Winter 2015

## WOMEN BUILDING A BETTER GREENVILLE One experience at a time

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### contents & FEATURES // Winter 2015



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2015 - 16 Board of Directors
Unlimited Potential
Community Action
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2015 - 16 Holiday Community Events
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Fall/Winter Apparel

Holiday Gifts and Decor

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# THE PRESIDENT

#### "Women who are going places start in the Junior League of Greenville!"

Our members have been living this statement for more than 86 years, when the JLG began as the Junior Charities in 1929. Those 20 women who had an earnest desire to be of service to their community – and all of the women who have followed – continue to impact our community. Since 1929, we have been adhering to our mission of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action of trained volunteers. Those powerful words shape who we are and define our commitment:

"Promoting voluntarism." We encourage women to volunteer and provide an organized format in which to do so. By offering opportunities for women to volunteer with other women, the JLG not only provides rewarding fellowship opportunities but also creates an impactful volunteering force. Whether a member serves on an in-League committee or she volunteers with one of our partner agencies, she donates her time and talents each year while receiving the benefits of being part of something larger than herself.

"Developing the potential of women." I love this part! The JLG fosters a welcoming, nurturing environment that encourages our members to learn new skills and to broaden their community perspective. The development begins during the first year of membership, the Provisional year, as members learn about the needs in the Greenville community, the JLG and our community impact as well as the structure and organization of our League. Provisionals also learn of the importance of the Nearly New Shop and see, firsthand, its impact on the surrounding community and the customers who frequent the store. Seasoned members, Actives, learn or improve upon many skills including effectively running a meeting, collaboration, fundraising and adhering to a budget. Members who volunteer with community agencies also develop their potential as they tutor a child, deliver a meal to a homebound person or mentor a young woman who is struggling with the day-to-day pressures of life.

"Improving the community through the effective action of trained volunteers." JLG members are the epitome of trained volunteers. JLG members go on to be leaders not only within our organization, but also throughout the Greenville community. Look no farther than schools, parent organizations, local businesses, non-profit organizations, city and county government, and you will find JLG members leading, impacting, serving. JLG experiences empower our members to continue to improve the community throughout their lives.

Read on to learn about the women featured in this issue of VISIONS. They are accomplished women who have built upon the foundation that they received in the JLG and are using their skills to build a better Greenville. They, along with countless others, exemplify our theme for this year, "Women Who Are Going Places Start in the Junior League of Greenville."

Rebecca Feldman

**Rebecca Feldman** President, 2015 - 2016 Junior League of Greenville, Inc.

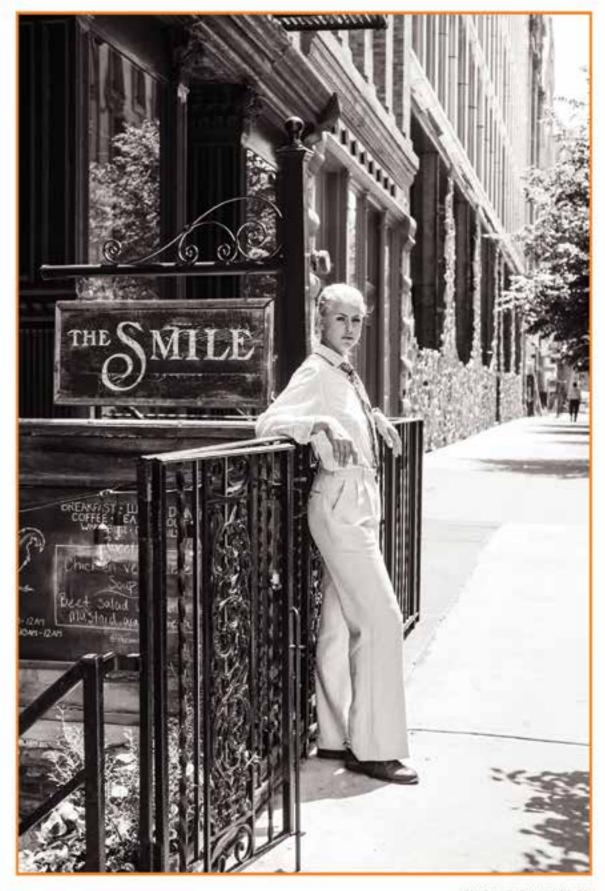


Rebecca Feldman



Rebecca Feldman is the 2015 - 2016 President of the Junior League of Greenville and has been a JLG member for 14 years. She graduated from Hollins University in Roanoke, VA with a BA in Art History. Rebecca and her husband, Bryan, are the owners of Two Men and a Truck franchises in Greenville, SC; Tallahassee, FL; Chesterfield, VA; and Richmond, VA. Rebecca and Bryan have two children, Reid (10) and Caroline (8).

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#### **VISIONS STAFF**

Editor Kathryn Freedman Senior Writer Anne-Marie Moehring Sustaining Advisor

Caryn Vedane Writers

Hannah Barfield Spellmeyer Ryann Warlick

Guest Contributors

Kimberly Cooley, Rebecca Feldman, Leigh Ann Miller, Heather Scalzo

> Featured Photography Patrick Cox Photography Guest Photographer

Sarah Lynne Howie Advertising Sales

Sarah Armstrong, Jessica Sharp

Design & Production BenCoxDesigns

#### MISSION STATEMENT

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 Kathryn Freedman with your thoughts about the magazine or to learn how to become more involved at Information@JLGreenville.org

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

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"Women who are going places start in the Junior League of Greenville"

No truer words have been spoken. Throughout our community, I wonder what our nonprofit boards, PTAs and any fundraising activities would look like without Junior League of Greenville (JLG) trained volunteers. The JLG does a wonderful job of preparing our members for leadership opportunities within our League and out in the community.

I'm biased, I admit it. When I need new Board members for a nonprofit or when I am working on a fundraiser, I call my JLG friends. These are women who I can depend upon because they know how to make things happen. When I see Sustainers like Harriet Goldsmith and Frances Ellison, I am in awe of what they have accomplished with Greenville Women Giving.

The Metropolitan Arts Council (MAC) is the visionary champion for the arts in Greenville County. Sustainer Lanny Webster was instrumental in the founding of MAC in 1973. She has continued to be a driving force in our arts community.

Beth Lee, past President of the JL of Ann Arbor and Crissy Maynard, past President of JL of Asheville transferred into the JLG. Both women have taken their exceptional leadership skills obtained in other Leagues and are serving in Greenville. Not only did they have an instant affinity group when they arrived in Greenville, but our community benefits from their JL training.

