

VISIONS

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF GREENVILLE • SPRING 2012

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CONTENTS

VISIONS | SPRING 2012



FEATURES

Meet the Community Advisory Committee	8	Sustainer Spotlight	26
Baker Boy or Big Brim	11	Active of the Year	28
Developing Your Inner Skeeter	14	Membership Benefits	30
Oscar Night ® America Party	16	IN EVERY ISSUE	
Grant Award Recipients	20	Letter from the President	2
Spotlight on Provisionals	22	Letter from the Editor	5
		Letter from the Sustainer Representative	6
		Index to Advertisers	31

ON THE COVER: The Liberty Bridge at Falls Park, Greenville

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.



JLG, a group of leading WOMEN

Welcome to the spring edition of VISIONS! It has been quite a busy year for the women of the Junior League of Greenville, but I don't think that we are an exception to women anywhere. Women have a reputation for doing too much, going too often, and consistently being over-committed. I often look at the things in my life in an attempt to purge a little bit. But as I look closely, I realize that everything I am doing in my life has significance. It is difficult to slow down and do less when I have been given so much and there is so much that I can do to give back!

The Junior League of Greenville recently held its 10th consecutive Oscar Night @ America party. For 19 years, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences has sanctioned parties in an effort to link Hollywood glamour with grassroots endeavors that allow hosting communities to have an impact in their respective communities. It is an enormous honor to host an official Oscar party, and hosting organizations are held to strict standards and protocol throughout the year of preparation. During the course of the evening, we were pleased to be able to give checks totaling \$37,000 to four local deserving agencies: Greenville Light Opera Works, Girls on The Run, The Meyer Center and The Julie Valentine Center. We were also able to fund a special project for The McCall Hospice House.

I was recently asked my thoughts about the connection between our Hollywood-based event and the link to our Mission. I began looking at the Oscar nominations and gave this matter some further thought. Just as the women in Hollywood take on new challenges and roles, so do women of the Junior League. Each year provides opportunities to try new volunteer positions, learn new skills and basically get out of our comfort zones. This is an integral part of the League's Mission, and one at which we excel.



Members listen to Junior League President Amie Owens at the General Membership Meeting in January.

While the women I know may not have lives as dramatic as those portrayed in films, I do know that there are struggles and trials in everyone's lives, no matter how it may appear from the outside. One of the things I love most about the League is the women in it. I often say that the women in the League are passionate and smart and talented. But I see them as brave as well. Through my years in the League, I have seen women who have faced health issues, financial strains and other unplanned life crises. Throughout these ordeals, the women I know show enormous dignity, strength and fortitude while continuing to help others whose needs are greater. So maybe the women I know are not so different from those in the movies.

Regardless, I am grateful to these women for enriching my life and teaching me to be a better wife, mother, sister, friend and Greenville resident. For all of those reasons, I am grateful to the Junior League.

Amie Owens
President

A handwritten signature of Amie Owens in a cursive script.



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The 2011-2012 Board of Directors of the Junior League of Greenville

A change of SEASON



Dresses are displayed in the window of the Nearly New Shop in Greenville.

I love this time of the year! Spring has arrived, and it's gorgeous outside. This is the time of year when I have the most energy, and lately I have been harnessing it by running around trying to get things accomplished before the kids are out of school and my resolve begins to melt in the summer heat!

I have cleaned out my closet and my kitchen and made multiple trips to the Nearly New Shop so that my purged items can find a new home. If you need a cookbook you should stop by the store – I believe I donated around 30 when I finally realized I was not going to stray away from my five go-to family meals any time soon.

I have finished this issue of VISIONS and therefore the bulk of my Placement has come to an end, along with other volunteer commitments to my oldest child's school and in the Greenville community.

