

VISIONS

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF GREENVILLE • FALL 2011

www.jlgreenville.org



This is *Your*
Junior League



YOUR FUTURE OUR FOCUS



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ON THE COVER: The Junior League of Greenville Provisional Class 2011-2012.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



OUR MISSION

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

OUR REACHING OUT STATEMENT

The Junior League of Greenville, Inc. reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism.



This is YOUR Junior League

I have always felt compelled to volunteer. My first experience as a volunteer was working as a candy striper while I was in high school. I am not quite sure what I was thinking since I am not particularly fond of hospitals (and the red striped uniforms were hideous on my skinny frame). But I spent a year delivering flowers, working in the gift shop and mailroom, and answering call buttons on the floors. It was not a social thing; none of my friends were doing it. In fact, I ended up working with some girls my age that lived in a different part of town and went to different schools. After a year, I had to leave that volunteer job for a paying one, but I never forgot that experience. It was incredibly gratifying to give to others. When I went to school at Presbyterian College, I joined the Student Volunteer Services. PC's motto is "Dum Vivimus Servimus." It translates "While we live, we serve." It is a valuable message and one that I have carried with me since my college days. When I moved to Greenville, I began to search for an outlet where I might serve. I found the League to be a good place for me to learn more about the area and its needs. While learning about Greenville, I met friends and gained new skills.

One of my favorite Placements during my time in the League was serving as 80th Anniversary Chair two years ago. For that Placement, I spent time going through the League's history in our scrapbooks. It was absolutely fascinating, and I learned so much about the Greenville community as well as the League's place in it. There is no question that Greenville would look very different without the impact of the Junior League of Greenville. The stories I learned during that year continue to inspire me. So what is the Junior League of Greenville?

Founded in 1929, the Junior League of Greenville is a women's non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to improving the community, promoting voluntarism, and developing the potential of women through effective training. While social trends and hemlines have changed through the years, our Mission has not. The women of the Junior League remain committed to making a difference in our community.

Over the course of the Junior League's his-

tory in Greenville, our members have provided countless volunteer hours and given over 2 million dollars to the community. We have been at the heart of many initiatives, programs, and institutions. We have affected changes in education, healthcare, and the arts. The women of our League are enthusiastic, passionate, and dedicated to working tirelessly for the benefit of the community at large.

This time in our history has been incredibly challenging due to the state of the economy. But because we were frugal with our funds last year and we are looking forward, we are pleased to be able to fund community grants. We will have two grant cycles, with one recipient agency being named in November and one being named in January for our next year's fundraising. I am very pleased that our organization is able to give grants, despite challenging times for non-profits. League members are always willing to give volunteer hours, but it is so very nice to be able to donate funds as well.

We are able to give grants because of the funds raised at our Nearly New Shop and Oscar Night® America Party. You help us help others by shopping at our upscale resale shop. Our signature party, The Oscar Night® America Party, will be on February 26, 2012 and is open to the public. Besides being a fabulous and affordable evening out in Greenville, it is one of only fifty parties sanctioned by the Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences. Please visit our website for information on both of those fundraisers.

We are fortunate to live in Greenville. It is a beautiful city full of caring and compassionate people. While there are many who are in need, there are also many who are willing to give, both of their time and finances. During this next year, I am repeatedly telling our members, "This is YOUR Junior League." The same goes for you in the community. This is YOUR city. This is YOUR community. This is YOUR Junior League. Join us as we continue to work to make Greenville better for all of us.

Amie Owens
President



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The Junior League of Greenville Provisional Class 2011-2012.

Volunteering, *why it's important*



Home Run for Healthy Kids.

One day last week, I had what is best described as a “breakdown” kind of day. My 4-month-old was running a fever due to the vaccines she received at her well check the day before, and my 6-year-old was covered from head to toe in poison ivy from the woods that separate our backyard from a city park. I also had a room mom meeting and a PTA meeting at my son’s school, there was an epic homework tantrum at my house, and I was struggling with meeting ad and content deadlines for this magazine.

That night when my husband was on his way home, I directed him to the nearest drive thru to pick up dinner. After the kids were asleep, I headed straight to my own bed. I was overwhelmed – had I taken on too much? At church my small circle had just had a discussion on how to slow down from the busyness of life. Should I drop my PTA jobs so my daughter could have some sort of nap schedule? Should I cut back on my Junior League duties so I could spend more time with my family?

Then I began to think about why I volun-

teer. I volunteer because my daughter has access to life saving vaccines and we have insurance that pays for them. I volunteer because my son plays almost everyday outside in our city park where there are fields to run in and a playground. I volunteer because my children go to an amazing school, have incredible teachers and I don’t have to worry about them receiving a quality education.

So many women and children in Greenville County do not have these basic things. That’s why the Junior League partners with groups like the Greenville Free Medical Clinic, A Child’s Haven and Safe Harbor. This is my community, and I want to be a part of making sure that everyone in it is healthy and safe. I’m proud of your Junior League, and I hope you are too.

Elizabeth Clark
Editor

EDITOR’S LETTER



OUR VISION

The Junior League of Greenville, Inc. is committed to building a safe, healthy, nurturing community.

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.



A Life of Sharing



S
sus-tain'

1. to endure without failing or yielding
2. to uphold
3. to maintain
4. to keep alive



For those who grow up in a large family, sharing is learned at a very young age and hardly ever questioned. Shopping for the youngest in the family is more like digging through the bins in the attic. Making due with what is there seems like a old fashioned concept, but the skill of enjoying what is shared with you is as fresh and meaningful as any you'll ever teach a child. In a smaller family, teaching two children to share a treat can be a lengthy process and is often enough to turn a mother's hair gray long before her time.

So how does sharing have anything to do with being a member of the Junior League of Greenville? An even better question: what does it have to do with being a Sustaining Member of the Junior League of Greenville? We know all about sharing. We've shared our time, right? We have paid our dues, participated in socials and worked our shifts. What is left for us to possibly share?

When I was a Provisional, I was completely overwhelmed with the multiple aspects of the Junior League of Greenville. How could the JLG be involved in so much? Would I ever find a place to fit in? I found the women surrounding me to be incredibly motivating yet incredibly intimidating! How would I ever be their peer? What did I have to share with those who already have what it takes to run this organization and better this community?

It didn't take me long to figure out that the members of the Junior League were a big family. They knew how to share, and they knew how to teach me to do the same. They shared their knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of the Greenville community. They taught me how to give of myself and to be helpful in volunteer roles. They shared with me the resources I needed to be a leader and to commit to civic duties. They taught me how to communicate effectively, manage committees, engage with others and how to strengthen myself and those around



Caroline Stewart and Amie Owens.

me. In hindsight, it was so easy to learn the skills with my friends at JLG, I just thought I was having fun. They slipped the learning between so much hard work and socializing, I didn't even realize what was happening.

