

# VISIONS

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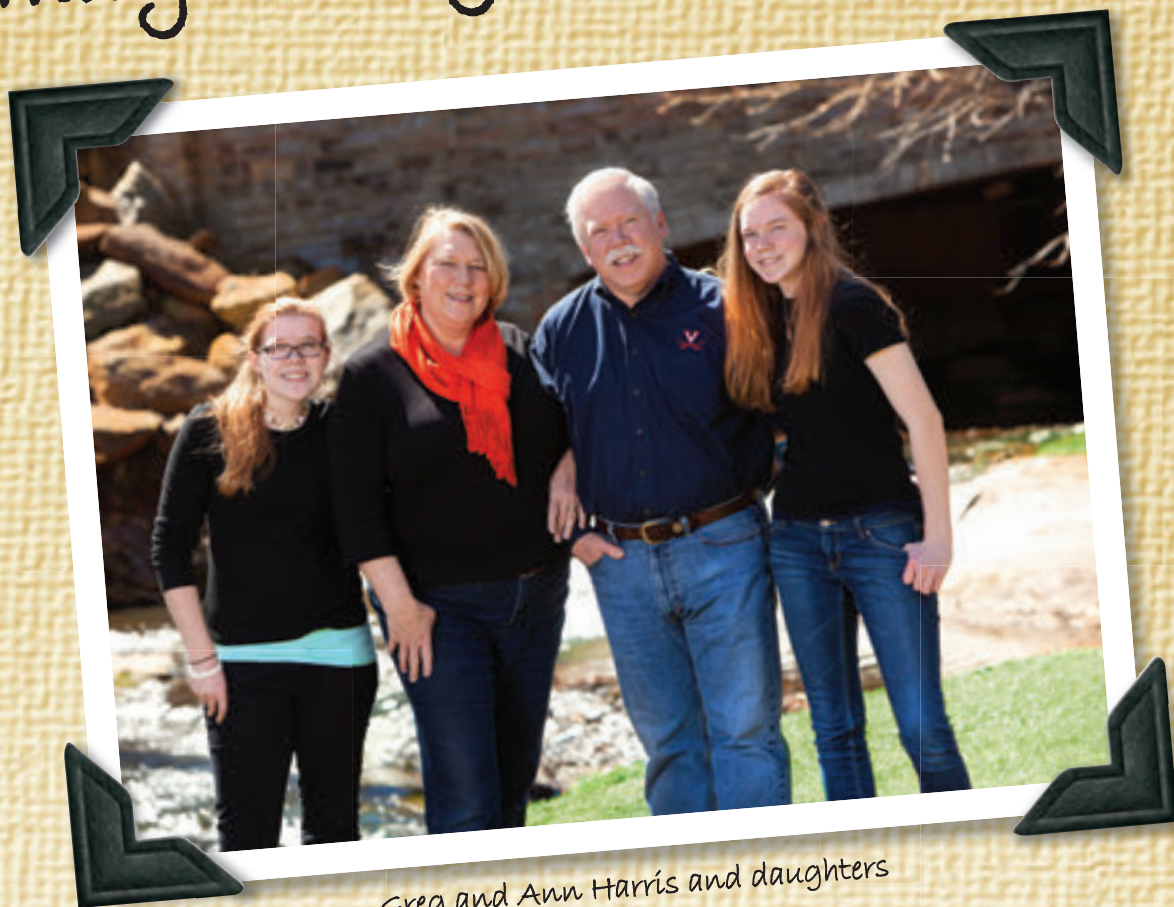
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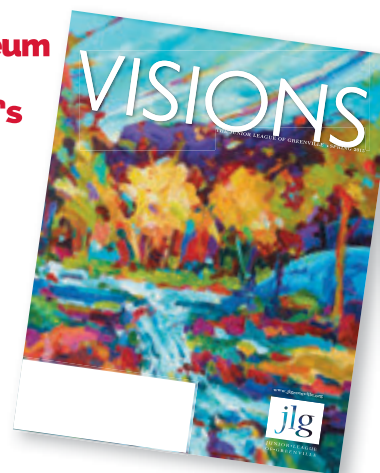
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ON THE COVER: Painting by featured artist Randy Armstrong



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*When my husband, Allen, and I moved to Greenville, South Carolina with our family eleven years ago, we were excited about its geographic location, the size of the city and the job opportunities that the area offered us. It was not until we became more involved in the community and its culture that we noticed the incredible influence that the arts have on Greenville. From museums to art galleries, to the concerts, festivals, and theatrical performances, the arts are woven into the fabric of Greenville's identity.*

A thriving art culture impacts a community in many ways. Attractions such as those seen at the Peace Center and at the Bon Secours Wellness Arena give a boost to our economy. Performances, events, and festivals engage all age groups and increase our overall community enjoyment. The arts often play a part in inspiring, promoting and improving cultural diversity. They also provide outlets to reduce stress and foster a sense of free expression. The strength of the arts in our area enables us to build social capital across the country, encouraging tourism and business investments in the Upstate.

As an organization whose focus is to improve the lives of women and children throughout Greenville, it is imperative that the Junior League of Greenville devotes some of its resources to the promotion of the arts in our area. The Junior League has supported the arts throughout our 85 year history - including helping to establish the Greenville County Museum of Art, The Children's Museum of the Upstate and the Peace Center for the Performing Arts. The JLG has also assisted such groups as the Fine Arts Center, The Warehouse Theatre, Upcountry History Museum, South Carolina Children's Theatre, South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities and the Metropolitan Arts Council both with funds and through volunteer services. Our endeavors allow us to connect with other local organizations with the goal of exposing all families to the performing and visual arts. Using the arts as an adjunct to education increases the overall wellness of children and contributes to their self-esteem, visuospatial reasoning and overall civic engagement.