Like me, many other Junior League members are finishing up Placements and are taking a short break before new assignments begin. I plan to use this time to enjoy my family and friends because they are a good reminder about how lucky I am to be healthy and have plenty of resources around me. In the fall, I will recommit to the Junior League and to its numerous 2012-2013 Placements with such agencies as A Child's Haven, Girls on the Run, Safe Harbor, Greenville Free Medical Clinic and the Upstate History Museum.

I hope your VISION for the summer is realized and that you will slow down and take stock of what the Junior League of Greenville and its members have accomplished this year.

I have enjoyed working on VISIONS this year and owe a huge round of thanks to the ad sales team, the League members who have written articles, our assistant editor, our photographer and to Tina Hampton and Amie Owens who have fielded too many questions and edited content too many times to count! I would also like to thank our advertisers — they are vital to the production of this magazine. Please support their businesses this year as they have supported us.

Have a great summer!

Elizabeth Clark
Editor — VISIONS

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.





S
sus-tain'

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



A new way to Network, VOLUNTEER

LOL, BFF, TTYL, BRB. Recently, my neighbor told me that she had a dictionary on her phone of texting abbreviations. Wow! I never realized there was a dictionary! I had been invited over for coffee and a quick lesson, which opened up a whole new realm of communication for me. I'm so excited and can't wait to show off my new knowledge to my text-savvy children.

Now my quandary is how to get a new abbreviation into "the texting dictionary." Do you submit to some website where it is then made official? Do you just start using it and hope it catches on? Can someone help me add "EOAO — Each one, Ask one"?

Why do you volunteer? Volunteering makes me feel needed — as though I have some special skill or time to offer and someone can benefit from it. It doesn't make me feel that where I volunteer is for the needy — it makes me feel like they need ME. There's a big difference. Everyone likes to feel needed!

As volunteers, sometimes we feel like we are out there all alone — getting the job done — but are we really alone? There are many reasons why women volunteer, but one consistent hope is that we will make new friends and expand our network. In every volunteer endeavor, we meet someone new. Some become friends and some don't. For me, volunteering is so much more fun if I do it with someone. I could be joining my best friend, my sibling or making a new friend. I recently met a woman who received recognition from her volunteer organization for the most volunteer hours in Greenville in 2011. Can you imagine how many people she knows? I wonder how many times she is asked to help. Everyone likes to be asked!

As a Sustainer, do you feel like you are needed by the Junior League of Greenville in any role other than a "financial Sustainer"? You pay your dues because you believe in the Mission and you wish for the JLG to continue for future generations, but the JLG needs more from our Sustainers. We need YOU for what you have to offer above

and beyond financial support. With Active members having less and less time to give, Sustainers have a wonderful opportunity to step into other roles to continue our legacy.

This year we have tried to reach out to Sustainers to get more involved in the JLG again. Mostly we have focused on Sustainer social events, encouraging you to call a JLG friend and come together. But there are so many other opportunities for Sustainers to contribute. These opportunities include the Holiday Gift Bag Project, Home Run for Healthy Kids®, Kids in the Kitchen, Junior League Singers, Sustaining Advisors, JLG Book Club, Nearly New Shop, In-Home Meetings, Training Sessions and the list continues.

Why aren't more Sustainers involved? The hesitation for more involvement is usually verbalized as, "I won't know anyone." Yet, after each event, I hear of members being reconnected, recalling past Placements together, and making plans to stay in touch. The other hesitation is verbalized as, "There is no one there my age." Where is it listed in a rulebook that your friends have to be your age? I have 15 of the coolest young friends after serving as Sustaining Advisor this year. (They still think I'm old, but I don't!)

If you haven't participated in any JLG events in the past two years, pick up the phone and call a League friend or former committee member. Make plans to come to a social function. Check out other projects where you can help. EACH ONE of you, ASK ONE to join you. Every one likes to be asked and to be needed.

So text your League friends and ask them to pass it on — EOAO. The JLG needs you because this is YOUR Junior League.

CUL8R

Caroline Stewart

Sustainer Representative

Caroline



Who's your doctor?