Now, as a Sustaining member, the opportunity and the responsibility to share continues. There are many more members, and the impact that the JLG is making is just as strong if not stronger than in my day as an Active. By sharing myself with JLG, I can continue the tradition of training women. My years of experience are beyond theirs, and by sharing what I have learned, I pass on the skills that keep this organization alive and our community moving toward a better tomorrow.

Because we give our time, our talents, our laughter and encouragement, and because we appreciate the beautiful art of sharing, this is our Junior League of Greenville.

Caroline Stewart
Sustainer Representative

Caroline

Meet the Board



Interview by Elizabeth Clark



**Amie
Owens**

Position: President

Hometown: I was born in Albany, GA but raised in Orangeburg, SC.

Family: Husband, Cam, Sons, Grant (12) and Aidan (7). My stepchildren are Camden and Saffron (who is married to Tony and has a 1-year-old girl, Addison). They live in Jacksonville, FL.

Profession: Nothing that pays me...

Have you had a fun travel experience?

I can't pick just one!! A recent girls' trip to Chicago involved a Coldplay concert and an impromptu Cubs game. All of my League conferences have been amazing; we have a group of women who just crack each other up. I've been to Orlando, Savannah, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Portland, OR for Junior League! Then there is this year's beach trip with the family; it was the laziest I have been in years. I barely moved from the beach and/or sofa. It was heaven! I have found that it is not where I am but whom I am with that matters the most. Laughing is my favorite!

What does this year's theme "This is Your Junior League" mean to you?

My Junior League has been a place for me to grow. I have tried new things and gained new skills, and I have made life long friendships that I treasure. The JLG is full of women who inspire me to be a better friend, wife, mother, and volunteer. The JL of Greenville is not the same as the JL of Austin or Denver; the JL of Greenville reflects the values and needs of this region. This is My Community; My Junior League is what I make it!

What were you most surprised about after joining the Junior League?

I have been surprised by the consistent passion of the members of the League. I often leave meetings completely exhilarated. The women here are full of energy and great ideas and want to make a difference.

When you were a child what did you want to be when you grew up?

Early on I wanted to be a preschool teacher; I love children! But once I got to college, I didn't want to spend my time in elementary education classes; I wanted to study literature and writing.



**Kristy
Way**

Position: President-Elect

Hometown: I was born in Augusta, GA and moved to Greenville when I was in middle school.

Family: Husband, TJ, Daughter, Kathleen (7) and Son, Parker (5).

Profession: Full time Volunteer!

Do you have a favorite JLG memory?

I have several great memories of the JLG from volunteering at Safe Harbor on a Thanksgiving morning to labeling and relocating Headquarters when I was 9 months pregnant. Receiving the Helen Horton Hunt Award was one of the most amazing JLG memories to me. I was honored to be recognized for doing something that I truly love, which is volunteering for the Junior League.

Have you had a fun travel experience?

With the nomination of President-Elect came the privilege to attend AJLI conferences. I have so enjoyed visiting cities that

I probably never would have seen. I love meeting Junior League Members from all over the world who are eager to share ideas and information. The best part has been the friendships that Amie and I have made with the Leadership in the other South Carolina Leagues. Traveling with these fun and talented ladies has been a fabulous experience!



**Liz
(Jenkins)
Baker**

Position: Communications Vice President

Hometown: Columbia, S.C.

Family: Husband, Rocky, Children – two Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Macon (6) and Whaley (1 ½)

Profession: Public Relations Senior Account Executive at Erwin-Penland

Have you had a fun travel experience?

The most exciting travel experience we've had occurred this summer, actually. My husband and I went to Colorado for two weeks, and while we were there we climbed the tallest mountain in the state – standing at 14,440 feet – which also happens to be the second tallest mountain in the contiguous United States. After climbing Mt. Elbert we were able to enjoy all the other beautiful scenery and lots of great food! It was a big check off the bucket list and a lovely vacation all wrapped up into one!

What does this year's theme "This is Your Junior League" mean to you?

People join the Junior League to better themselves and better the community. This year's theme, "This is Your Junior League," means that we are returning the focus to the women in the League – what they want to achieve from a personal perspective and what community issues are most important

to them. Volunteers who are having fun and working on projects they are passionate about are the most influential, and that is what the Junior League is all about – making a positive impact on women and our community.

What were you most surprised about after joining the Junior League?

The diversity of members is what surprised me most about the Junior League. Diversity in every sense of the word – all ages, all races, women who work full-time, women who work at home to raise their kids, women from Greenville, women from just about every other state – and the list goes on and on. The diverse background of the women in the League is one of JLG's strongest points in my opinion.



**Gena
Runnion**

Position: Community Vice President

Hometown: Ashdown, AR

Family: Husband, Bob, Son, Kell (9), and Daughter, Lily (5)

Profession: Business Operations at Jack Runnion, Ltd.

Have you had a fun travel experience?

My first job out of college was as a National Consultant for my sorority, Chi Omega. Over the course of two years I visited approximately sixty college campuses from UCLA to the University of Iowa to Thiel College in Pennsylvania where I stayed two snowy weeks. The students thought I was a transfer. Although I didn't make much money with this job, I came away with some great stories, memories, and new friends across the country!

What does this year's theme "This is Your Junior League" mean to you?

It means that each woman's contributions, ideas, and commitment are what make the League successful. Not everyone wants or needs to be a leader, but everyone needs to know that her experience is directly proportional to her effort. It's

amazing to see how one idea can turn into something that can tremendously impact our community. One passionate person can turn a simple idea into an amazing result.

When you were a child what did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be an architect like Mike Brady on *The Brady Bunch* or an advertising executive like Darren Stephens on *Bewitched!* I never wanted to be a housewife and have to clean and do laundry. To be honest I'm not very good at it.



**Jenny
Lewis**

Position: Finance Vice President

Hometown: Baton Rouge, LA

Family: Husband: Dave, Son, Bradley (8) and Daughter, Brooke (7)

Profession: CPA-CFO at The Children's Museum of the Upstate

Who within the JLG has made the most impact on you and why?

Tina Hampton has made a huge impact on me. She was the first person I met in the League and was my neighbor after moving to Greenville after Hurricane Katrina. She has become a dear friend and will always help me whenever I ask. Kristy Way also made a huge impact on me. She was one of my first friends in the League and my neighbor after we bought a house in Greenville. She has always been so welcoming and kind. I can always count on her to have my back.

What were you most surprised about after joining the Junior League?

I was most surprised that everyone is very down to earth and welcoming to woman not originally from Greenville.

When you were a child what did you want to be when you grew up?