I am so thankful to live in a city which values the arts and to be a part of an organization that supports and embraces the impact that the arts make on the lives of its citizens. By helping to strengthen the arts in Greenville, the Junior League hopes to continue to build a safe, healthy and nurturing community for the families of the Upstate.

*Kathryn Freedman*

**Dr. Kathryn Freedman**

President, 2014 - 2015  
Junior League of Greenville, Inc.



Dr. Kathryn Freedman



*Dr. Kathryn Freedman is a wife and mother of two daughters, and she has been a member of the Junior League for over thirteen years. As a practicing dentist, she has devoted her life to improving people's smiles, and she enjoys applying this passion in a different capacity as President of the JLG. She hopes that the work of the JLG will increase the smiles in Greenville and enhance the lives of women and children in our community.*

Photo courtesy of Angelia Davis, The Greenville News



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The focus in this issue of VISIONS is Art. According to Wikipedia, “art is a diverse range of human activities and the products of those activities, usually involving imaginative or technical skill.”

As I was looking for inspiration for this article, I was in a conversation between two friends of mine meeting for the first time. I told them they would have a lot in common because they both were creative people (one an interior designer and one a music teacher). The first enjoys creating beautiful flower arrangements while the latter enjoys working in her garden. We were in a home surrounded by much beautiful art. Some of the art was collectable items, yet many pieces had been painted or created by the owners’ young children, all beautiful in its own right. I loved what was said during this conversation: whether or not you are talented or famous, what’s important is that what you are doing brings you JOY.

My friends will tell you I can balance their checkbooks, but please don’t have me paint or write! I think about all of the people in my life here in Greenville who create things of beauty that I cannot create myself, but that I treasure and admire - flowering and potted arrangements, calligraphy and invitations, painted furniture, pen and ink drawings, photography, pottery, paintings, jewelry, musical compositions, performance arts and literature. While I cannot do many of these things myself, I am grateful to have people in my life who are using these gifts

that were given to them. Their art brings them and brings me JOY!

While in the midst of writing this article, I was on the phone with one of my daughters. She had purchased a coupon for a set of dance/exercise classes where she lives. She was enrolled in dance classes and performed from ages 3-18, and now 6 years later after work she had attended her first dance class. She said, “I had so much FUN,” and I could hear it in her voice. This brings us back to my friend’s statement, “do whatever brings you joy.” It is different for each and every one of us. “Works of art can tell stories or simply express an aesthetic truth or feeling.” It is easy to remember the many talented JLG members I have encountered through the years as we worked together on fundraisers - creating logos for tickets, brochures and posters to promote these events; painting beautiful murals on blank block walls; designing “sets” for dinosaurs; sculpting a waterfall - all to serve the dual purpose to entertain, educate, and delight our community children while funding needs within the Greenville area.

The past couple of years our JLG Sustainers have gathered to showcase some of our own creative talent at a kickoff event we call “Artists Among Us.” We are lucky to have many talented women who are doing what they love either as a profession or as a hobby. Enjoy this issue to find ways to either use your own gifts or to enjoy those explored by others.

Find JOY!

*Susan Reed*

**Susan Reed**

Sustainer Representative, 2014 - 2015  
Junior League of Greenville, Inc.





## Letter from **THE EDITOR**

The spring 2015 issue of VISIONS takes the name of our publication quite literally. While the central focus of the Junior League of Greenville is health and education, the VISIONS Committee and I felt it vital to highlight the role that the arts play in our mission and organization. The therapeutic quality of self-expression is not to be casually dismissed. From art blooms inspiration; inspiration initiates hope, joy and drive – qualities every successful, self-actualized woman possesses.

Holding fast to our legacy and shared vision of bettering the greater Greenville community, the JLG is also a visually dynamic group of strong, talented women. Our Membership is comprised not only of accomplished professionals, but of artistic and creative spirits – musicians, painters, dancers, authors and beyond. The women of the JLG had vision for a vibrant downtown revitalization and arts scene when investing in the Peace Center for the Performing Arts decades ago. This same vision is incorporated through creative projects in many branches of the modern day JLG: A Nearly New You, the Nearly New Shop, the “Artists Among Us” Sustainer outreach event, the Big Night Out decorating committee and many more.

Art is its own language. It respects no race or socio-economic barriers. It forges a connection to other cultures, conveys emotion and makes a statement. Art is not just a talent or a tangible object to purchase - it is finding and creating beauty in the mundane. My hope as you read this issue is that you connect with your inner artist, whatever that means for you. Plant a summer garden. Take a pottery class. Pick up that guitar you haven't played in years. Life only gives us one chance to share our talents with the world. What do you want to say? You may surprise yourself.

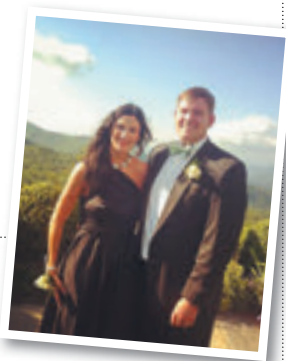
**Editor's Note:** *I would like to personally apologize for the misspelling and omission of two of our ad sales volunteers in the fall 2014 issue. Carla Renner and Tory Grimm-Oropesa are invaluable members of the VISIONS team whose hard work allow us the opportunity to sustain this publication. Thank you both for your understanding and your perseverance this year.*

*Melissa Stroud*

### **Melissa Stroud**

Editor, VISIONS Magazine, 2014 - 2015  
Junior League of Greenville, Inc.