If you have an OB/GYN you like, tell someone you know. If you don't, ask someone you trust for a recommendation. Studies show having a close relationship with a doctor is one of the best ways to stay healthy. So it's no surprise that upstate residents turn to Greenville Hospital System University Medical Group for dedicated women's health and primary care.

As part of the region's most comprehensive community of care, our board certified OB/GYNs aren't just capable – they're committed to making your health a top priority. And when you get to know a doctor while you're well, it's easier to monitor your health and get treated quickly when you're sick.

Schedule an introductory appointment with one of our OB/GYNs by calling a practice listed here, or visit whosyourdoctor.org to learn more.

Greenville Ob Gyn Associates
Memorial Medical Drive 295-4210
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Maxwell Pointe 234-0226

Premier Women's Care
Three Bridges Road 220-4209



UNIVERSITY MEDICAL GROUP

whosyourdoctor.org

Meet the Community Advisory Panel



The 2011-2012 Junior League of Greenville Community Advisory Panel

by Stephanie Morgan

The Community Advisory Panel is a select group of community leaders who share the Junior League of Greenville's (JLG) values, goals and objectives. These individuals are asked to participate based on their extensive contributions to the community and their diverse professional experiences. The panel serves to provide feedback and key support as JLG assesses its programs and resources and impact on the community. The group is able to look at the challenges JLG faces and provide varied perspectives on strategies and solutions.

"The support and expertise that our Community Advisory Panel members bring to JLG is irreplaceable," says Amie Owens, JLG President. "Their participation in the community allows them to bring suggestions and solutions to our organization thus providing JLG more opportunity for success in our community."



**Vernon
Anderson,
M.D.**

Vernon Anderson, M.D. moved to Greenville in 1972 to join the Christie Pediatric Group. Dr. Anderson and his wife Gwyn, a Sustaining member of JLG, have been residents of Greenville for 40 years. They are the parents of three sons, each a little over 2 years apart. Dr. Anderson has watched Greenville grow and change over the years. His passion has been family, indirectly as a Pediatrician, and has

involvement with many families here in Greenville and the surrounding area. As a grandfather to 10 grandchildren 10 years of age and younger, he continues to have a busy and fulfilling life. Dr. Anderson enjoys volunteering in his church and in various community organizations.

John Fiedler is the general manager of Belk Haywood Mall. John is a graduate of Clemson University and has worked for Belk for 33 years where he has held various buying and store management positions. Becoming the Haywood store manager was a homecoming as John opened the store in 1980 as a trainee. John is a member of Edwards Road Baptist Church and on the Board of Visitors for Anderson University.



**Cynthia D.
Fryer,
M.A.**

Cynthia D. Fryer, M.A. is a graduate of both Duke University and Pepperdine University and has a Master's in Clinical Psychology with 17 years of experience as a therapist working with children and families. She has firsthand knowledge of the importance of prevention and teaching children safety early. Cynthia is the Manager for Children's Advocacy and Safe Kids Upstate with Children's Hospital of the Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center. Cynthia is the incoming president for the Board of Directors of the SC Mountains to Midlands Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure; a member of the Board of Directors for

Phillis Wheatley Association as well as an alumnus of Leadership Greenville (Class 33); and Riley's Institute Diversity Leadership Academy at Furman University (2007). Cynthia is a long-time advocate for children and families. Her personal mission is to enhance the quality of life in our community by strengthening our families through advocacy, direct service and mentoring.



**Jim
Hendrix**

Jim Hendrix is President and Co-Owner of The Graphic Cow Co., a custom apparel company located in Greenville. The Graphic Cow Co. designs and produces custom screenprinted and embroidered apparel such as T-shirts, polos and caps. Previously, Jim spent five years working for Rockwell Automation in various marketing and manufacturing roles, most recently as Director of Industry Solutions. He began his career in the investment banking industry as a financial analyst with Bank of America and The Capital Corp. Jim holds a B.A. in Economics/History from Clemson University (1998) and an MBA from The University of Chicago (2003). His current community involvement includes serving on the Clemson Board of Visitors and on the board of The Ronald McDonald House. Jim and his wife Elizabeth, a Sustainer, have three children: Billy, 6; Tucker, 5; and Louise, 1. They live in Greenville.