When I was in middle school I wanted to be an orthodontist and build a giant pink round house to live in once I made lots of money.



**Kerry
Ellet**

Position: Fund Development Vice President

Hometown: Sumter, SC

Profession: Public Relations

Do you have a favorite JLG memory?

I loved chairing Oscar Night® America and I have a ton of fun memories from that experience, like spray painting a thousand big leaves silver in the JLG parking lot. Also, our board retreat at Lake Keowee was so much fun!

Have you had a fun travel experience?

I love to travel! I love to spend time in NYC and recently went to Miami, which was great. I'm headed to Italy next summer and can't wait!

What were you most surprised about after joining the Junior League?

How quickly you can become involved if you let someone know what interests you. When I joined six years ago, I never thought I would be as involved as I am now, but it has been such a rewarding experience. I've made so many great friends, developed new skills and had a lot of fun along the way!



**Jessica
Clements**

Position: Membership Vice President

Hometown: Corpus Christi, Texas

Family: husband, Ross, Daughter, Rory (4 ½) and Son, Hugh (4 months)

Profession: CEO to the Clements Family Household

Do you have a favorite JLG memory?

A recent favorite JLG moment was attending

the Association of Junior Leagues International's ODI (Organizational Development Institute) in Tampa, FL. I went with fellow board members, Liz Baker and Gena Runnion. It was such a wonderful experience to meet other women from around the world and hear their League's 'best practices'.

What does this year's theme "This is Your Junior League" mean to you?

To me, the theme this year means that the League is what YOU make of it. If you don't show up for meetings, if you keep to yourself and you aren't embracing the entire experience...then you most likely won't get a lot from it. But if you put yourself out there, engage the people you meet and embrace your Placement...then there is NO end to what you will get back from this entire experience.



**Anna
Kate
Brown**

Position: Corresponding Secretary

Hometown: Athens, GA

Family: Husband, Will; Son, Beau (5½) and Daughters, Lucy Mac (3), Mary Dot (16 months)

Profession: wife, mother, volunteer

Have you had a fun travel experience?

Yes! At my request, my husband kept our honeymoon destination a surprise until we arrived at the airport. I didn't want to fool with it after all the wedding planning, so he took care of it entirely by himself. I was really impressed with his planning. We spent Christmas in St. Peter's Square and New Year's Eve at the Eiffel Tower - it was so much fun.

When you were a child what did you want to be when you grew up?

As a child, I originally wanted to be a lawyer "that took care of happy things like marriages & adoptions" until my mom explained to me that you don't need a lawyer to get married! As I got older, I realized that it is usually for "unhappy things" that people need lawyers and that it wasn't the right occupation for me!



**Sarah
Lynne
Howie**

Position: Recording Secretary

Hometown: Abbeville, SC

Family: Husband, Lamar Williams, 2 cats and a greyhound

Profession: Director of Operations at Rail Training & Consulting, Inc. (family-owned business)

Do you have a favorite JLG memory?

As a Provisional member, our service project was to sell and deliver books to children served by the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. One of my shifts was to meet with a few kids at the Club to help them pick out what books they wanted to bring home. I met with a Hispanic boy, about 8 years old. One book he picked was the Bilingual edition of The Cat and the Hat, because he wanted to teach his parents to speak English. It truly touched my heart!

Who within the JLG has made the most impact on you and why?

Tina Hampton has made the most impact on me in the JLG. She amazes me with her wealth of knowledge, great ideas, and love for our organization.

Have you had a fun travel experience?

I backpacked around Europe by myself after I graduated from college (University of Georgia). Went to 14 cities in 7 countries over 4 weeks. It was one of the greatest, and scariest, experiences of my life. My favorite country was Italy. The food, wine and laid-back atmosphere can't be beat!



**Kristin
Bailey**

Position: Strategic Planner

Hometown: Charlotte, NC

Family: Husband, Craig, and Daughters, Norah (6) and Lauren (5)

Profession: Sr. Project Director, SMS Research Honolulu (and professional volunteer!)

Do you have a favorite JLG memory?

Planning for and participating in the Have a Heart to Serve event is certainly one of my favorite JLG memories. When we approached our community partners about contributions for the bags of healthy meals and fun fitness activities for the whole family, their response was overwhelmingly generous. When our members came to the all-day General Membership Meeting in February, they brought their children, spouses and friends and were genuinely excited to participate in such a worthwhile event. By far, the best part was delivering the bags to the parents of children served at A Child's Haven. Jeanne McCoy and I talked with them about the tips we'd collected for making healthy, inexpensive family meals and ways to incorporate fitness into everyday life...they were so receptive and appreciative! It brought together all the things the JLG does best—collaborating with community partners and coordinating the dedicated women of the JLG to make a significant impact on the lives of those in need in our community!

Who within the JLG has made the most impact on you and why?

Linda Grandy! As a first-year active, Linda accepted me in the leadership course she was teaching. Each month she shared with us incredible lessons about everything from leadership skills and public speaking to how to create a proper meeting agenda and why you should wear solid colors during a television interview. She led by example- always fully prepared for our sessions, always honest and upbeat, and never failing to incorporate a fun theme. One statement she shared was particularly significant: The single most important leadership skill is integrity because, without it, you can have mastered all the rest of the skills and still not be a true leader.

Have you had a fun travel experience?

I traveled to Guam on business last year and that was a truly unique experience. Guam is a beautiful tropical island out in the middle of the ocean, still largely untouched by commercial development. The

people of Guam are unbelievably gracious and very proud of their history and culture. Guam also has many quirky characteristics: no one arrives for a 9:00 meeting before 9:30-10:00 (except outsiders!) and the frequent typhoons knock down the street signs, so they've just quit putting them up and give directions using large trees and purple houses as reference points.

What does this year's theme "This is Your Junior League" mean to you?

What a fabulous reminder that the JLG is committed to providing every one of its 1,300 members with opportunities to serve the Greenville community, training courses, and the ability to connect with women who will likely be friends for a lifetime! It's also a charge to each of us to put into our League commitment everything we want to get out of it. Much like joining a gym that has the latest and greatest fitness equipment, it will only provide you with amazing results if you actually show up, actively participate and give it your best effort!



Position: Parliamentarian

Hometown: Greenville, SC

Family: Sons, Ian and Bonner, twins (3)

Profession: Stay at home mom

Do you have a favorite JLG memory?

I do not have a specific memory, but I think one of my favorite activities is actually working at the Nearly New Shop. Now,

some of you might be laughing at that idea, but I have truly enjoyed that experience. I love to tell the ladies how great they look in the clothes and experience the biggest smiles on their faces!

Have you had a fun travel experience?