*Born and raised in Aiken, SC, Melissa Stroud studied business at the University of South Carolina and has made her career as a wardrobe stylist for the past 10 years. She currently manages Augusta Twenty Clothing Boutique (augustatwenty.com) in downtown Greenville's historic West End. Her hobbies include taste-testing her husband Don's culinary creations and spending time with her 5 rescue pets. In addition to the Junior League of Greenville, Melissa is also a member of the Hesse Morrah Garden Club, Downtown Symphony Club, the Metropolitan Art Council's MACconnect and Christ Church Episcopal.*



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The Junior League of Greenville, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. The Junior League of Greenville initiates and participates in programs and partnerships that enhance the physical, emotional and educational well-being of children and families. We are committed to building a safe, healthy, nurturing community.

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Please recycle after you have enjoyed this publication.

We would love to hear from you! Email Melissa Stroud with your thoughts about the magazine or to learn how to become more involved at [VISIONS@jlgreenville.org](mailto:VISIONS@jlgreenville.org)

For more information about the Junior League of Greenville or becoming a member, visit us online at [JLGreenville.org](http://JLGreenville.org).



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# ALLEAGUE *of* Their Own

*3 Vibrant JLG Sustainers Leave Their  
Mark on the Upstate Arts Scene*

Photography: Patrick Cox  
[coxphotography.net](http://coxphotography.net)





### **Kim Hassold**

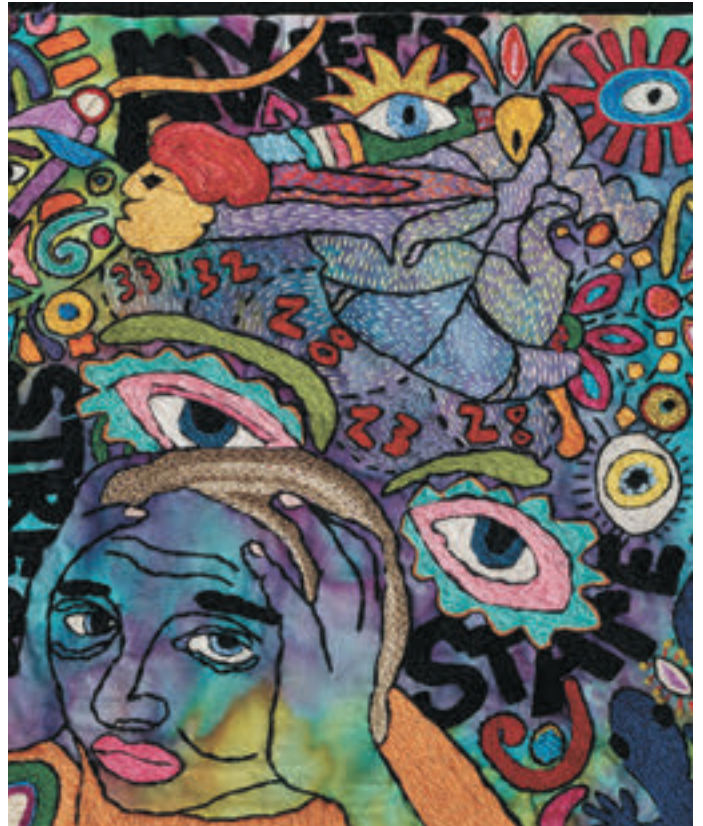
"My painting style is the result of a desire to see everyday things in a spectacular way. I am in love with color, always using pairings of my favorite shades to push each one to a higher level." Specializing in oil paint and paper, Kim's signature is bold color juxtaposed with rich texture. She notes international artist Alice Williams alongside Greenville's Randy Armstrong among her inspirations. A decades long Member of the JLG and past President, Kim maintains a beloved creative role in the Upstate community as the Editor of TALK Greenville magazine. To purchase Kim's work, visit [kimhas-sold.com](http://kimhas-sold.com), 4 Rooms or her studio at the Greenville Center for the Creative Arts.





**Susan Sorrell**

Drawing inspiration from childhood world travels along with personal tragedies and triumphs, Susan's mixed media artwork weaves a colorful commentary. With a Bachelor's degree in Visual Arts from Winthrop University and a Master's in Education from Converse College, her work is as skilled as it is whimsical. Sewing and embroidery add depth to her colorful paintings, with "who doo" dolls becoming one of her current top sellers. Susan's work can be found in her studio at 602 Strange Road in Taylors, South Carolina or via her websites ([facebook.com/creativechick](https://facebook.com/creativechick), [whodoomarket.com](https://whodoomarket.com)).











### **Randy Armstrong**

As a multi-generation Greenville native, Randy Armstrong draws inspiration from her rich heritage and a long life of experiences. She honed her fine art skills at Converse College, the University of South Carolina and under the tutelage of nationally recognized artists such as Greenville's Carrie Brown. Specializing in acrylic on paper or canvas, Randy's art can be purchased at her home studio. A former JLG President with more than 50 years of League service, she has most currently blended her philanthropic skills with her artistic talents through founding The Greenville Center for Creative Arts which opened its doors in the historic Brandon Mill (25 Draper St.) on May 1, 2015.







# Who-Who *Loves* The Greenville Zoo?

By Leslie Langan

Photos by Lauren Miller



Recently, the Junior League of Greenville partnered with The Greenville Zoo and Langan & Ford Events, and the end result was a hoot of a time. Together they offered a hands-on experience where each child was able to learn about Winkie the Eastern Screech Owl. The best treat of all was one-on-one time, where the children were each able to actually touch him! Langan & Ford Events' go-to bakery, The Bakery off Augusta, graciously donated owl cupcakes that the kids were able to decorate to look just like Winkie while talented photographer, Lauren Miller, captured every last detail. Be sure to visit Winkie and the entire Greenville Zoo this summer; they offer a variety of fun, educational camps for children of all ages. So grab the kids, get out and about and

remember, sometimes it is okay to act like an animal.