Megan Hickerson has been married to her husband for 25 years and has four



**Megan
Hickerson**

children: Zach, 24, a graduate of Furman University living in Philadelphia; Brian, 23, a graduate of USC living in Chicago; Ann Stewart, a junior at USC; and Clark, 17, a junior at JL Mann. Megan is in her sixth year serving as a trustee for Greenville County Schools.

ville Tech Foundation in 2008 following careers with Bank of America and the Greenville Symphony Association. A native of Greenville, Bob is a graduate of Davidson College and holds his MBA. He is a graduate of the South-eastern School of Auctioneering and a licensed auctioneer, and a graduate of Professional Santa Claus School in Denver. In 1999, Governor Hodges awarded him the Order of the Palmetto and in 2010 the South Carolina Arts Commission awarded him the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award. He currently serves on the several boards in addition to the Advisory Board for the Junior League, and believes that we can both strengthen the community and improve ourselves through service. Bob is married and has one daughter.

sworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A. Josh concentrates his community service to youth, education and health-focused organizations, including serving on the board of YMCA Camp Greenville, the steering committee for Donate Life of South Carolina's Donors on the Diamond, the Greenville High School Magnet Advisory Board, and is awaiting confirmation to the Board of Donate Life of South Carolina. Josh is also a member of Leadership Greenville Class 37, the Best & Brightest Class of 2011, and the United Way's Young Philanthropist. He is co-leader of his daughters' YMCA Adventure Guides group and active with his family at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Josh and his wife Jenna, a Sustainer of JLG, are the proud parents of three girls: Avery, 7; Caroline, 5; and Anna, 3.



**Bob
Howard**

Bob Howard became President of the Green-



**Josh
Howard**

Josh Howard is an attorney with Hayn-

Jim Kaltenbach, Director of Cancer Services at Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center has worked in philanthropy for more than 20 years, where he has led multiple campaigns raising more than a quarter of a billion dollars.

Continued on page 10

**WELLS
FARGO**

What every successful woman knows:



Build goals for life and see each one through.
Listen to your soul's voice, it'll tell you what you should do.
Remember, power comes from within, so trust in you first.
The success that evolves will come as easily as a poet's verse.
Be brave. Stand strong. And strive to achieve.
Work some. Live more.
And enjoy all life has in store.
Your success inspires. Your determination empowers.
Your passion we admire. Your lead we follow.

**We proudly celebrate the Junior League of Greenville.
When women succeed, everybody wins.**

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Together we'll go far



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Some of Jim's favorite causes have been the American Red Cross, Arthritis Foundation, New York Philharmonic and most recently his major gift work on behalf of the GHS Cancer Center and ITOR. Jim spends time away from work serving on multiple boards and committees, including Centre Stage, Lungs for Life, Christ Church Preschool, P3 and many others. Jim is married to Jamie Sines Kaltenbach, an Active member of JLG. They have two children: Jady and Josie. Interests other than his family and friends revolve around food and wine.



Gabrielle Komorowski

Gabrielle Komorowski is the co-anchor of WYFF News 4 at 5 and 5:30 p.m. Although she spends an hour on the anchor desk each weekday evening, Gabrielle spends the majority of her workday traveling around the Upstate, reporting on everything from politics to crime to human interest stories. Gabrielle is relatively new to Greenville, having moved to the area in September 2010, but she already feels at home. Gabrielle fell in love with the Carolinas while attending Elon University in North Carolina. In her spare time, Gabrielle enjoys horseback riding, reading, trying out new recipes in the kitchen and traveling.