I absolutely love to travel and tried to use my Marriott points at least twice a year to enjoy the Caribbean and Europe before my children were born in 2008. My favorite island in the Caribbean would definitely be St. Kitts – the Marriott there is absolutely beautiful and they have both a Vet and a Nursing School there that many American students have discovered so there are lots of young people running around and the island caters to them. I also enjoyed a fantastic trip on a Catamaran throughout the British Virgin Islands several years ago for New Years. It's definitely a trip that I will never forget and would love to do it again someday!

When you were a child what did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be the first female President when I was growing up. But once I realized that you had to live in Washington, DC, I decided that probably was not the job for me!



Position: Sustaining Advisor to the Board

Hometown: Greenville, SC

Family: Husband, Dick, Sons, Elliott (26)

and David (23), Daughter, Adele (20)

Profession: President of Louis P. Batson Company

Do you have a favorite JLG memory?

Lesa Kastler and I travelled to Colorado for a conference. We rented a car and "toured" the Rockies. At one point, we couldn't get the defogger to work on the windshield and couldn't see where we were driving. Lesa, who is always resourceful, quickly located some cotton unmentionables to clean the windshield. She even helped me tote rocks home for our Board so they could share the Rockies with us! The expression on the inspector's face as we cleared the luggage check on the way home was priceless.

Who within the JLG has made the most impact on you and why?

Minor Shaw. Minor was President Elect and asked me to chair a committee. I was so in awe that Minor believed that I could chair a committee. This was before we had the Council System and all committee chairs sat on the Board and attended Board meetings. What a role model Minor was in running those meetings and then serving as President of the JLG!

What does this year's theme "This is Your Junior League" mean to you?

I love this theme! I can make my membership in the JLG be anything I want it to be. I can take part in all activities or just some of them. I can go to meetings where I don't know anyone and come home with 2 new friends. I can speak up or be quiet. I can be a chief or an Indian. I can choose my path knowing that I have the support and resources of 1,300 other women! ■

AJLI (Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc.)

Founded in 1901 by Mary Harriman, the Junior Leagues are charitable nonprofit organizations of women, developed as civic leaders, creating demonstrable community impact.

Today, The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. is comprised of more than 155,000 women in 292 Junior Leagues throughout Canada, Mexico, the UK and the US. Collectively, we constitute one of the largest, most effective volunteer organizations in the world.



Safe Kids Upstate

Firefighters teach children about fire safety at a Safe Kids event.

Written by Linda Brees, Director of Children's Advocacy/Safe Kids Upstate

Fifteen years ago 80% of our children in Greenville County rode their bikes without helmets, younger children rode in cars without car seats, and one in five families lived in a home without a smoke alarm. Recognizing the need to reduce the instances of unintentional injury in children 0 –14 years of age, the Greenville Hospital System's Children's Hospital joined with National SAFE KIDS to build a coalition to address these and other crucial child Safety issues.

Because of the 24% reduction in childhood injury that Greenville saw in 10 years, Greenville SAFE KIDS added Pickens and Oconee Counties and became SAFE KIDS Upstate. SAFE KIDS Upstate's multifaceted effort that includes public awareness, interac-

tive Safety education, Safety device distribution, endorsement and enforcement of laws and community partnerships and is the approach that continues to be successful today.

Besides leading South Carolina in innovative and effective ways to reduce childhood

injury, SAFE KIDS Upstate has created educational pieces and programs that are in use as models throughout the nation by SAFE KIDS USA. "Cribs for Kids", the SAFE KIDS Upstate website, and the "Sports Injury Guide" for

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Photos from this year's Safe Kids events.

SAFE continued from page 11

coaches are just a few examples of the best practices that SAFE KIDS Upstate has developed and have been hailed as models to be used throughout the state and country.

SAFE KIDS Upstate has made great strides in increasing recognition of child injury as a public health issue amenable to prevention rather than the result of uncontrollable "accidents". SAFE KIDS Upstate will continue to address the issue of child injury through targeted public education campaigns; encouraging the development, improvement and use of Safety devices; and the enactment and enforcement of laws promoting child Safety.

SAFE KIDS Upstate calls on the community to place the highest priority on the prevention of childhood injury. Particular emphasis should be paid to decrease injury risk to minorities in the area of sports, and motor

vehicle occupants. SAFE KIDS Upstate will continue to lead the community by enacting and enforcing strong safety laws to protect children of all ages (specifically focusing on stronger child occupancy protection laws focusing on booster seats, effective swimming pool barrier laws, and athletic training laws); continuing parent education with the "Follow the Leader" component; evaluating injury prevention programs and safety devices for effectiveness and reduce injury, mortality, and morbidity among children; and working to improve the effectiveness and affordability of safety devices.

SAFE KIDS Upstate is dedicated to the safety of children and needs your help in developing the necessary partnerships and sponsors to continue this important mission across the Upstate for the next 15 years. For more information please go to our website at www.safekidsupstate.org. ■

15 years of Landmark Accomplishments:

- Reduced the rate of childhood death from accidental injury by over 27%.
- Philanthropic growth from \$150.00 to nearly \$500,000.00.
- 350,000 visits to Buddy's Safety House.
- Expansion of our programs to include outreach to diverse populations.
- Grown the Safety Patrol Program from 1 school to 49 schools.
- Over 4500 bike helmets given away to children.
- Staff growth from 1 to 8 full time employees.
- Coalition with members representing over 50 community organizations.
- Established 5 permanent Car Seat Inspection Sites w/ 25 certified car seat technicians (6 are certified special needs car seat technicians).
- Brought in nationally renowned children's advocate, John Walsh of "America's Most Wanted" to area conference.
- Distribution of millions of pieces of child Safety literature throughout the community.
- New initiative of Play Ground Inspection.
- New initiative program to address childhood obesity called the "Choosy" program.

Legislative Impact:

- Bike Helmet legislation that resulted in laws and ordinances for bicycles and other wheeled sports.
- Pick-up Truck legislation
- Primary Seat Belt legislation
- Car Seat legislation
- Advocate for bike friendly communities including multi-use paths, bike lanes and adequate lighting.
- ATV legislation Chandler's Law which is aimed at protecting South Carolina's young ATV riders through rider training, parental supervision, the use of proper safety gear, and prohibitions on children riding adult-sized models.



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Sustaining Member Spotlight: Charlene Comer

Interview by Kathryn Rowan

The Junior League of Greenville got quite lucky when Charlene Comer moved to Greenville, SC. She has proven herself time and time again as a treasure to YOUR Junior League, from serving as President to acting as Sustaining Advisor to the Board. Charlene says the JLG has a special, special place in her heart, and after you spend just a little time with her you can tell she genuinely means that. She lights up when talking about the League and everything she has gained from her participation in it. After talking with her, I realized her gains are (quite simply) small compared to those of the JLG

and Greenville community because of her involvement.