Back in 1989, Emeritus member Eva Hunt realized a need in our community and founded A Child's Haven. Last year, JLG Sustainers Lesa Kastler, Salli Alexander and Charlene Comer completed a \$5.5 million capital campaign for a new treatment center. Again, these are women who know how to get things done.

I am very appreciative of the time and talents that our members continue to give to Greenville. The dynamics of the Junior League of Greenville continue to change, but what stays the same is the mission and the remarkable JLG Sustainers who continue to serve in our community.

Thank you to all the members in the Junior League of Greenville for continuing to make our community great!

Kimberly Cooley

*Kimberly Cooley Sustainer* Representative, 2015 - 2016 Junior League of Greenville, Inc.

Born and raised in southwest Michigan, Kimberly is a graduate of Michigan State University and received her Masters of Construction Science and Management from Clemson University. When Kimberly is not planning JLG Sustainer events, she is serving on the Board of Directors of the Jefferson Awards Foundation and the Charity Ball Board of Greenville along with various United Way committees focusing on School Readiness. Kimberly has lived in Greenville for 25 years and has been married to her husband, Don, for 15 years.





### Letter from THE EDITOR

#### "It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness."

- Eleanor Roosevelt (First Lady, Humanitarian, first U.S. delegate to the U.N. and Member of the Junior League of New York City)

The Junior League has been an important part of my life for 15 years. Starting out in the Junior League of Charlottesville and later transferring to the Junior League of Greenville in 2004, I never dreamed of all the places that the Junior League would take me. From learning how to manage a thrift shop to leading and speaking at a meeting for over 200 people, the training I have received in this organization has been invaluable. What other organization would ever encourage a dentist to become the editor of their magazine? I cannot imagine where I would be today without the resources, education and confidence that the League has provided me.

Throughout our issue you will find women who have been greatly impacted by the Junior League. Their paths and experiences are different, but the message is the same – Women who are going places start in the Junior League! These women have taken the training that they received in our organization and used it in all aspects of their lives. The effect that the Junior League has on our community is so much more than just providing volunteer hours for a day, a week or even a year at a local agency or on a JLG project. Our members take the knowledge that they have gleaned from their League activities and use it in other organizations throughout Greenville. The impact of the League is therefore multiplied exponentially within our community.

As fellow League member Eleanor Roosevelt said, "It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness." With so much darkness in the world, who does not want to do something to make a difference? Are you trying to light a candle? Why not join the Junior League of Greenville as a member or a sponsor? Why not encourage others to do so as well? We provide the matches, and by working together, we can provide a shining flame of hope for so many in need.

Kathryn Freedman

*Kathryn Freedman Editor, 2015 - 2016* Junior League of Greenville, Inc.

Born and raised in Roanoke, VA, Dr. Kathryn Freedman studied biology at the University of Georgia and attended the Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry. She is a wife and mother of two daughters and is a general dentist. In addition to her volunteer activities with the Junior League of Greenville, Kathryn serves as the chairman of the board of directors at the South Carolina Children's Theatre and is an active member of Westminster Presbyterian Church.



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## Meet the 2015 - 16 JLG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Every year the Junior League of Greenville, Inc. (JLG) appoints a new set of leaders within the organization who serve on the Board of Directors (BOD). These women are not only responsible for the operations and ongoing financial stability of the organization, but they also serve with a strategic focus, preparing the JLG for future changes by assessing ways to develop and strenthen the JLG for years to come.



**Rebecca Feldman** President Owner, Two Men and a Truck

#### Number of Years in the JLG 14

# How has the JLG influenced your involvement in other community activities?

I served as the PTA President of Augusta Circle Elementary in 2013-2014. That was an incredible experience, but without a doubt the JLG prepared me well. I knew how to run a meeting, collaborate with many different women, fundraise, delegate, stay organized and simply get things done!



Sandy Brown President-Elect Full time volunteer, domestic engineer and part-time bank consultant

Number of Years in the JLG  $10\,$ 

# When you think about the JLG's impact on Greenville, what comes to mind?

I love seeing members of JLG holding leadership positions in the community. I also think about all the many places that the Junior League has played a part in starting – the Peace Center, Pendleton Place, The Children's Museum of the Upstate, Roper Mountain Science Center just to name a few. I joined the JLG to be involved in the community so that I could give back and make a difference.



Heather Cox Communications Vice President BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE, ASSETPOINT

Number of Years in the JLG 8

#### How have you benefited from the training you have received in the JLG?

I have challenged myself in my career in many ways that I never would have, had it not been for the confidence and training that the League has given me. The League instills leadership qualities in its members, which helps them be successful in all areas of life. The JLG is a huge part of my life and I am so glad that I joined!



Elizabeth Gunter Community Vice President Director of Programs and Marketing, Upcountry History Museum

Number of Years in the JLG 4

Why did you initially join the Junior League?

I am a life-time member of the Girl Scouts and I was looking for an adult opportunity that, like the Scouts, would allow me to be involved in my community, give back and learn. As a new member, I learned about JLG's mark all over our downtown area. Many of the buildings that serve and attract visitors to Greenville were started with the support of JLG gifts and volunteers. JLG is truly at the heart of what makes Greenville a vibrant and caring community.



Sara Fox Finance Vice President Certified Public Accountant, Financial Services for Greenville Health System

### Number of Years in the JLG 5

# When you think about the JLG's impact on Greenville, what comes to mind?

My favorite thing about the Junior League is the how much time and money we feed back into our community. I am thankful to be surrounded by so many women who are able to think outside of themselves and their surroundings in order to make things better for those who may not be so fortunate.



Heather Scalzo Fund Development Vice President PARTNER, BYFORD & SCALZO, LLC, ATTORNEYS AT LAW

### Number of Years in the JLG 8

#### What makes Greenville "home" to you?

I was born and raised in Greenville but moved away for ten years after high school. At the time, I did not imagine myself ever coming back but after living in Atlanta, Manhattan and New Jersey, I wanted to settle down in a community like Greenville and what better place than Greenville itself? Because I was interested in volunteering in this community and I wanted to be a part of a larger network of like-minded women, I decided to join the JLG.



**Amy Rogers** Membership Vice President Registrar, Christ Church Episcopal School

Number of Years in the JLG  $10\,$ 

#### How have you benefited from the training you have received in the JLG?

I think the JLG gave me a lot of the skills and confidence I needed when I decided to look for work outside the home. After 10 years away from the workforce, it was very difficult and I was fortunate to have my leadership experience in the JLG.