Winkie first came to the Greenville Zoo as a rescue because he had been hit by a car and needed special care. There, skilled professionals were able to nurture him and give the proper care he needed to recover. Winkie is now a healthy 5 year old male and his favorite foods include mice and insects. He is mainly carnivorous and nocturnal, so if you look for him at the zoo, chances are you will find him sleeping in a hollowed out tree. He is part of a subspecies that varies in color and is indigenous to Upstate South Carolina. Eastern Screech Owls are usually solitary, but they have been known to mate for life. They can live upwards of 20 years in captivity.

*Please visit [greenvillezoo.com](http://greenvillezoo.com) for more information.* ♥





### Deliciously Easy Owl Cupcakes

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» **Step 1:** Bake the cupcakes according to the package directions

» **Step 2:** Frost the cupcakes

» **Step 3:** Carefully twist the Oreos in half so that the filling is intact (this may take 2 Oreos as you want each eye to be completely covered with frosting). Place 2 Oreo halves with filling onto cupcake for eyes, add 2 M&M's on top of the Oreos to make the eyes, add an additional M&M to the face for the nose. Eat and enjoy!



### Here are some fun zoo event dates for your family

» **June 20** – Ice Cream Social – 11 am – 1 pm

» **July 11** – Hot Dog Day – 9 am – 4 pm

» **August 10** – World Lion Day – 10 am - 1 pm

» **September 11** – Sippin Safari - 6 pm – 9:30 pm (Adult only)

» **October 16 – 18, 23 - 24** – Boo in the Zoo

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# Young Women's Writing Contest

"You never really know a man until you understand things from his point of view, until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."

—HARPER LEE, *TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD*

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Female students in grades 6-12 from Greenville County public, private and home schools submitted essays to the Junior League of Greenville for the chance to win a \$500 scholarship award, graciously donated by Southern First Bank. Inspired by a quotation from Harper Lee's, "To Kill a Mockingbird," the young writers were asked to describe a personal experience which helped them to better understand another individual. A winner was chosen via a blind judging panel with scoring based upon clarity, voice, topic analysis, evidentiary support, spelling and grammar.

---



Langley Hoyt

**Winner:** Langley Hoyt

## Judging Panel

Caryn Vedane  
Sustaining Advisor, VISIONS

Melissa Stroud  
Editor, VISIONS

Stephanie Morgan  
Author, "Tails on the Trail"  
JLG Sustainer and past VISIONS Editor

## Describe a personal experience which helped you to better understand another individual.

by Langley Hoyt

A sour stench hung rampant in the air. The bendy metal handles of the plastic bucket I was carrying dug into the palms of my hands, leaving welting red marks as the bucket sagged with the weight of wet concrete. I rounded the corner of the tiny house in the Dominican Republic "batey," or the ghetto area where immigrant Haitians live to work in the sugarcane fields. As I reached the backyard, my eyes landed on a dog lying on its side, bones sticking sky-high, and a small puppy suckling what nutrition the mother had left into its own body.

When departing for our mission trip to the Dominican Republic, my youth group knew that we would encounter extreme poverty. Yet, seeing children casually pull long thorns out of their bare feet, or families watch their pets die in their own backyard because they barely have the means to keep their children fed, was different when experienced in person.

On the plane ride down, my friend and I were seated next to each other, giggling at a comedy we were watching on the screen on the back of the seat in front of us. Suddenly, a hand appeared above the seat above the screen, which tapped violently on the back of the seat, indicating clearly for us to shut our silly mouths. A stern looking older man with shiny grey hair looked disapprovingly back at us, his eyebrows sharpened into peaks of disfavor. As the plane ride continued, one of our youth leaders began to speak with the man, who later thanked our youth group for coming to serve the poorer areas of his country. It turns out my friend and I had been scolded by the Dominican ambassador to the US. At the time, despite his status, we were indignant at his censure, which we believed was undeserved.

On our first day pulling into the batey, with children running alongside our bus, I looked out of the hot-to-the-touch window at the rows of shacks leading us through





crooked streets. The children were waving and smiling and shouting, “Americano! Americano!” As soon as we exited the bus each day, tiny rough hands grabbed our own and tugged us this way and that, each child wanting a hug, wanting to be picked up, wanting to hold your finger and trail along with you.

One particular child captured my heart that summer. Juan was smaller and quieter than the children his age, with dark honey-brown skin and thick eyebrows that framed his big brown eyes. He sat with me and the other children beside the crumbling basketball court as we watched those who had more energy to face the heat after a long day. Watching the spectrum of faces that ranged from dark brown to freckled white whirl before us in a universal game, Juan simply leaned against my side and did not beg for my attention like the other children. He wore nothing but faded jean shorts and the soles of his feet were hard as a rock from running around the batey. The communication was wordless but perfect, two souls content with being near each other in an understanding of the tiredness of the constant swirl of surrounding action and noise. Juan rode on my back or sat on my lap for an hour or two that afternoon as we interacted with different characters, one of whom was a small girl who had found a stick of deodorant which she showed off to us like

it was the newest American Girl doll.

The first time I left Juan that afternoon was to use the restroom in a nearby three-room house into which a family had welcomed our youth group. I walked into the shade through the front room, which was complete with a concrete floor to prevent disease. In passing the bedroom, I saw a large hog nosing around in the sheets of the bed.