Where were you born? Where did you attend school?

I was born in Winston Salem and moved to Atlanta when I was five. I went to Northside High School in Atlanta. I graduated from Emory University and thought I would be a doctor but changed my mind after I took organic chemistry. When I was at Emory, almost everybody there was either pre-med, pre-dental or pre-law.

What is your husband's name and where did you meet?

My husband was Braxton Comer, and he went by "Bracky" because he was a IV. We

had all these "Brax's" and "Braxton's" so everyone just called him "Bracky." We met on a blind date. My husband's college roommate at Georgia Tech was actually marrying a good friend of mine from Atlanta, and we were both in the wedding party. Back then people would always put a bridesmaid and a groomsman together...so that's how we were set up. I was a senior at Emory, and I almost didn't go on the date to a wedding party, but my friends convinced me we would all be together, and that it would be great. And that was the beginning....

Do you have any children? Where do they live now?

I have three sons. They are all married: one lives in Camden; one lives in Charles-

ton; one lives in Mount Pleasant. I have eight grandchildren. I love having them all in South Carolina, but of course, I sure wish one of them lived in Greenville!

What are some of your hobbies?

I am very involved with A Childs Haven. I am on their advisory board and was president of the board for two years, and I'm still very connected. We are having a capital campaign, but it's been put on hold right now because of the economy. I'm on the steering committee. I love to read, to garden and to play bridge. These keep me pretty busy. I'm also on the wedding committee at my church, First Presbyterian. In fact, I just directed a wedding this weekend.

Do you have a memorable travel moment?

My husband was killed in a car wreck seven years ago. Bracky always wanted to take everybody on a big family trip, and we never could find a time. Three years ago I decided to take everyone on a cruise to Alaska. We planned it for a year. We did the Inland Passage. We had the best time and took kids ages 5 – 13. We left one 2-year-old at home. It was really a trip in memory of Bracky. This July we took another trip to a dude ranch in Jackson Hole. Again, we left a 2-year-old at home but took all the others ranging in age from 4 to 16. Those were two great family trips. Bracky and I went to Greece with several couples from Greenville which was so much fun. We also went to Italy. I've traveled a good bit since he's been gone. I went to Tahiti last year which was also wonderful. I'm trying to travel while I still can!

When did you join the JLG?

We had just moved to Greenville and I was pregnant with my second son. It was 1969. Back then we lived in Summit, New Jersey and a good friend of mine proposed my membership there. Then we moved to Greenville for my husband's job, and the proposal transferred here. We lived in Gower and women from the neighborhood would drop by often. I didn't know it was the admissions committee at the time. It was very secretive then.

What was your most rewarding experience in the JLG?

I think being President of the League. It was the most challenging yet rewarding year. I made such special friendships. You know, back then, the active membership was 278 Actives. I knew every single one of them, or at least could call them by name. It was very different. I was president in 1977-1978.

Can you name a few of your JLG Placements that stood out to you?

I was chairman of the Nearly New Shop. Back then it was called the Opportunity Shop, and it was downtown. I was co-chairman and then Chairman, and I loved the Shop. My heart is still with the Shop. It's come such a long way. I take things there all the time. I did many in-league placements. I was Secretary and then President-Elect, President, and area nominating Chairman. That was all before I was forty. I did a lot of community work through other organizations, boards, etc.

What have you enjoyed most about your time as a Sustainer?

We've had a good time. Joyce Parks and I chaired the Sustainer

Committee years ago when we had a luncheon every month in someone's home. It was a good bit of work, but it was so much fun to plan. We don't do that anymore, but we have many fun events. I planned two sustainer events at Lydia Kellett's home downtown. I was also Sustaining Advisor to the Board when Tammy Phillips was President, and that was so much fun. That was about six years ago and that was wonderful. I try now to go to the Sustainer events. Last year I helped Harriett Goldsmith by being on her committee and I'm looking forward to the events this year. The League just has a special, special place in my heart.



What would you tell someone now who was thinking about joining the JLG?

I would tell them to take advantage of the opportunity, of course: the training they will receive, the friendships they will make and the commitment to the community. It's just a wonderful experience, and you feel so good about what you're doing. I would encourage anyone to take that opportunity and enjoy it. ■

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Home Run for Healthy Kids

On Thursday, October 20th and Friday, October 21st the Junior League of Greenville hosted over 2,500 Greenville County students at the Flour Field for Home Run for Healthy Kids™. The children had vision screenings and participated in a number of events teaching the importance of healthy food choices, exercise, dental care, fire, bike and internet safety. Thanks to our community partners for making this event such a success! (Photos continue on page 18)









The members of JLG: BUILDERS OF A BETTER GREENVILLE

Written by Stephanie Morgan

No community is complete without all of the pieces holding firm to their place. From the top to the bottom of a structural building, each piece is important. Our community is no different. Greenville is great because of each arm being wrapped around it, holding it together and lifting to higher and higher places. In fact, Greenville is becoming the poster child for being one of the best cities to call home in the whole big wide country because of community efforts in building it strong. That is amazing. It isn't simply because of the parks that are pretty or that big suspension bridge that we all enjoy feeling a little bit queazy on. It's because of organizations like this one who do their part in giving



McCall Hospice House.

and supporting to make Greenville a place for everyone.

Not long ago I received an email from a relative sharing a story and asking for a little advice. He had been working in the small town in which he'd lived all 50

years of his life. It was a normal Tuesday afternoon when a young girl and her two small children approached him. The mother explained in mumbled words how her husband had left that morning taking their money. They had no food left in the house; she'd just used the last diaper on the older of the two babies, and her car was stalled two blocks away from the garage in front of which they were standing. He wrote in the email how he could see the sadness in the faces of the children. He didn't hesitate to drive her to a friend's house, providing a quick fix for the lengthy problem. But after having had days to think about the faces of those little people, he was searching for a better solution. He felt the need to provide a sound structure for that family and didn't know where to start.

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JLG member, Virginia Mitchell, serves as a Childcare Advocate at Safe Harbor.

I took to Google for guidance. I typed in the name of the town and searched for assistance. Nothing. I typed in the name of the larger city neighboring and again found not a single bold name of a helping agency. I couldn't believe that in a town nearly half the population of Greenville not a single place of hope jumped out at me. Then, just for comparison, I googled Greenville and found literally pages of resources, places to call for help. It made me proud to be here and proud to be a part of an organization that believes in helping. Behind everyone of those places is a group of people working in the business of giving. Our community is unlike many others; we are full of givers who understand the importance of sharing to make the world a better place.