Katie Walker Corresponding Secretary Portfolio Manager, Walker and Associates Investment Advisors

#### Number of Years in the JLG 7

### What was your first JLG committee position?

It was the Sustainer Outreach Committee (committee which engages JLG sustaining members) and that still remains one of my favorite placements. It was wonderful getting to know the women who spent so many years helping to build the JLG into what it is. They are a wealth of knowledge about the JLG and Greenville community.

## Meet the 2015 - 16 JLG BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Clay Gilbert** Recording Secretary Stay-at-home mom

### Number of Years in the JLG 10

# How has the JLG influenced your involvement in other community activities?

I initially joined the JLG as a way to meet new people in Greenville. I had no idea that it would turn out to be so much more! The JLG helped me to realize that I can be one piece of the puzzle. I can take my talents – even if they are small – and utilize them to help others, whether through work in the JLG or volunteering through my church or other programs. I hope I can continue to learn and do more over the years to come.



**Amy Hunt** Strategic Planner Physician Assistant, Piedmont Orthopaedic Associates at Bon Secours Saint Francis Health System

### Number of Years in the JLG 10

### Why did you initially join the Junior League?

When I moved to Greenville in 2004, I wanted to learn more about my new home and meet women who were influencing the Greenville community. At that time, I did not realize how much the JLG would develop me in other areas of my life. I would not have felt as confident taking on positions and responsibilities in my career if I had not had the training that I received through JLG.



*Lee O'Shields Parliamentarian* Architectural Designer, Neal Prince Studio

#### Number of Years in the JLG 6

# When you think about the JLG's impact on Greenville, what comes to mind?

The JLG has a large number of women in all seasons of their lives serving one community for one common goal. Our volunteers reach so many that the collective impact improves Greenville daily. Like so many of our members, my involvement in leadership in the JLG has molded my confidence and understanding of what it means to be a leader.



*Kimberly Cooley Sustainer Representative* Community Volunteer

#### Number of Years in the JLG 16

# How has the JLG influenced your involvement in other community activities?

As JLG members, we receive wonderful training especially in leadership. I have been able to leverage my JLG training by serving on Boards of non-profits, chairing fundraisers, and United Way committees. It was at a JLG General Membership meeting that I learned about A Child's Haven. This wonderful agency has had a long affiliation with our JLG members, and I knew I wanted to get involved. After serving as JLG President, I served on the Board and eventually chaired the Board of Directors of A Child's Haven.



Katina Hampton Ex-Officio Member, JLG Board of Directors Director of Administration, Junior League of Greenville

Number of Years in the JLG 29

### How have you benefited from the training you have received in the JLG?

With the growth of Greenville, I have seen changes in the needs for those less fortunate. I have witnessed the difference the JLG makes in children's lives. Sitting on various community and non-profit Boards I know the importance of well-run meetings and how to conduct them. I firmly believe that all volunteers want to do a good job, but they need defined rolls, education and training from the get-go. The JLG provides all of this.

In October, Katina "Tina" Hampton celebrated 25 years as the Director of Administration for the Junior League of Greenville. Upon interviewing Hampton in 1990, then President Sallie White and President-Elect Anne Ellefson quickly realized what an asset Hampton would be to the JLG. After transferring her Junior League membership into the JLG, Hampton went on to become the Chairman of the Arrangements Committee and served on the Public Relations Committee and the Nominating Committee before becoming a sustaining member of the JLG. The JLG commends her service to our organization as both an enthusiastic volunteer and a dedicated employee.

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# UNLIMITED POTENTIAL

### Members applying the Junior League mission to build a better community

// By Ryann Warlick

Grier Mullins spent this past summer organizing and implementing a series of free book fairs in 28 schools, providing low-income students with the opportunity to take home their own books to read during the summer. Mullins has been active in her community her entire life, inspired by her mother who was also a member of the Junior League of Greenville. She has served as the Executive Director of Public Education Partners for 25 years and is a past president of the Junior League of Greenville. Involved with the United Way and an active member of her church, Mullins is a driven and kindhearted community leader and a true inspiration for women who also aspire to fill leadership roles.

Mullins is a Greenville native and a busy community leader. She joined the JLG in the 1970s, interested in cultivating friendships with those who shared a common interest, voluntarism. Mullins was already a volunteer at her children's schools, but it was the Junior League that gave her the opportunity to reach out into other schools around Greenville. With a strong background in education, Mullins was able to influence children in the Greenville County Schools through the JLG educational program, Kids on the Block. Modeling relationships between children from different backgrounds, this program taught children about disabilities, medical conditions and social issues using humorous communication of facts and feeling between the puppet characters and the audience.

Through her position with Public Education Partners, she has been able to change the lives of thousands of children in our community by providing materials and information to students, parents and educators and strengthening public education and student achievement in Greenville County Schools.

JLG membership has provided Mullins with countless opportunities and inspiration. Through Junior League leadership conferences, she was able to meet other community leaders from across the country, and the Junior League furnished her with ideas which assist her in implementing "best practices" in education.



Photos courtesy of Patrick Cox Photography

Mullins feels, however, that the collaborations and partnerships she made through the League have benefited her the most. Thanks to their shared Junior League experiences, Mullins continues to call upon these connections and fosters problem solving with leaders through national education networks.

Mullins has been inspired by many women within the JLG, including another past JLG president, the late Helene Adams. Mullins served on the JLG Board of Directors under Adams and was impressed with her positive attitude, despite facing big changes during her tenure. Adams was always calm and optimistic through even the most hectic of times and, most importantly, had a joyful heart while giving back to the community.

# Grier Mullins is a true gift to the Greenville community.

She is a cheerful woman who is excited about serving our public schools and the children and families that they serve. She has filled her life with the love of friends and family and has been blessed with six wonderful grandchildren, all of whom live locally. She is thrilled to share everything Greenville has to offer with a new generation.



### Anne Ellefson

#### // By Kathryn Freedman

The JLG applauds Sustaining Member and past JLG President, Anne Ellefson on receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Community Foundation of Greenville. Ellefson received this award celebrating her lifelong service to others through her individual endeavors and community involvement. In association with TOWN Magazine and the Greenville Journal, the Charitable Giving Awards are presented annually by the Community Foundation to recognize individuals and companies that support the nonprofit sector. Congratulations to Anne Ellefson on this well deserved recognition!

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# Mandy Bullock

#### // By Anne-Marie Moebring

Mandy Bullock was born and raised in Danielsville, GA but now calls Greenville her home. She graduated in 2000 with a BSN from the Medical College of Georgia and later from Emory University with an MSN. An avid country music, Georgia football, and Jimmy Fallon fan, Bullock is married to Dr. Andrew Bullock, a urologist with Palmetto Greenville Urology, and "mom" to Truman, age 9, and Sarah Spratlin, age 7.