Karen Lambert

Karen Lambert is the Community Bank President for Wells Fargo in the Upstate and manages the Retail Bank. Karen relocated to Greenville in 1998 from Virginia and fell in love with the city. Her favorite things about Greenville include the arts, restaurants, the West End, and most

importantly the warmth and generosity of the community.

Cindy Parker is President and Owner of Eyes In Motion USA and Safety Rx Eyewear in Greenville and has been a licensed Optician for 18 years. Her company specializes in optical streetwear and industrial safety eyewear. The Safety Rx Eyewear mobile units service many industries in the Southeast, including Michelin, GE, Caterpillar and Cryovac. She is the proud grandmother of Aria, 5. Cindy is married to Bill Parker. Bill is an executive sales representative at WSPA. His two sons reside in Greenville.



Laurie Rovin

Laurie Rovin joined Pendleton Place Children's Shelter as Executive Director in May 2011. Laurie brings a wealth of experience as a therapist and clinical director with children and families, having worked in four different residential homes over the last 30 years. She left residential care to address systems issues and was fortunate to gain leadership skills in the nonprofit sector through United Way of Greenville County. During her nine-plus years at United Way, she led Success By 6(r), staffed the early years of the S.C. Institute for Child Success and in 2009 began United Way's Faith-based Roundtable and Public Policy Committee. Laurie is active in the community, and currently is Chair of Greenville's Interfaith Forum. She has a Master's in Deafness Rehabilitation, 1983; and a Master's in Social Work, 1989.



Steven Trocha, M.D.

Steven Trocha, M.D. is the Assistant Medi-

cal Director for the Cancer Treatment Center, where he practices medicine as a Surgical Oncologist at the Cancer Center of the Carolinas. He is a member of multiple organizations supporting the field of medicine and in various leadership positions in the Greenville Memorial Hospital System.



Tiby Weinstein

Tiby Weinstein is a lifelong resident of Greenville. She graduated from Emory University and is the owner of Gage's, an independent retail store specializing in stationery and hand-selected gifts. Her community involvement includes YWCA, Meals on Wheels, Mental Health Greenville, Greenville Women Giving, Augusta Road Business Association and she is a Sustainer in the JLG.



Baxter M. Wynn

Baxter M. Wynn, Doctor of Divinity, is the Minister of Pastoral Care and Community Relations at First Baptist Church, Greenville. He is a graduate of Wofford College; he received a Master of Divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling from Wake Forest University. He received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Baxter recently served as Campaign Chairman for the McCall Hospice House, and Chairman of the United Way Palmetto Society. Baxter is a recipient of the Urban League's Humanitarian Award. Baxter and his wife, Paula, have two sons, David Baxter Wynn and Hanes Jeffords Wynn. ■



BAKER BOY OR BIG BRIM:

Wearing a well-balanced life

By Stephanie Morgan

How many hats are you planning to wear today? Which one are you wearing right now? How about the one you'll be wearing at 5 p.m.? Tonight at 8, how much time do you have to prepare

for that one? We sport an awful lot of hats and often we are throwing them on and off of our heads so quickly, we don't even know if they suit us. We don't really stop to think about it. We don't have time.

Everyone knows how much we are over committed. Everyone has come to accept that we are chased by ourselves all

day long each and every day. Thank you, cellphones. We can't carry on conversations without looking for you or at you. We can't eat dinner without hearing your buzz-buzz, jingle, ding-dong all around us. You have taken over our abilities to focus and exhibit self control. We are lost like kids in the candy shop.

Those who study what everyone is doing are telling us that what we already know: we are wearing too many hats. We can't focus on anything because we are doing entirely too much at once. Reading emails, listening for texts, washing the dishes, helping with homework, thinking about the project due next week, and browsing online for hot pink patent flats to wear with the hot pink straw hat on

Take time to invigorate yourself through exercise. Boost your energy, create a healthier you and increase concentration by committing to a half-hour of exercise at least three times a week. Holding yourself accountable to maintaining a routine provides the stamina to make the other decisions to ensure stability. Making the decision to exercise may be the most important decision you make.

quiet time each day — time to slow your mind down and breath.