The Junior League of Greenville fits perfectly into this group of givers. Each individual gives of her time, but she also gives her funds. As dues paying members, the women support both the organization and the building blocks of the community of Greenville through approving and distributing grants to organizations in need. Since 1946, when JLG was The Junior Charities, not yet members of The Association of Junior Leagues in America, \$1,800 was given to The Youth Service

Center. In 1946, this was not pocket change-it was a honorable gift to the community raised by women of Greenville dedicated to seeing change and paving the way for our lively Main Street we all enjoy today.

1946-1980

Between 1946 and 1980, The Junior League of Greenville donated over \$2,000,000 to the community. In 1975, \$125,000 were pledged and some provided for creation of Pendleton Place, a shelter for children removed from their homes by Department of Social Services. The Roper Mountain Science Center was given funds for both educational tools and to provide funds for the sound and lighting equipment used today to entertain thousands of people each Christmas season, and to many organizations seeking help. In 1979, JLG with others brought The Warehouse Theatre to life by giving \$55,000 toward renovating their first building.

1980's

Durning the 1980's support continued of Roper Mountain Science Center and Warehouse theatre, Pendleton Place and funds were given to partner with Green-

ville County Schools, The Greenville Zoo, The Children's Hospital, United Ministries, Greenville Literacy, The Alliance For Quality Education (now known as The Public Education Partners), and the list goes on and on. The Junior League was instrumental in the forming of The Peace Center for Performing Arts providing \$138,000. During this period, the community began structuring many of the organizations vital to the Greenville we know today.

In the 1990's JLG had met a million dollar giving point and continuing to support the growth of the Greenville Community through providing volunteers and giving funds. During this decade, \$56,000 was gifted to The Upstate Children's Museum, Camp Opportunity, The Free Medical Clinic, A Child's Haven, Meyers Center, The YMCA, St. Anthony's of Pauda School and many more.

2000 and Beyond

Entering a new millennium, Greenville and the JLG were vastly different from 1940's. The support system that the founders of JLG had hoped for was created. The needs were still there in the community, but they appeared quite differently. Make no mistake, JLG was also changing and the membership recognized and adapted to changes. By 2010, JLG, through successful fundraising efforts, to provide funds, nearly \$210,000 into community needs. Remember, it took nearly 50 years in the beginning to establish this type of giving. Support was there for The McCall Hospice House, Hispanic Outreach, Greenville Area Interhospitality Network and the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. As Greenville began to recognize the needs of a new diverse population, JLG was there and continues to be there today.

Currently, JLG members are considering more than 50 grant applications submitted for two grants being awarded this year. We take pride in giving back to the community. We take pride in paving the way for the plans created by our leaders, and we take pride in creating partnerships to see those plans through to the end or should we say, to the top. Together we build a better Greenville so that no mother finds herself stranded on the street with no one to help. ■

Our JLG Family







Provisional of the Year 2010-2011: Katie Saad



By Jessica Clements and Elizabeth Clark

At the May 2011 General Membership Meeting, the 2010-2011 Frances Steele Pearce Provisional of the Year award was awarded to Katie Saad. Katie is originally from Shreveport, Louisiana but moved to Greenville in August of 2010. She then chose to join the Junior League of Greenville after watching her friends join the Junior League in her hometown. She jumped right into her Provisional Year and stood out from all the rest! She never missed a Provisional Course Session, a General Membership Meeting or a social. She went beyond the call of duty by volunteering her entire family for the Nearly New Shop fashion show, and she raised the most money for the Provisional group project, which was providing books about healthy eating to give to the Home Run for Healthy Kids™ participants.

Katie also volunteers outside of the

League. She was a flight attendant for Delta Airlines for 20 years and still works with them on Habitat for Humanity projects and the Deaf Action Center. She is a member of the Greenville County Medical Society Alliance and works with various non-profits to support medical needs in the community in Greenville County and raise money for nursing scholarships. She is also active at Prince of Peace Catholic School and works with the annual fund raising committee. Last year, with the guidance of the chair of the committee, (also a JLG committed volunteer,) they raised \$101,000.

As a mother of three young children, Katie feels that it is important for them to learn the importance of giving back to the community. Each year (starting at age 4) her children give up their birthday presents to collect bags from their friends to give to foster children in South Carolina or to Pendleton Place. Katie says that Pendleton Place is another reason she felt compelled to join the Junior League of Greenville.

This year Katie is Vice Chair of the Nearly New Shop, which is no small endeavor. Katie is ready for the job and dedicated to seeing it through to another successful year. She spent many Provisional hours at NNS and is excited to be working there again. Her favorite part about the Shop is the people that work, shop, and volunteer there. She says they are some of the most honest and kind people you will meet.

We are a better JLG and a better community to have Katie Saad as a committed volunteer. ■



JLG's Nearly New Shop

The Nearly New Shop is the Junior League of Greenville's largest source of fundraising. Along with two full time and three part time paid workers, last year Junior League members volunteered over 3000 hours in the Shop. Every month over 250 League members, corporations and community members donate items for the Shop to sell.

There are over 1500 customer transactions each month. In 2010-2011 the League was able to raise \$150,000 through the Nearly New Shop after expenses were paid.



Nearly New Shop merchandise.



Greenville Junior League Community Placements 2011-2012

A CHILD'S HAVEN

A Child's Haven provides therapeutic intervention and prevention services for developmentally delayed, abused and neglected young children and their families.

GIRLS ON THE RUN

Girls on the Run is 12-week program that works to build self-esteem, make healthy living choices and instill a good body image. The program requires motivated volunteers to serve as positive role models and coach young girls to run the Girls on the Run 5K.

GREENVILLE FREE MEDICAL CLINIC

The Greenville Free Medical Clinic provides free outpatient health services, including primary care, dental services, health education, and prescriptions to the medically underserved and uninsured.



Greenville Free Medical Clinic.

JULIE VALENTINE CENTER

Julie Valentine Center (Formerly Greenville Rape Crisis and Child Abuse Center) is committed to giving a voice to the victims of child abuse and sexual assault. They provide confidential programs and services for children, teen and adult survivors.

MCCALL HOSPICE HOUSE OF GREENVILLE

In 2005, the Greenville Hospital System and Bon Secours St. Francis Health System identified the growing community need for end of life hospice care. The Greenville Hospital System gifted its hospice program to St. Francis and together they are known as Open Arms Hospice. Open Arms Hospice operates the McCall Hospice House, a new 30 bed residential hospice facility



McCall Hospice House.

created to serve the people of Greenville and its surrounding communities.

MEALS ON WHEELS, INC.

Meals on Wheels enhances the quality of life of homebound individuals by providing nutritious meals, personal contact and related services.

DONE IN A DAY

The Done in a Day Program strives to combine the needs of community agencies for trained volunteers with the desire of the JLG membership for volunteer options that expose them to a wide variety of agencies in our community.