Bullock found the Junior League of Greenville because she was anxious about moving to a new city without any friends. After a quick Google Search for the "Junior League of Greenville" from her Decatur, GA home, Bullock drove two hours for an informational meeting. "At that meeting I met young wives and mothers like myself who would be provisional members. I knew I would be just fine in Greenville."

Bullock has gone on to be much more than "just fine." Her

impact on her new community has been enormous. This year she serves as the Lower School Parents Panel Chair and Parent Ambassador Chair at Christ Church Episcopal School and a member of the Board of Directors for the South Carolina Children's Theatre. She is a past-president of the Greenville County Medical Society Alliance and still serves on various committees. Any additional free time finds Bullock teaching Bible study to the 11-12th grade girls of Buncombe Street UMC, serving on the Rose Ball Committee and volunteering as a mentor to a student at Thomas E. Kearns Elementary. Of this city she now calls home, she says, "Greenville is a great place to live and an even better place to be involved."

When asked how she keeps everything running smoothly, Bullock has an excellent tip: "I start a new 'brain list' every evening for what I have to do the next day. All the way from pick up dry cleaning to my children's music lessons - if it doesn't get written down, it doesn't get done. Of course being a stay-at-home mom, I have to leave a blank space for sore throats and after school ice cream dates at the Pickwick."

When it comes to volunteering and feeling prepared to take on new roles in the community, Bullock says the "training that I have received from the JLG has reinforced things that I was taught from a very young age: be on time, be responsible and be dependable. The world as we know it would collapse if volunteers were not on time, responsible and dependable."

She also credits the JLG for helping her develop personally.

"The JLG has expanded my horizons by introducing me to people and places in Greenville that I would have never been in contact with otherwise. As a nurse, I had never used a cash register until I worked at the Nearly New Shop. As item pick-up collector for the Nearly New Shop I formed relationships with local business owners that donate to the Shop. By attending a JLG meeting, I was first introduced to the fabulous services offered by the Kroc Center. The JLG has a way of opening doors to opportunities."

Mandy Bullock may still struggle with being a "real South Carolinian" (especially during college football season) but Greenville has become the place she feels where she, and her family, are part of the community. "I drive by Falls Park and feel a little bit like, 'it belongs to me.' I have relationships with the people at my children's school, our church and our local Publix. I am proud to call Greenville my home."

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# Amy Ryberg Doyle

#### // By Kathryn Freedman

Amy Ryberg Doyle is an expert juggler. Perhaps not literally, but figuratively she is extremely talented at juggling the multitude of activities in her life. This active wife and mother of four has served as a member of the Greenville City Council since November 2007. Using the motto "Bloom where you are planted", Ryberg Doyle has poured her heart and soul into making our community a better place to live.

Growing up in Aiken, SC, Amy Ryberg Doyle attended Boston College and after graduation she moved to New York City to work as a member of the launch team for the ground-breaking internet start-up iVillage.com, Inc. Even with a rigorous work schedule, Ryberg Doyle found time to serve as a mentor to young girls through the "I Have a Dream" Foundation and also taught English as a second language. After the tragic events of September 11, 2001, she and her husband, Jonathan, decided to relocate. "After 9/11, downtown was different for many months and years after. We wanted to find a new city and come back to South Carolina."

Ryberg Doyle joined the Junior League of Greenville in 2005 after being encouraged to do so by her mother. Having recently moved to Greenville, she was initially hesitant to investigate the details of membership because she was concerned that there might be age restrictions for new members. Still adjusting to her new role as mother to young twins after more than a decade of success in the corporate world, Ryberg Doyle thought that perhaps she had missed the opportunity to join the Junior League. She quickly learned her apprehension was unfounded and that this diverse group of women could serve as sources for education, friendship and support in all her future endeavors.

When describing ways that the JLG has expanded her horizons, Ryberg Doyle states that it was actually a JLG member who encouraged her to pursue a term on the Greenville City Council. She also recalls that as the first large financial donor to the Children's Museum of the Upstate (TCMU), the JLG's support of this community project helped to enhance her desire to become involved with TCMU as a member of the board of directors. When reflecting on the volunteer experiences that she has held, she laughs that on "the night before the Museum opened, the entire board of directors was scrubbing floors and washing windows, excited about opening the doors the next day." In addition to TCMU, she has been involved with Bike Walk Greenville, Palmetto Cycling Coalition Board of Directors, The Peace Center Board of Directors, Greenville Forward, United Way, Public Policy Committee, Visit Greenville South Carolina (Convention and Visitors Bureau), Metro YMCA, Girl Scouts and Girls on the Run. Currently she serves with the JLG as a meal delivery volunteer for Meals on Wheels.

Exemplifying the essence of servant leadership, Ryberg Doyle has been able to combine her passion for the health and wellness of the Upstate with her devotion to civic service. An avid runner, biker and swimmer, Greenville City Councilwoman Amy Ryberg Doyle strives to build healthy communities, and she focuses her efforts on improving infrastructure and promoting parks and green space. She dreams of a future Greenville which is more livable, walkable, bikeable and sustainable.

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# Liz Seman

#### // By Kathryn Freedman

When organizations require the expertise and competence of a proven leader, they need to look no further than the bright, smiling face of Liz Seman. This busy wife and mother is the Executive Director of Corporate Engagement for Furman University, and her passion for the Greenville community has steered her into leadership roles in agencies throughout the Upstate.

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Liz Seman has lived in Greenville since 1999. At the time she considered herself a "big city girl", but she quickly grew to love the Upstate of South Carolina. She joined the Junior League of Greenville in 2001 as a way to meet women who shared her interests in learning more about the needs of Greenville and making an impact. Seman feels that the friendships she has made in her 14 years as a member have been one of the incredible benefits to membership. She says that the League has given her, "the opportunity to meet amazing women who become friends and mentors. That network of support is so valuable – especially when you are considering a change in career or running for public office."

Seman's experience in the nonprofit world, including leadership roles with the American Red Cross, Hands on Greenville and Meals on Wheels, resulted in her desire to look for ways to truly make a difference in her adopted hometown. With support and encouragement from her family and friends, Seman made the decision to run for public office in 2008. Serving in her second term as a member of Greenville County Council, she represents District 24 and is the current chair for the Public Safety Committee.