Staying true to your family and those you love means making time to connect with them. Plan time to enjoy your family, your pets, your children and stick to it every day. Eating meals together or sharing date nights can make a difference in the lives of individuals and strengthen relationships.

Steve Jobs said to a columnist from Businessweek: "...saying no to 1,000 things to make sure that we don't get on the wrong track or try to do too much." Saying no so we don't get on the wrong track or try to do too much is as important for healthy daily living as it is for billion-dollar companies. Taking on too much is not productive or helpful.

Mom has been telling us for years how important fruits and vegetables are for our diet. Once again, we're seeing in society that Mom is always right. Choosing to eat a well-balanced diet is important. As if the waistlines of America aren't telling enough, scientists also point out the differences in energy levels and mental awareness where healthy eating is concerned. To aid in relieving confusion from the age-old food pyramid, now a healthy

"...SAYING NO TO 1,000 THINGS TO MAKE SURE THAT WE DON'T GET ON THE WRONG TRACK OR TRY TO DO TOO MUCH." Steve Jobs

sale; or at least it was on sale two weeks ago — I have to check on that — and it would be perfect to wear to..... What? Right. Back on task. There is just so much in front of us. Too much. Way too much.

With way too much comes not very much good for yourself. Not much time for you means you don't really enjoy wearing anything. It's essential to stop and find yourself in the hoopla we call life these days. Time to reconnect, to discover what really matters and how to make sure you are here long enough to enjoy it all.

Finding the Right Head Gear

First on the list: volunteer. Yes, volunteer. I know I just told you that you are doing too much, and now I am telling you to give what you have to others. When you schedule and commit yourself to volunteering, you provide a break for your mind and heart. A little boost to your level of happiness and feeling of adequacy naturally comes by giving to others. The Junior League of Greenville (like other volunteer organizations in the Upstate) recognizes that volunteers have many other commitments, therefore providing opportunities for the professional to stay connected without feeling overwhelmed. Knowing your time constraints and finding small pockets of time to help others is beneficial to you and your community.

Reconsider how you run errands. Can you get the task accomplished by making a few phone calls? Can you call and check on an item instead of drive over to look for it? Could you have your dry cleaning delivered? Should you buy your stamps online? You could, and you should. Utilize the Internet and the telephone. Check on what you need, and save yourself time and money of an unnecessary journey. Mother Nature will thank you.

Find time in your day for self reflection. A little relaxation goes a long way. Take time off each day for quiet time, reading, crossword puzzles, a spiritual moment, music, or whatever makes you happy and helps you connect with you. Remembering that the everyday hustle and bustle is irrelevant to the big picture is crucial. We are all part of a bigger plan, take time to remember your importance in that. Experts encourage us to find 20 minutes of



plate illustration exists. A few portions of the plate worth noting:

- The more vegetables on your plate the better. Potatoes do not count as vegetables.
- Choose fish, poultry, beans and nuts for protein. Avoid bacon, processed meats and cold cuts.
- Drink water

There is a reason your phone fits in your pocket or your clutch. Begin the habit of placing it neatly in there and leaving it. It isn't necessary to have it in front of you all day. In fact, it's unhealthy, unsettling and obnoxious. Not to sound like my mother, but they were just fine raising small children and teenagers without a cellphone attached to their heads.

Make a plan and stick to it. If it's not on the plan, don't do it. Read your email without falling for advertisements. Schedule a time to sit down and unsubscribe from emails that are not needed. Just one 15-minute segment should take care of it. Staying focused on the task will keep you from drowning in a barrage of advertising garbage.