PENDLETON PLACE

Since its founding in 1975 by the Junior League of Greenville, Pendleton Place Children's Shelter has been filling an important need in the Greenville community by providing a safe, warm place for children and youth who have been removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect, abandonment, or the incarceration of their parents or guardians.

PROJECT HOPE

Project HOPE has four programs. One of its programs is Hope Academy, which is a private school that integrates students with special needs into classrooms with typical students.



Upcountry History Museum.

READY 4 READING

The Ready 4 Reading Program re-circulates gently used children's books back into the community where they are made available free for children and their families to take home for Family Reading times. Currently in Greenville, there are five Ready 4 Reading locations where bookshelves have been placed.

SAFE HARBOR

Safe Harbor helps victims of domestic violence, providing safe emergency shelter, counseling, legal advocacy, and community outreach and education in Greenville, Pickens, Anderson and Oconee Counties. There are two unmarked, confidential emergency shelters - one in Greenville, one in Anderson - with controlled access and 24/7 staffing.

THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF THE UPSTATE

The Children's Museum of the Upstate opened its doors in the summer of 2009. The museum houses 18 indoor multidisciplinary exhibits geared towards children ages 6-11.

THE FIRST TEE

The First Tee's Mission is to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf. The First Tee has established Nine Core Values that represent positive values connected with the game of golf and are the foundation of the First Tee of Greenville's programming. These Nine Core Values are Honesty, Integrity, Sportsmanship, Judgment, Respect, Confidence, Responsibility, Perseverance and Courtesy.



The Children's Museum of the Upstate.

UPCOUNTRY HISTORY MUSEUM

The mission of the Upcountry History Museum is to promote and preserve the history of Upcountry South Carolina through education, research and service. They are dedicated to teaching children the relevance of our past so they can be better prepared for their future.

YOUTHBASE

YouthBASE is a daily program that includes social skills training, reading support, arts, and more - all in the context of caring relationships and supportive community. ■

PLACEMENT *Reflections*

This year the Junior League's members are placed in over 14 community organizations, giving hundreds of volunteer hours to each of them. There are also numerous In-League Placements such as Home Run for Healthy Kids™, Kids in the Kitchen and Oscar Night® America. Junior League Provisional members spend their volunteer hours staffing the Nearly New Shop as well as working on a Provisional group project.

We asked the members below to tell us about their Placements this year.



Monica Dodge

My community Placement this year is at A Child's Haven. I am a classroom reader for the 3 and 4-year-old class. I speak to the classroom teacher each month and find out what they are working on and try to find books from my children's bookshelves that they would enjoy. It is so rewarding to watch the children's eyes light up when they see the pictures and hear the stories. My favorite memory was when I read Brown Bear, Brown Bear to them. A little 3-year-old who is more or less non-verbal, started clapping her hands and got so excited. The teacher told me that each of their cubbies has a picture of a different character from the book (blue horse, yellow duck, etc.). The students would point to each other when I sang their animal and color. It is a fun and rewarding Placement!

Michele Bryant

My Placement this year is Meals on Wheels. I deliver food once a week to elderly people who cannot leave their houses. The Meals on Wheels recipients are so grateful for the meals provided and for the companionship with their regular delivery person. I have really enjoyed the Placement!



Marion Lee

As part of the Done in a Day Placement, I am able to get involved in the community and learn more about our partnering agencies that I would otherwise not be working with. I love that I can participate in volunteer opportunities that interest me such as scrapbooking, mud runs, and Halloween festivals. Done in a Day also gives me the chance to get to know other Junior League members and meet new people and each event.

Delores Bowers

Home Run for Health Kids is an annual event designed to expose children in the Greenville county area to a healthier lifestyle by providing them with information to assist them in making healthier decisions. It was fantastic to help them learn about the ecosystem and what role we play in the process.





Adrianne McGregor

The McCall Hospice House has already taught me so much about the importance of compassion in caring directly for patients and their families during the end of life. I have quickly learned of the numerous opportunities available to those who wish to volunteer and the heartfelt passion of the current volunteers. During my brief experience thus far, I have also learned that sometimes by visiting just a few short minutes with patients, providing snacks or offering an extra hand to the staff truly makes a difference in promoting quality and dignity in the end of life. I feel honored to be a part of such a wonderful organization and look forward to volunteering more in the coming months.

Lauren Everidge

I am a Provisional this year. I have really enjoyed working in the Nearly New Shop. I love meeting the customers and everyone is so friendly. I have also loved getting to know the other League Provisionals through working at the Nearly New Shop.