In four days, we mixed concrete on the dirt ground of the bateys and filled over twenty houses with concrete floors. We worked alongside strong, determined men who motioned to us where to pour the concrete so that they could level the floor of their home, their brows furrowed with concentration and their wrists deft with skill.

On the fifth day, we went to a water-fall resort. The water washed the dirt of the bateys off of our skin like memories that fade over time. The next day, we left the Dominican Republic out of the same airport we entered it in, the walls plastered with posters of white sand beaches and clear blue waters. Nowhere in sight was a picture of a starving child with huge eyes, begging for a sip from your water bottle.

So many families travel to the Dominican Republic as a vacation site. They are shuttled through the city to gated resorts and enjoy a relaxing week at the beach. These tourists flood into the Dominican

Republic and stay in one section of it, never venturing out of their safe bubbles to see the brown eyed children who smile widely despite not knowing where their next meal will come from.

I grew to understand the ambassador’s quick change of affections. At first, my friend and I were nothing to him but teenagers on their way to enjoy a trip to the beach, completely unaware of the poverty of the country we were traveling to. Once he knew that we were traveling to the Dominican Republic to be with his people, however, he saw us in a different light. There grew a fondness, because he knew the way the eyes of the mothers and fathers of the bateys light up when the floors of their houses have been completed. He knew the way a small, honey-skinned child can lean against you, not say a word, and still somehow give you the heart of the Dominican Republic with a kiss on the cheek goodbye. There is something about that side of the Dominican Republic that deserves a certain respect. There is something about knowing the banana stands on the side of the road, and three children hanging off the edge of a cart on the highway. There is such a deeper, cultural understanding that the Dominican Republic gives to travelers when they step outside of the shallow resort sands.

This summer, the plane ride down to “the DR” will still be a time tingling with excitement, but the excitement will not be for sandy beaches and clear waters. I will remember the gray haired man who expected respect for the rich culture of his country, and yet was graciously thankful towards a small group that came to walk dirt streets with the beautiful children of the Dominican Republic. v

Langley Hoyt moved to Greenville in 2012 from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Her parents are Dr. Michael Hoyt and Mary Ellen Vernon Hoyt. She graduated from J.L. Mann High School in June, with honors. She plans to attend Davidson College in the fall, majoring in psychology. Langley traveled to the Dominican Republic on a mission trip with her church, 4th Presbyterian, during the summer of 2013, and will be returning this June. In her free time, Langley enjoys serving as Vice President of Art Club, being a huddle leader for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, volunteering with the National Honor Society and participating in her church youth group.



# BIG NIGHT OUT 2015

Photos by Jason Ayers Photography

*Members of the local community and the Junior League of Greenville gathered for the organization's largest fundraising event of the year on February 28, 2015 at Zen in downtown Greenville's historic West End community. Honoring the JLG's signature color and banner anniversary year, the soiree was set with a "Red Hot and 85" theme. From silent and live auctions to a photo booth and rocking band, the event certainly lived up to its fiery name while raising money for a worthy cause. Be sure to mark your calendar next year's incarnation of this annual event in February of 2016.*









# Upcountry History Museum:

## JLG Grant Recipient

by Anne-Marie Moehring

A 2015 JLG grant recipient, the Upcountry History Museum is making its exhibits more interactive for all guests and accessible to patrons with hearing impairments as well as those whose first language is not English. Through the grant, the museum has received four tablets that will enhance the exhibits by integrating multimedia and additional language elements. For example, children learning about William Joyce's artwork and literature are able to watch a video about animation with a clip from a movie based on Joyce's work. During an exhibit on the 1970's, guests listen to music on the tablets and have access to additional photos from the archives.



With approximately one third of the museum's exhibits relying on audio recordings, guests with total or even partial hearing loss are not able to enjoy the complete educational experience. With audio and text recorded on the tablets, guests will soon be able to walk through the museum using headphones to enhance the clarity of the

audio or read the text being spoken by characters at various exhibits.

For guests who either do not speak English or would prefer to communicate in another language, the museum is in the process of translating all audio and text associated with the exhibits into Spanish, French and German. Volunteers will work with profes-





sional translators to ensure accuracy and complete the project as quickly as possible. At the end of the translation process, guests will be able to walk through the museum and experience each exhibit in their preferred language.

The museum's goal is to create an

accessible environment for all visitors. Translations and transcriptions are allowing the museum to continue this vision. The tablets will receive their first major test this summer as children from across the Upstate come to the Magic Tree House programs June through September. These day camps

will give students an interactive look at various aspects of history and culture and the tablets will enhance the experience by providing a multimedia experience. With educational programs for students and constantly changing exhibits, the museum has programs for every age and interest. v

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TOTALLY PROFESSIONAL. DELIGHTFULLY IMMATURE.

By Kathryn Freedman

Located on Augusta Road at the entrance of Greenville's Historic West End District, South Carolina Children's Theatre (SCCT) resides in a relatively unassuming rectangular building. However, this building not only houses the largest children's theatre in the state of South Carolina, but it also operates as an imagination factory for children and adults alike. For almost 30 years SCCT has entertained and introduced children of all ages to the wonder of performance arts. Anyone who has seen one of their child-friendly shows or been involved in a SCCT theatrical education program will tell you they definitely live up to their tag line – "Totally professional. Delightfully immature."

The Mission of SCCT is to educate and stimulate the minds and imaginations of young people and their families through participation in theatre of the highest quality, year-round education and accessible outreach. While SCCT may be known for the excellence of their performances and their educational classes, their passion for the influence that theatre has on children and their families can only be understood when you look deeper into their outreach programs. Their Theatre Outreach Partner-

"Our programs are all about giving children our best."

