprise that she has been a committed, enthusiastic Sustaining Advisor. She has served as a Sustaining Advisor for A Nearly New You for the past few years. Her nominations all emphasize that her participation was not limited to solely attending the meetings but she was truly a committee member – just as though she was still an Active member!



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