While having it all, doing it all and



knowing it all seems perfect. It is detrimental to our health and overall quality of life to think that we should try to attain such a thing. Knowing which hats to put in the closet and which few to wear with

grace and beauty is the secret. There are many to choose from. Choose well, sift through what you're wearing that doesn't fit and put it away. In the end, you'll be thankful you did. ■

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A woman with blonde hair is posing in a colorful floral dress. She is standing with one leg raised and her hand on her hip, smiling at the camera. The background is a solid reddish-brown color.

Developing Your Inner “Skeeter”

By Gena Runnion

I recently came across a friend of a college friend's blog on Facebook and could not resist clicking on the title, “*A Little Help from The Help*.” It was nothing short of brilliant. I immediately thought of the Junior League and the ways in which we strive to live our Mission of developing the potential of women. For the sake of this article, this part of the Mission has been changed to “developing your inner Skeeter.”

At first glance, *The Help* seems to be a story about white women in the South and their housemaids during the 60s — a time when women dressed up to go to the grocery store and playing bridge with their friends was the most important item on their agenda. In contrast, our generation believes that we are supposed to do it all, and look great at the same time. I remember growing up in the late 70s and watching commercials that told us that as women, we were supposed to “bring home the bacon, fry it up in a pan.” The idea of living like the women in *The Help* is hard for me to imagine, but for the characters in the novel it was a way of life, and the book provides a great commentary on racial struggles in the South during the Civil Rights movement.

The thing is, the story is not just a history lesson. It is a life lesson. To simply read the book or watch the movie without getting the lesson would be to miss the whole point. You have to ask yourself some important questions: What character traits do I most often exhibit? Am I a follower like Elizabeth, a manipulator like Hilly, or do I stand up for what is right like Skeeter? There are several things that make her who she is, and I think we can learn a lot from her character. And so, I have come up with a list of five ways to develop your inner Skeeter. Along with those traits I list are instances where our own League members, both Actives and Sustainers, felt like they exhibited their “Inner Skeeter.”

Speak Truth

Speaking the truth makes us vulnerable. People may not like you. There is a saying: “Being right isn't always popular, and being



Gena Runnion shares five ways for League members to develop their inner Skeeter.

popular isn't always right.” A true Skeeter is definitely not concerned with being popular, but is more concerned with speaking the truth.

From a JLG Sustainer Member: Finding the right balance in trusting your children to make good choices versus supervising to a level that you make all of the decisions for them is hard. I struggled with setting the boundaries for my children and if the boundaries were exceeded, how much trust was lost. My daughter and I had an understanding (she thought it was mandatory and I didn't advise her otherwise) that she would share with me her difficult choices. When she was in middle school, she told me that she wanted to spend the night out with a friend and they planned to sneak out during the night to meet some fellow classmates (boys). Her understanding of our understanding was that it was OK as long as she told me in advance. She didn't have any intention of getting into mischief — she only really wanted the thrill of sneaking out. I explained why that was a bad decision and told her that if she was to follow through,

she could not go spend the night with her friend. She was furious with me. She said I didn't trust her and that I used different criteria on her than her older brother.

She came back to me a day or so later and told me that she had told her friend that she couldn't spend the night if they were going to sneak out. I then told her that if what she was telling me was the truth, then she could spend the night with her friend. She had a hard time with understanding that. I explained that I trusted her to make the right decision.

It might have been easier to call the other parent and warn them, but that would not have taught my daughter the lesson she needed to learn. We endured several days of unpleasantness but today have a wonderful, trusting relationship. She continues to tell me of her difficult choices but she does it voluntarily. It's so hard to be a parent and not give in to the moment rather than hold out for the long-term results. I've made many mistakes, but I am pleased that I stood my ground on some important decisions. Speaking honestly and living up to those words made the difference.

Fight for Justice

What does it mean to fight for justice? You may not be involved in something of the magnitude that Skeeter was, but each of us can fight for what is just, fair and right. What does this look like? Speak up for the underdog. Don't sit idly by when you see injustice.