**Debbie Bell,**  
SCCT Executive Director

ships, or TOPs, requires a large amount of SCCT's resources including both staff hours and funds, but this program is often an overlooked part of their Mission by their theatre patrons.

"Our programs are all about giving children our best, and that especially includes giving to those who might otherwise not be able to enjoy what South Carolina Children's Theatre has to offer. Children may not be able to participate in our performances and classes due to finances, location, or even disabilities or developmental issues," says Debbie Bell, SCCT Executive Director. Bell has been

with SCCT since 1998 and outreach has always been at the core of her vision for the theatre. "It is important that we give back to the Greenville community which has always supported us and all that we do as a theatre."

SCCT partners with Greenville Health System, Greenville County Schools and area child-centered agencies through TOPs to provide tailor-made theatre education free of charge to children who are underprivileged, at-risk, hospitalized or have special needs. There are many facets to the TOPs program, but some of its features include their Theatre Residency Programs, KNOW WAY: Elementary and Middle School Bullying Prevention Programs, the Title One School Tour Performance Programs and the Educational Performance Ticket Programs.

Through experience SCCT has found that special needs children and at-risk youth benefit from the self-empowering gifts of arts education. For many of these children transportation can be difficult







and therefore the professional artistic instructors of SCCT bring their Theatre Residency Programs to the children. Some of these locations include Marshall

I. Pickens Hospital, Camp Courage (a camp for young people with cancer and blood disorders), Meyer Center for Special Children, youthBASE and Salvation Army

Boys & Girls Club. Each Residency uses theatrical games and activities to help these young people develop their focus and concentration skills, improve their vocal and physical control, and learn ensemble and socialization skills. By developing these concepts, the children can improve their self-control, communication, self-esteem and confidence. When asked about their experience one family member wrote, "My cousin's 10 year old son was in >>

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this class and I can't tell you what an impact it had on his life. He has many social and communication issues, is guarded, and does not like to be touched. I cried with joy as I watched him perform. If you don't know him personally, he seemed like any other kid performing and that was exactly why it was so emotional. After the performance, he ran to his dad and jumped in his arms with a big smile and hug. Thank you for giving him, and others, a chance to be creative, develop his social skills, and importantly, 'belong.'

Throughout the school year, SCCT takes its enriching shows on the road. Transporting students to a different venue can be time consuming and cost prohibitive, and through its touring performances SCCT reaches a wide audience in Greenville. Many times schools use these theatrical performances to enhance a field of study in the classroom. Debbie Bell shared details about an upcoming production which will be touring schools in October of 2015. Based on the book by Doreen Cronin, Bell feels that the musical, *Click, Clack, Boo! A Tricky Treat* will serve as an entertaining and educational addition to any elementary school's Halloween festivities.

Another popular touring performance presented by SCCT is their bully prevention curriculum. In partnership with the Greenville County School District, SCCT offers *KNOW WAY: Elementary and Middle School Bullying Prevention pro-*



grams each year. These programs address the serious issue of bullying through educational touring performances and workshops. The Elementary Bullying Prevention performance, *The Boy Who Cried Bully*, targets 3rd – 5th graders, and the Middle School Bullying Prevention course is an in-class, interactive workshop for 6th graders. These curriculums educate children on the harmful effects of bullying to initiate conversation about this subject at home or through the facilitations. The hope is that knowledge and awareness will help reduce bullying throughout the school systems. Last year, 6,351 students at 32 schools participated in the Elementary and Middle School Bullying Prevention Programs in the Greenville County Schools.

Through grant funding, SCCT provided such touring performances free of charge to 750 Title One students last year. Underprivileged children often do not have the opportunity to experience live theatre, and for many of these students, it is their only exposure to theatre arts enrichment. Bradley D. Wingate, Academic Specialist for Visual and Performing Arts for Greenville County Schools, states that "Greenville County Schools has an incredible educational partner in the SC Children's Theatre. The work they do in this community is important and not only educates our young people in the artistic venue of the theatre, but also addresses important social issues as well."



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With their focus on education and enhancing the lives of children, SCCT is an ideal partner for the Junior League of Greenville. In January of this year, the JLG awarded SCCT a grant in the amount of \$6764 to provide tickets free of charge for Title One students to attend the daytime production of "The Cat in the Hat" at the Peace Center's Gunter Theatre. In April, 358 students and their chaperones from Alexander Elementary School, Berea Elementary School and Westcliffe Elementary School enjoyed a school field trip to see the fast-paced action of this enchanting performance thanks to these funds. In addition to the tickets, funds from the JLG grant provided each student in attendance with a take-home copy of the book "The Cat in the Hat." The intention of the program was to give these children a unique opportunity to experience a story depicted on stage and then to bring the story home to enjoy again and again.

Not only does SCCT apply for funds

to provide underprivileged children free educational theatrical experiences, but the TOPs program raises money to help offset the Peace Center costs for all school and home-school groups. Tickets for every daytime educational perfor-

"Greenville County Schools has an incredible educational partner in the SC Children's Theatre"

**Bradley D. Wingate,  
Greenville County Schools  
Academic Specialist**

mance are offered at half-price thanks to the fundraising efforts of SCCT. During the 2013-2014 school year 2703 students attended performances at this reduced ticket price, providing an opportunity

for students of the Upstate to watch dramatized works based on popular literature. SCCT will be offering daytime educational school performances for their musical productions of "Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!" in December 2015 and "How I Became a Pirate" in February 2016 and also for children to attend the Tony Award winning play, "The Miracle Worker", in April 2016.