In addition to her public service and work at Furman University, Seman continues to be drawn to volunteer work. She is Vice Chair of the board of directors of the South Carolina Technology and Aviation Center (SC-TAC) and the Board Chair of Meals on Wheels America. She also serves on the board of St. Joseph's Catholic School and is an active member of the Greenville Professional Women's Forum and Greenville Women Giving. Her past board positions include the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, Greenville Forward, Junior League of Greenville, Leadership Greenville Alumni Association, Palmetto Bank Community Board, Greenville County Redevelopment Authority Board, Community Works Carolina and Advisory Board of the American Red Cross.

Training in the JLG allowed Seman to hone her talents, and the JLG familiarized her with some of the major issues facing Greenville County. Seman feels very fortunate to have served in several leadership positions within the Junior League of Greenville and attributes this to fueling her desire to pursue other roles within the community.

"Those opportunities, combined with the extensive training sessions offered over my tenure with the League, provided me the tools, experience and confidence to carry my leadership skills into every aspect of my personal and professional life," says Seman. "I have the chance to apply my Junior League training daily as I serve on several boards and on county council. In each of those roles, I have to be a good listener, communicator, strategic thinker and problem solver. The Junior League provided a forum for me to learn and develop these skills – all of which are valuable whether you're leading a committee, presenting a proposal to your boss, negotiating a deal with a client or making decisions with your family."

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# Tammy Gray

#### // By Caryn Vedane

Football coach Vincent Lombardi once said, "The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined efforts of each individual." As members of a women's organization committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action of trained volunteers, JLG volunteers demonstrate this principle every day.

Transfer member Tammy Gray is an integral part of the JLG's community impact. Her memberships in the Atlanta, Philadelphia and Monmouth County, New Jersey, Leagues have given her a broad range of leadership and membership development experiences. Gray brings those years of experience to the JLG, where she serves on the Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) Committee. Many members would find serving on one committee within the League to be more than enough, but not so, for this passionate volunteer. Gray was inspired by a new JLG collaboration with the Girl Scouts, and she has chosen to also serve on the JLG's inaugural Career Exploration Series & Powerful Women Summit Committee this year.

Tammy Gray may be new to Greenville, but she has jumped enthusiastically into making a positive impact. Her fresh perspective on voluntarism, the community and serving others is infectious. She says, "Greenville is a great place to raise a family, and I never run out things to do and restaurants to try. At a very young age I knew I would live to serve others; volunteering is my passion and fuel. The Junior League fits in perfectly with my life plan."

Like many members of the JLG, Gray juggles community service, her faith, her family and more than 22 years in retail leadership, most recently as the assistant store manager for Belk on Haywood Road. This accomplished, servant-minded professional is also expecting a baby. She manages to keep abreast of the many facets of her life, which naturally begs the question, "How do you keep it all together?"

"Most days," Tammy says, "it's by a thread. My pregnancy brain sees to that! Lots of lists. And I can't live without my smartphone!" Gray has been inspired by the JLG Board's strength, faith and steadfast leadership. She attributes her training to broadening her horizons and impacting her career. "The bulk of my League experience has been in driving [recruiting] membership and professional training and development, so many times the lines have blurred between my professional and League life. I am a better public speaker, trainer and manager because of my League journey."

Developing the potential of women is a key component of the JLG's mission, and Gray has seen first-hand how energizing it can be. "I am so excited about my Girl Scouts volunteer work this year! I have always wanted to work with the Girl Scouts but never knew how to connect or the capacity in which I wanted to serve. The Powerful Women Summit is a perfect partnership between two dynamic organizations. I am also inspired by my fellow LEAD committee members; we are a small group but have the opportunity to make a great impact this year!"

Her application of training does not stop there, however. Gray is also active in her church and serves on the board of Greenville Women's Leadership Network, a Belk-sponsored organization that focuses on community outreach and professional development.

Tammy Gray and the JLG – combined efforts achieving great things for our community.



### Anne Marie Maertens

#### // By Hannah Barfield Spellmeyer

"I feel strongly that service in the League not only builds common ground with other women leaders, but it also builds confidence in our competence."

Anne Marie "Annie" Maertens is the kind of woman who without saying a word, emanates confidence. She is the Director of AccessHealth at Greenville Health System, a program funded by The Duke Endowment and United Way. This program collaborates with Bon Secours St. Francis Health System and other community partners enabling Maertens to connect low-income patients to a medical home so they can receive consistent and quality care from a primary care physician. When she is not working, Maertens serves on the board of directors for organizations such as the Family Effect, Fostering Great Ideas and the Clemson Women's Alumni Council. She is passionate about improving the lives of others, especially families and children. What is most impressive about her commitment to community service is the approach Maertens takes to each and every endeavor. Whether she is organizing an event, creating a strategic plan or running a meeting, you would be hard-pressed to differentiate the non-profit agenda from a Fortune 500 company board meeting. According to Maertens, training from the JLG has prepared her not only to effectively lead meetings, but also to create an agenda, write suitable minutes and follow parliamentary procedure. She has furthermore come to understand the importance of delegating tasks, trusting other committees and councils and subsequently holding them, and herself, accountable.

Annie Maertens almost did not join the Junior League of Greenville. She was under the misapprehension that one needed a relative, or legacy, to be eligible for membership. Fortunately, long-time friend and JLG member, Kristin Whitehead, encouraged her to come to an open house in 2008 and explained that the JLG welcomes all women who share a commitment to voluntarism in Greenville. Maertens recalls that at this event, "the JLG mission, vision and values resonated with [me]." She was actually commuting back and forth between Columbia and Greenville at the time, so the JLG provided an accessible network of like-minded women and allowed her to remain connected to the Greenville community.

In addition to expanding her network and improving her leadership skills, Maertens states that the JLG has given her the confidence to take professional, personal and educational risks that she would not have taken otherwise. By interacting with other accomplished women, she was inspired to pursue her master's degree and has zero qualms about approaching anyone at social gatherings and networking events. She feels that when you are in the League surrounded by amazing women, it naturally elicits the thought, "If she can, why can't I?"

Although her schedule would be daunting to most, Annie Maertens manages it by accepting that not everything can be perfectly balanced at all times. When she is not dedicating herself to the betterment of the Greenville community, she loves running in downtown Greenville with her "German Sheprador" named "Cash." Maertens and her husband, Jason, unwind by catching brunch at The Bohemian or Southern Culture and cooling down with a craft beer at The Community Tap.

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### VISIONS // Community Action



# How has the League impacted your community?

#### // By Hannah Barfield Spellmeyer

**Roper Mountain** 

**Science Center** 

From the heavy hitters to a few smaller non-profits, the Junior League of Greenville is committed to serving the entire Greenville community and has touched organizations across the Upstate.