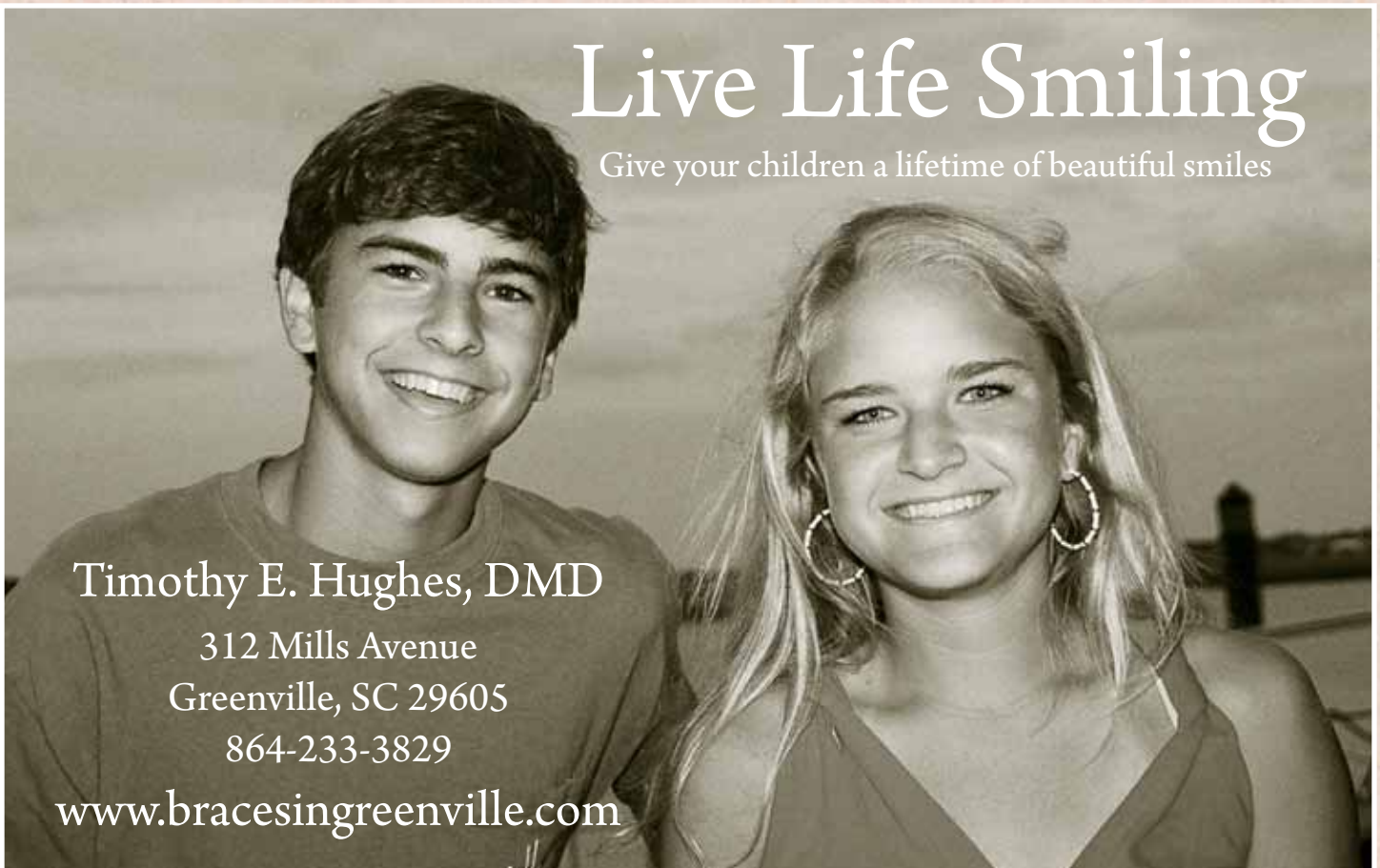


Erin Ridgeway

My placement this year is Kids in the Kitchen, and I was a presenter at our sugar table at Home Run for Healthy Kids. It was fun to interact with the kids and see how surprised they were to find out just how much sugar is in the things they consume every day. It's gratifying to educate kids about nutrition and fitness, because that information empowers them to make healthy choices in every aspect of their lives.

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LEADING the way



Junior League Members attend an informational seminar.

By Stephanie Morgan

As members of the Greenville community, we all see the need to volunteer. We all see the growth in the community. We all see the staggering statistics surrounding hunger, homelessness, domestic violence, and childhood obesity, but what we don't always see is where to jump in and how to lead. How do we use our own leadership skills to become active in the community and make a difference?

This fall, Greenville's volunteer base increased by 70. This year those 70 women eager to learn more about volunteering and become more familiar with ways to help will participate in training, learn more about the needs of the community, and gain confidence to become helping hands to those in need. Thank you new members, Provisionals, of the Junior League of Greenville (JLG) for 2011! With the help of our newest members, JLG will carve out a whopping 25 thousand hours of volunteer work in the community this year alone. As with any new endeavor, the Provisionals have much to learn before they are fully prepared to volunteer for any of the 15 non-profit agencies served with JLG volunteers.

There is much to learn to becoming

more involved and there is much to learn to volunteer. It's more than just sitting at a desk with the sign-in sheet smiling. Nearly every position requires hours of orientation before becoming a volunteer. Our goal at the JLG is to produce volunteers who engage themselves in their positions and into their community. Volunteers who strive to always remember the impact that they can make in a community. Beginning as a volunteer and growing into leadership is the community is a realistic goal for our members. Remembering to volunteer is to help, but to lead is to change the way for the future.

What is L.E.A.D.?

L.E.A.D.: Leadership Education And Development is the committee charged the responsibility of creating an environment which welcomes a diverse group of women; where all members feel connected to each other, to the League's Mission and to the community; and which trains and encourages them to make a unique, valuable and lasting contribution. As a component of the membership committee, L.E.A.D. members continuously strive to listen to the membership and provide for the needs expressed.

By surveying its membership, JLG is able to find out where the interests of the membership are and meet the needs by planning seminars and Lunch and Learn sessions focused on the

topics requested by the members of JLG.

This year L.E.A.D. has lined up several opportunities to become more knowledgeable and better suited for volunteering for all members of the Junior League. The first of the training sessions was a focus on education and took place in September. An Overview of Schools was presented to update members on changes in the school system. JLG welcomed with open arms members of the Greenville County Schools staff, who were well spoken and well informed presenting valuable information for the members of the Junior League of Greenville many of whom are parents already engaged as classroom helpers. As Greenville County Schools continues to grow, the opportunities for serving children have also increased. The system is the 50th largest school system in the nation and has over 38,000 PTA members. Because hundreds of them are also members of JLG, the happenings inside Greenville County Schools are hot topics of conversation around JLG Headquarters. With various magnet options, questions continue to be raised by members about enrollment, special permission, school nutrition, and more. For JLG members, this evening of enrichment brought the opportunity to learn about school choice but also about the needs of the schools with regard to volunteer opportunities.

This experience, like all presented by L.E.A.D., provided the members of JLG the opportunity to become more in line with the plans of the community. Knowledge is power. L.E.A.D. provides members with statistics and data, valuable information about organizations like Greenville County Schools and with ways to become more involved. Leading is doing. Doing is connecting. Connecting is the JLG way. ■

PLAN AHEAD

L.E.A.D. in November:
November 15
Your Health

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The Junior League of Greenville (JLG) reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism.

We are actively seeking a diverse membership of women of all ages. Our membership includes a broad array of women who bring many different talents and perspectives to the community.

Who are we?

- **350+ Active members** – Our members are trained specifically for volunteer responsibilities in community projects, fundraising activities, education programs and administration. Collectively they volunteer more than 20,000 hours in the community each year
- **74%** work, either full or part time
- **76%** are married
- **60%** have children
- **70+ Provisional members** – new members who are trained in leadership development, community awareness and volunteer service
- **800+ Sustaining members** – have fulfilled their obligations as an Active member

Provisional Training Course

All JLG members are required to complete the Provisional Training Course during their first year of membership. This course allows new members to get to know each other while gaining an understanding of how the JLG fulfills its Mission. A complete listing of Provisional Course requirements is available at www.jlgreenville.org under the "Join Us" section.

Application Process

The next Open House/Prospective Member Workshop will be held in early 2012. The Open House is a wonderful opportunity to get to know the JLG – who we are, and the many ways we have impacted and continue to impact the Greenville community. Please continue to check our website for up to date information.



Support the Junior League of Greenville

Last year, the members of the Junior League of Greenville provided more than 32,000 volunteer hours to our community. Since 1947, over \$2 million in gifts and grants have been awarded by the Junior League of Greenville.

Please consider making a contribution today. There are numerous ways in which you can help.

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