Organizations such as South Carolina Children's Theatre serve as strong partners for the Junior League of Greenville. Like SCCT, the JLG initiates and participates in programs and partnerships that enhance the physical, emotional and educational well-being of children and their families. Not only has the Junior League supported SCCT with grant funds this year, but JLG members will be volunteering to help SCCT fulfill their Mission in 2015-2016. The JLG looks forward to this collaboration and, like SCCT, hopes for a future in which every child has access to the arts. v

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# Greenville Symphony Orchestra

by Anne-Marie Moehring

Championing the Arts in Greenville

The Greenville Symphony Orchestra (GSO) musicians and staff touch nearly every part of Greenville, from elementary school children who may never step foot in a concert hall to senior citizens in retirement communities who have dedicated their lives to the arts. The GSO has been influential in bringing the arts to Greenville and in helping them thrive.



Housed in the Symphony Center and performing at the Peace Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Greenville, GSO musicians and staff travel the Upstate to bring the arts to children and adults. The GSO feels strongly that money or transportation should not be a roadblock to an individual's exposure to the arts so they regularly bring the arts, free of charge, to schools, libraries, and retirement communities. Outreach programs, such as Lollipops, EdReach and Pre-Concert Talks, ensure that the arts are accessible to everyone in Greenville by meeting participants where they are.

## Lollipops

Lollipops is a program that targets infants through 3rd graders by exposing them to music and stories. This has been an important partnership for JLG members since its inception. There are women who bring their children to Lollipops concerts today who attended as

children with their mothers.

The Lollipops concert series features 12 concerts per year conducted at libraries across the Upstate. GSO's education director chooses six books per year then pairs classical music with each one so that the children hear a fun story while listening to the music. Each story is interactive, allowing the children to engage with the music and the story. The Lollipops take place nine days out of the year, with one concert at a satellite branch of the library and another at the Hughes Main Library. In addition, the GSO has three summer performances. By providing interactive introductions to music throughout the city, the GSO makes music and learning accessible to all Greenville children from an early age. For children and families who enjoy theatre, GSO also offers Timbre Tales. This program replaces reading the book in the library with acting out the story, accompanied by music, at South Carolina Children's Theatre.





## EdReach

The GSO and Junior League of Greenville (JLG) have a long history of partnering together to promote the arts. Started by the JLG in 1955, EdReach is an ambitious program that visits 53 elementary schools annually and that culminates in a children's concert at the Peace Center. A small ensemble of wind, string or percussion musicians visits each school. The small ensembles rotate through the grades so that they meet

with one grade level per year, exposing the students to all of the instrumental families within an orchestra throughout elementary school. The GSO education director writes all of the curriculum used in EdReach to state standards, allowing teachers to use it as classroom time and students to gain valuable education tools.

In fifth grade, the students are encouraged to write a persuasive essay, part of their required coursework, on why they should be a guest conductor

for the GSO. During the children's concert, several students are chosen to join the conductor on stage and lead the orchestra in a piece of music. Students who typically would be unable to or uninterested in attending a symphony concert are able to not only go for free but also actively participate in the concert.

GSO targets elementary and middle school students specifically because they see this as a vulnerable age. >>



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Particularly during middle school, students are more likely to drop out of music classes or choose another activity over arts. While not all children are born to be artists or musicians, research has shown that those who have prolonged exposure to the arts tend to graduate from high school at a higher rate. GSO sees this type of research as a compelling argument for keeping students engaged in the arts through programs like EdReach.

### Continuing Education

Engagement with GSO does not end with middle school. GSO actively seeks opportunities to engage the entire Upstate community from infants to adults. Continuing education classes and pre-concert talks allow the GSO to reach their adult audience and continue the conversation about music and the arts. GSO holds open talks that are free to all ticket holders and provide a preview and question and answer session about the upcoming concert. These



Grammy Award winning cellist Yo-Yo Ma

sessions give attendees inside knowledge regarding rehearsals, musical selection and particular elements to look for during the performance.

GSO also partners with the Furman and Clemson OLLI programs to provide a season premier at each program to give students a preview of the upcoming musical selections. Several of the GSO musicians as well as the

Music Director also serve as adjunct professors. In addition, GSO brings music to the Cascades and other retirement communities in the Upstate. GSO does not let a person's age, financial status or ability to travel to a concert prohibit exposure to the arts.

### JLG in GSO

JLG members remain very involved in

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the GSO. Linda Grandy, a former JLG President and current Sustainer, serves as Development Director for the GSO. Sustainers Julie Garrett and Mary Louis Mims are also active in the Symphony Guild and Symphony Endowment Board respectively. Active Members Melanie Albers and Melissa Stroud participate in the Downtown Symphony Club, GSO's young professional organization.

The GSO holds a unique role in the

Upstate arts. Musicians entertain arts patrons through concert series, educate children of all ages through interactive lessons and performances and work to provide every person in the Upstate access to the arts. This effort to engage and educate the Upstate community is helping to ensure that music and the arts will be appreciated, enjoyed and continued in the Upstate for generations. ▽



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# Greenville Health System: & Arts Health

by Anne-Marie Moehring

The Greenville Health System (GHS) is dedicated to providing the top care for patients and to being a key community partner. In this role, GHS seeks unique therapies and treatments and actively participates in local events, such as Music Therapy in the Cancer Institute and partnering with theatres throughout Greenville.

## Music Therapy with GHS Cancer Institute

The GHS Cancer Institute, in partnership with the GHS Cancer Institute's Center for Integrative Oncology and Survivorship, offers music therapy, led by a board-certified music therapist, to its patients. Funded by a grant from the LIVESTRONG™ Foundation, this evidence-based therapy integrates mind-body therapy to help patients cope with illnesses, like cancer, by getting in touch with their bodies. Congruent to yoga and acupuncture,



emotional expression, promote social interaction and relieve disease symptoms.