### PENDLETON PLACE

In 1975, the Junior League of Greenville accepted the largest project in its history when it donated \$35,000 toward an emergency holding facility for children. To date, the League has donated over \$133,000 to Pendleton Place projects, therefore supporting children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. Pendleton Place also provides supervised family visitations and safe custody exchanges through their Family Bridges program, comprehensive assessments to children in foster care and a mentor program for young adults.

### THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF THE UPSTATE

The League's first donation to The Children's Museum of the Upstate (TCMU) was a hearty \$56,000 which helped create a community room, Creation Station, in the facility. This initial contribution solidified plans for a great space for kids of all ages to explore and learn. To date, the Junior League of Greenville has donated over \$115,000 to this incredible resource for our community. The Children's Museum is the 7th largest children's museum in the nation, and in 2014 it was the first children's museum to be named a Smithsonian Affiliate. TCMU is committed to fostering children's learning through play, providing resources to educators in the community and serving as a destination for children throughout the southeastern United States.

### **R**OPER MOUNTAIN SCIENCE CENTER

From lighting and audio equipment to a Pioneer Farm and Fitness and Nature Trail, the League has been a part of the Roper Mountain Science Center since its inception in the early 1980's and has donated nearly \$75,000 to its mission. Before "STEM" was even an acronym for science, technology, engineering and mathematics, the Roper Mountain Science Center had dedicated itself to providing opportunities for students to learn regardless of their financial status or intellectual abilities. With community events and free school programs for students living in Greenville County, they are following the #yeahthatgreenville trend after having been awarded a 2015 Tripadvisor Certificate of Excellence due to their consistently outstanding user reviews!

### A CHILD'S HAVEN

Nestled in the foothills of the Upstate, A Child's Haven provides comprehensive interventions and services for children who have been affected by poverty, abuse and neglect. Using cutting-edge research, trained and caring professionals provide social skills training, medical care and ongoing family support to families and children in need. This agency also provides early childhood education opportunities to address the behavioral and developmental challenges unique to children of neglect. The Junior League has provided \$24,000 to this amazing organization.

# Supporting the JLG

The Junior League of Greenville's Annual Fund was started in 2012-2013 and has been a wonderful success each year since. The Annual Fund provides an opportunity to directly support the mission of the JLG through generous donations. This year the campaign will focus on the year the JLG was founded, 1929. What better way to enter our 86th year than to honor our history. Gifts that reflect 1929 are encouraged during the 2015-2016 year. That may be a gift of \$19.29, \$192.90 or \$1929 which is our "1929 Club" level of giving. Any gift, however, is greatly appreciated and welcomed.

Why Donate to the Annual Fund? Dr. Laura Whitney, a JLG member since 2008, tells us why she gives to the Annual Fund.

#### Laura, you are a new member to the 1929 Club. What inspired you to become a leader in giving to the JLG?

Since my provisional year, the Junior League has provided countless benefits to me, and I always knew we played a big role in helping others. Last year, when I served on the Community Project Research and Development Committee, I gained a deeper understanding of the reach that the JLG has throughout our community. I also realized how great the need really is, and I wanted to help even more. Joining the 1929 Club was the ideal way for me to thank the JLG for all I have received and to further its mission, with the hope of creating a larger impact in the community around us.

#### What would you say to encourage other members to support the JLG above and beyond their dues?

I was impressed with Harriet Goldsmith's talk at the September General Membership Meeting, particularly the idea that a group of women could make a tremendous impact if each member would give a little more individually. For example, if 100 members gave \$50 each, the organization would have \$5000 more to invest in its mission. The individual gifts might be small, but the combined effect is impressive! For the JLG specifically, I notice our directory contains over 1200 listings. I can only imagine what we might be able to do together to improve the lives of women and our community if everyone gave just a little bit!

> Visit the Junior League of Greenville's resale shop for all of your holiday needs.

> > Shop name brand and designer clothing, accessories and housewares. Donations also accepted.

### The Nearly **New Shop**

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#### What is the most meaningful impact the JLG has had on the community in your view?

JLG's impact in our community is so great, and the individual areas touched so numerous, it is difficult to choose just one thing! I believe the most meaningful effect the JLG has had is the training in leadership and voluntarism it provides for its members. There are direct results through the programs JLG promotes, but women involved in JLG are often involved in other community organizations as well. Many women go on to become leaders in the community. The education and experience received through JLG allows members to create a greater impact in every arena, thus multiplying the effects of our single organization and creating significant improvements throughout our community and beyond.

#### How has the JLG impacted your life?

Through my involvement in the League, I have had numerous opportunities for growth and personal development, and I have gained valuable experience and self-confidence. These assets have allowed me greater success in my endeavors both within, and outside of, the JLG. Also, I have always had a passion for service, and I derive a great deal of satisfaction from helping to make a difference in our community. The JLG provides the perfect outlet with opportunities for service in every possible capacity. Finally, no discussion of the benefits of the JLG is complete without mentioning the social aspect. I have made many wonderful friends and connected more closely with existing friends through our shared experiences within the League. The JLG truly has it all!

### Join Laura by becoming an Annual Fund donor.

WITH EACH DONATION TO THE ANNUAL FUND YOU ARE:

- Supporting the JLG community projects and programs, including Home Run for Heathly Kids<sup>®</sup>, A Nearly New You, Junior Volunteers, Kids in the Kitchen and the Nearly New Shop
- Enabling the JLG to recruit and retain members
- Offering training and leadership opportunities
- Committing to the future of our organization

#### WAYS TO GIVE

- Write a check to the Junior League of Greenville indicating "Annual Fund" in the memo. Checks can be mailed to the Junior League of Greenville, 118 Greenacre Road, Greenville, SC 29607.
- Donate online at JLGreenville.org/Donate
- Invite your employer to match your donation to the JLG Annual Fund.

Donating to the Annual Fund is as affordable as your next double espresso or dinner and a movie.

	1 WEEK	1 MONTH	1 YEAR
Coffee break	\$5	\$20	\$250
On the go lunch	\$10	\$42	\$500
Lunch for two	\$21	\$83	\$1,000



Photo provided by Dr. Laura Whitney, pediatrician at the Children's Medical Center

### Winter 2015 - 16 HOLIDAY COMMUNITY EVENTS

As the holidays approach please consider those less fortunate. Last year the JLG was called to assist the Red Cross when a family suffered an enormous loss during a devastating fire in their home over the holidays. The JLG used its volunteers and the resources available at its Nearly New Shop to lend assistance.