## Partnerships with local theatres

GHS maintains partnerships throughout the community. The hospital sponsors performances at Centre Stage and The Warehouse Theatre and hosts community health discussions to review the performances. In 2013, the health system sponsored Centre Stage's performance of "Next to Normal." A lunch-and-learn event with GHS physicians as well as a "Talk Back" experience after a Sunday matinee allowed the audience to discuss and learn more about mental illness and mental health.

In 2013, GHS partnered with Centre State and the Warehouse Theatre to highlight mental illness and GHS' supportive offerings for families and indi-

viduals dealing with psychological disorders. Centre Stage performed "A Few Good Men," a play depicting the tough decisions active duty military members and veterans face. The hospital system hosted a lunch and learn and a panel discussion that featured Upstate veterans. Both events focused on avenues veterans and their families can pursue at GHS

when working through post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological illnesses.

The focus on veterans continued with a series titled "Service and Sacrifice." GHS also sponsored performances of "Strange Snow," "The Whipping Man," and "Richard III" at the Warehouse Theatre. During each play, a GHS neuropsychologist participated in a panel discussion with Upstate veterans. This panel allowed participants to openly discuss questions and hear from peers about their struggles and successes. ▽



music therapy is a mind-body therapy that helps patients get in touch with their bodies and promotes healing. Research shows that music therapy enhances quality of life for patients suffering from illnesses like cancer. Music therapy may be used to encourage



**GREENVILLE  
HEALTH SYSTEM**



# My102.5 : A Community Partner

by Anne-Marie Moehring

**M**y102.5, an iHeartRadio station, is an active participant in the Upstate of South Carolina and avid supporter of the Junior League of Greenville. From promoting music through radio to fulfilling Christmas wishes during the holidays, the staff at My102.5 play a vital role in arts and education for children and families in the Upstate. They understand their role as a hometown radio station whose purpose is to be completely invested in their community.

Most recently, My102.5 sponsored the Duke Energy Invention Convention at the TD Convention Center. This annual event allows Upstate students in 4th through 8th grades to showcase their creative solutions to everyday, and not so everyday, problems. Previous winners have been featured on local and national television, highlighting the depth of creativity and innovation

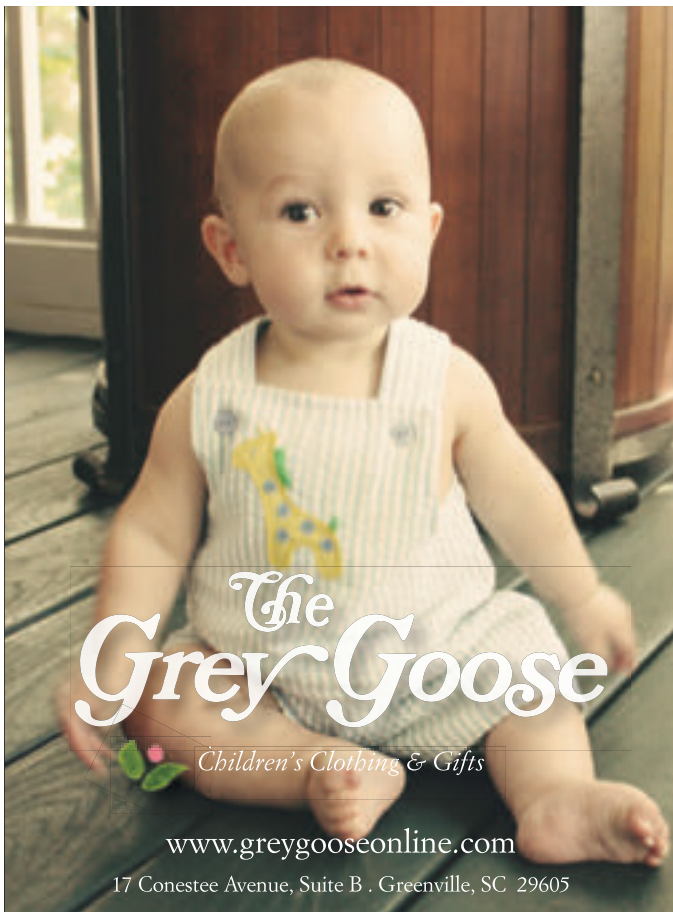
in the Upstate region. Inventions for 2015 included remote-controlled devices for cleaning and sorting, alternative energy devices and educational tools. Teachers and parents interested in the 2016 Invention Convention can visit [www.icupstate.com](http://www.icupstate.com).

During the holidays, My102.5 sponsors the "My Christmas Wish" event. Children and families throughout the Upstate are invited to submit their wish for the holidays. Staff at the radio station then read every entry and work with local organizations to grant as many as possible before Christmas. In previous years, staff have even granted some of these submitted wishes, such as Christmas decorations for a family with none. Families and individuals can sign up for My Christmas Wish at [www.my1025.com](http://www.my1025.com)

My102.5 demonstrates daily how the arts can be an entry into almost every oth-



er area of life. Senior Account Executive for iHeartMedia, Lara Shaw, has served as a member of the Junior League of Greenville's Community Advisory Panel for the past two years. The JLG enjoys working with Lara and everyone at iHeartMedia to improve the lives of families and children in the Upstate. Listeners are initially drawn to the radio station to hear their favorite bands but are refreshingly able to engage with the arts, sciences and their community through opportunities created by the radio station. **v**



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