One way that you can help the JLG is to consider donating to the Nearly New Shop this holiday season. The Nearly New shop is the JLG's upscale retail store and also is its largest fundraiser. Donations to the Nearly New Shop provide the store's inventory and, ultimately, allow the JLG to continue giving back to our community. We accept donations of new or gently used clothing, jewelry, shoes, linens, children's toys, seasonal items, luggage, books, furniture and small appliances. Donations are accepted at 118 Greenacre Road Monday through Saturday, 10am to 5pm. Please call the Shop at (864) 232-1051 with questions or call our Collection Hotline at (864) 232-1091 to arrange for a JLG Member to pick up your donation.

With the mission of promoting voluntarism and improving the community, we hope to encourage people throughout Greenville to give back during this holiday season. Here are some ideas of ways to volunteer throughout Greenville as well as some family friendly activities to provide entertainment over the holidays. Please call or consult each organization's website for more specific information or costs that might be involved.

### **SOUP KITCHENS**

Greer Soup Kitchen 521 E. Poinsett Street, Greer greersoupkitchen.com

- Miracle Hill Greenville Rescue Mission, 575 W. Washington Street, Greenville miraclehill.org
- Project Host Soup Kitchen 525 S. Academy Street, Greenville projecthost.org



### **FOOD BANKS**

Greer Relief 202 Victoria Street, Greer greerrelief.org

- Harvest Hope Food Bank 2818 White Horse Road, Greenville harvesthope.org
- Loaves and Fishes 25 Woods Lake Road, Greenville Ioavesandfishesgreenville.com
- Samaritan House 105 Old Augusta Road, Greenville thesamaritanhous.org
- Triune Mercy Center 222 Rutherford Street, Greenville triunemercy.org

### **OTHER IDEAS**

- The Springs at Simpsonville is looking for people to sponsor a resident in the month of December. This entails festively decorating their door. If interested, contact Ashley at ashleyb@caravita.com or (864) 905-9730.
- The Salvation Army is looking for Bell Ringers. Volunteers are needed for shifts beginning November 13, 10am-8pm. The Angel Tree will also be set up at Haywood Mall from November 20 through December 14. Please stop by and adopt an angel to provide clothing and toys for a child in need.
- Support Greenville Health System The Children's Hospital Virtual Toy Drive by donating online or starting your own virtual toy drive team. Go to donate.ghsgiving.org for details.

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### **EVENTS**

### CHARITY

TreesGreenville Turkey Day 8k Thursday, November 28 at 8:00am Downtown Greenville \*Register at treesgreenville.org/events

St. Francis Festival of Trees Come see the holiday trees, on display from December 1, 2015 through January 1, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency Downtown, the Courtyard Greenville Downtown and the Hampton Inn & Suites RiverPlace. All proceeds from the 2015 Festival of Trees will benefit the Outpatient Cancer Center at Millennium Campus.

Jingle Bell Jog (5K Family Run/Walk) Saturday, December 12 at 3pm Sugar Creek III Clubhouse 119 Stonecrest Road, Greer \*Register at sugarcreekfunruns.com

### **EVENTS** FAMILY FRIENDLY

United Community Bank Ice on Main, Downtown Greenville November 20 - January 19

Roper Mountain Holiday Lights open nightly November 26 - December 30 from 6:00pm to 10:00pm

City of Greenville Poinsettia Christmas Parade Downtown Greenville December 5 at 6:00pm

Downtown Greenville Holiday Happening, Main Street, December 10-13, all day



### **EVENTS** CONCERTS AND PLAYS

Christmas on the Rocks at the Warehouse Theatre, 37 Augusta Street, performances in December on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 3pm and 8pm

Junior League Singers performances in local retirement communities. Please call locations ahead of time if you will not be attending with a resident.

Thursday, December 3 at 10:30am, The Haven, 355 Berkmans Lane

Thursday, December 3 at 11:15am, Westminster Place, 11 Augusta Place

Monday, December 7 at 10:30am, Magnolia Manor, 411 Ansel Street

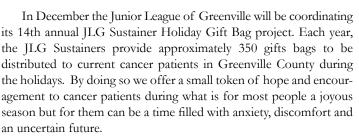
Monday, December 7 at 11:15am, Sarah Simpson Gossett Home, 27 Conestee Avenue

- Let it Snow! at Center Stage 501 River Street, December 3-5, 10-12 and 17-19 at 8pm and December 6 and 13 at 3pm
- South Carolina Children's Theatre's production of Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!, Peace Center Gunter Theatre, December 4-13 (weekends) \*Go to scchildrenstheatre.org for specific performance times.
- A Christmas Carol at Greenville Little Theatre, 444 College Street, December 11-12, 17-19 at 8:00pm; December 13 and 20 at 3:00pm
- Holiday at Peace, Peace Center Concert Hall, 300 South Main Street, December 18-19 at 7:30pm and December 20 at 3:00pm

### VISIONS // Holiday Gift Bags



# 14th annual JLG Sustainer Holiday Gift Bags



Through the years, this important project has raised over \$100,000. Donations are tax deductible and can be made in honor of someone or as a memorial. For more information or to request a donation form, contact the Junior League of Greenville at 864.233.2663 or email information@jlgreenville.org.

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# Membership Awards

// By Leigh Ann Miller

On May 12, 2015, the Junior League of Greenville held its Annual General Membership Meeting. During this meeting, three members received the highest honor for their service to the organization.

The Jane Cardwell Hughes Sustainer of the Year Award is awarded annually to one Sustaining member who has demonstrated outstanding dedication and service to the Junior League of Greenville and the Greenville community. Serving as the Sustainer Representative to the Nominating Committee, the 2015 recipient was Kimberly Williams. The impact she has had on so many JLG women was evident by the number of people present to see her accept this award, including the Nominating Committee, fellow Sustainers, family members and past JLG Presidents.

Each year, a new member who goes above and beyond her Provisional year obligations and demonstrates outstanding dedication and service is awarded the Frances Pearce Steele Service Award. This year's recipient is Abbigail Harden Felton. Felton is a model representative of the training portion of the JLG as she has continued to better herself through volunteer opportunities. For her Provisional Group Project, she organized an all-female comedy night on Valentine's Day at Coffee Underground, which raised \$770.

Created to recognize outstanding volunteer service among active members, the Helen Horton Hunt Service Award is presented to a member who demonstrates voluntarism at its best. This year the award was given to Kristen Maurer, a member who continues Helen Horton Hunt's legacy in the League today. In 2014-2015, Maurer volunteered at Serenity Place, a new League partnership. Those who nominated her described in their letters how she shared her JLG experience with the families she met and helped them to understand that they can also give back to the community. As she will tell you, her JLG volunteer position has impacted her, but others will add that it has been greatly impacted by her.

Congratulations to all three of these outstanding women! Thank you for your service to the JLG and the Greenville community.

# UPTOWN DOWN SOUTH

# A Collection Of Preferred Menus

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## Uptown Down South Cookbook

Last published in 1997, the Junior League of Greenville's cookbook "UPTOWN DOWN SOUTH" provided a collection of recipes to help streamline entertainment and meal preparation. From the uptown elegance of gourmet dinners and cocktail parties to down south casual dining on the patio or tailgating before the game, menus were arranged from morning to midday and into the evening. The Junior League of Greenville's cookbook celebrates its 30th Anniversary in October of 2016, and the VISIONS committee hopes to provide our readers with a few recipes over the next few issues to commemorate this event. Adapted from "Luncheon for Art Lovers."

### Golden Harvest Cauliflower Soup

large head cauliflower
 cups water
 ounces cream cheese, cubed
 ounces cheese spread
 pound cooked ham
 cup instant potato flakes

.....

Wash cauliflower and break into small flowerets. Steam until tender and set aside. Combine water, cream cheese, cheese spread and potato flakes into top of double boiler. Stir over boiling water until mixture is smooth. Cut ham into Julienne strips. Stir ham and cauliflower into soup and cook until thoroughly heated. Serves 8.

### Spicy Bacon Spears

- 1 ½ cups grated sharp cheese
   ½ cup mayonnaise
   2 tablespoons chopped bell peppers
   1 tablespoon grated onion
   1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> teaspoon salt
- 4 hot dog buns
- 8 bacon slices

Combine cheese, mayonnaise, peppers, onion, Worcestershire sauce and salt. Separate hot dog buns and split each lengthwise. Split bacon lengthwise and cook on one side only. Spread cheese mixture on bread strips. Top with bacon, uncooked side up, and broil until bacon cooks and cheese melts. Yield: 16 spears.

### Sour Cream Apple Pie

.....

#### 1 9-inch pie shell

- <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup sugar
- <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon plain flour
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup sour cream
- 4 cups apples, peeled and sliced
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup plain flour
- 4 tablespoons butter, softened

Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, combine sugar, ¼ cup brown sugar, 1 tablespoon of flour, spices, salt and lemon juice. Add sour cream and apples. Spoon mixture into unbaked pie crust and set aside. Mix together ½ cup plain flour and ½ cup brown sugar. Cut in butter with fork until mixture is crumbly. Sprinkle topping over pie and bake for 40 minutes. Chill 3 to 4 hours before serving. Serves 8.

# Young Women's Writing Contest

// By Kathryn Freedman



The Junior League of Greenville is pleased to announce that it will be holding its 4th annual Young Women's Writing Contest. Female students in grades 6-12 from Greenville County public, private and home schools are encouraged to submit their essays. Essays should be between 750 - 1200 words and will be accepted for online submission at jlgreenville.org between February 1, 2016 and March 1, 2016. Along with a \$500 scholarship award, the winning essay will be published in the Summer 2016 issue of VISIONS magazine, and the winner will be invited to accept her award at the JLG's Annual Meeting held on May 10, 2016.

#### This year's topic will be the following:

With 2016 being an election year, what should our female leaders do to help develop the potential of women? How do they rise above the heavy emphasis that popular media places on superficial and physical characteristics? What can they do to become positive role models and improve the community for the next generation of women? What would you do?

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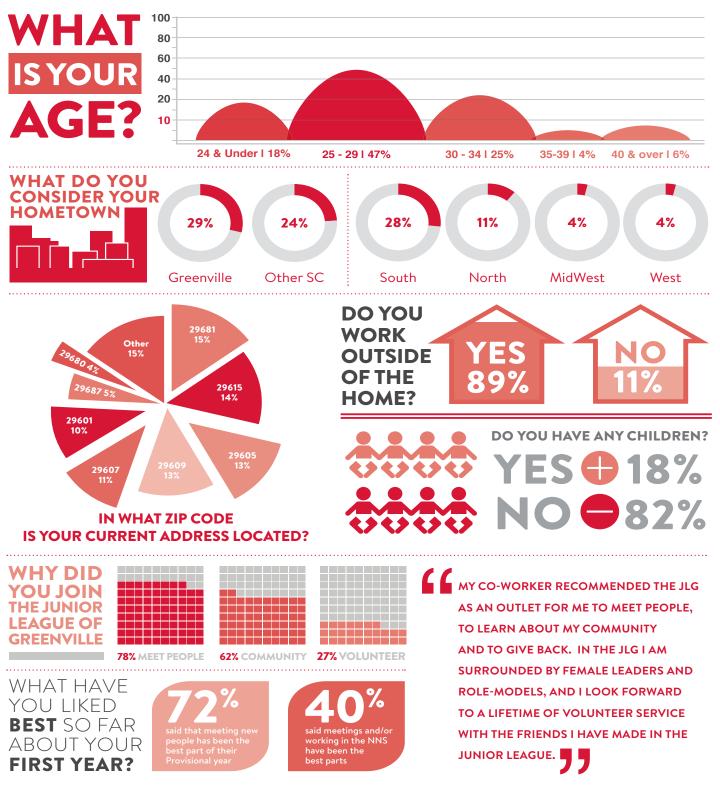




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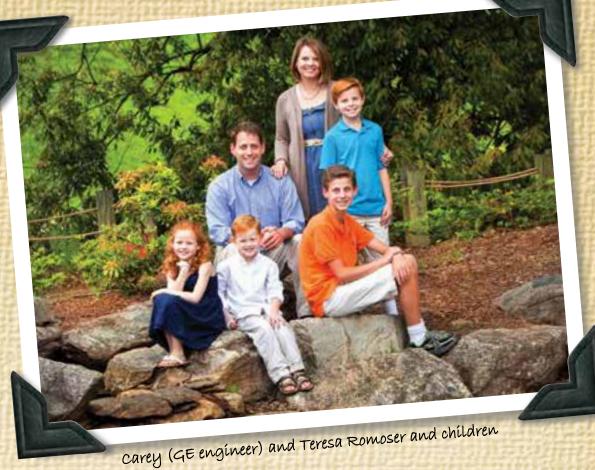


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"I'm so proud of my Mom for creating her own successful business after 30 years of selling great real estate.

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Liza Wilson Ragsdale



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