From a JLG Active Member: From middle school until my sophomore year of college, I was determined to become an attorney. I felt compelled to fight for the rights of those who couldn't speak for themselves — thinking that's what all attorneys did. However, during my sophomore year at Clemson University, I chose a different path. After taking an Urban Politics class, I found a new calling — working in local government. Upon graduation, I enrolled in the Master's program for Public Administration through Clemson and the University of South Carolina. I have a joint degree. Not many Tiger fans would admit that! But I am proud to call USC my alma mater as well — just not on Saturdays in the fall. I learned that I could fight for justice in a different capacity, as a public servant. Now, I work as a planner for Greenville County and feel my job allows me to assist citizens with one of the most valuable assets we all have, our property. It allows me to be a guide for them through often difficult processes and times, considering this economy. It also allows me to work with a team of professionals striving to make our community a great place to live, work and play. This desire to serve the public also transfers over into my service as a member of the Junior League of Greenville. As Chair of the Done-In-A-Day committee, I can see the impact we make in so many areas. Looking back, my choice to attend graduate school rather than law school seemed difficult; however, I know I made the right decision. And now that I have a new baby at home, I feel blessed to be able to help make Greenville a place where I want him to grow up, in my professional and volunteer life. Our community offers so much and I am so happy to have the chance to be a small part of it.

Learn

Skeeter had grown up privileged, and was one of the only girls in her social circle

to attend college. Her quest for knowledge did not end there, however. Skeeter was a life learner and did not take things simply as they were. She was an active learner, doing research at the library and interviewing the maids to learn more about their lives.

From a JLG Active Member: My son is a sophomore in high school and, at the beginning of the year, I was dedicated to have a better homework-study schedule to help improve his grades. A friend of mine had mentioned she had some language-learning software she used to prepare for a trip abroad. I asked her if I could borrow it for use during my son's homework time, so both of us could be studying at the same time. I enjoyed many French lessons. I was not able to complete my goal, because she moved to Africa and took it with her, but I will pursue again in the near future. It was fun and was a good example to my son that you're never too old for some quiet-study time! Also, this weekend, I had a friend give me a tennis lesson — a sport I've never played. In return for lessons, I promised her I'd help organize a room that has given her much worry. A good barter for both of us!

Be yourself

To say that Skeeter was a non-conformist would be an understatement. Part of her beauty was that she did not fit into the mold of what was considered beautiful at the time. From her frizzy hair to her huarache sandals and gangly height, she stood out from the crowd. The inner beauty that grew from the outward struggle is what ultimately made her more likeable and more lovely than the group of Hilly wannabees to whom she compared herself.

From a JLG Active Member: My mother once told me "just remember that you are no better than anyone else and there's no one any better than you. You can choose to act better than others, though." What a gift this was, although I had no idea at the time. That was 32 years ago and I still strive to live by this standard. One of my sweet friends is an example of someone who lives by example. She never hesitates to roll up her sleeves, lead numerous committees at the same time or step in

when someone drops the ball. She is hard working and professional in her career, yet a gentle presence in all that she does. Sometimes she is quiet, sometimes she is bold, but she never compromises her beliefs. She doesn't hold grudges. She exhibits empathy and respect for others. She also has a contagious laugh which makes her even more endearing to all who know her!

Persevere

There is always going to be someone who will tell you that you can't do something; your goals are too high, you aren't strong enough, smart enough or you don't have what it takes. You have to choose whether or not you are going to listen, or follow your heart. Skeeter had a chorus of naysayers: the editor at Harper and Row, her mother, society and her friends. But she fought for what she believed in.

From a JLG Active Member: Running is something that I picked up a year ago. I decided that I would run a half marathon in the next year, and mark something off my bucket list. As I got closer to the race I realized that training was not only hard, but also boring. Week after week I was up at 7:30 a.m. on a Saturday to run miles and miles with an aching knee. On top of that, I usually ran alone. I really wanted to give up and not do the race. I couldn't decide if it was worth it or not, but thankfully decided to do it and finished the race. This was one of my proudest accomplishments.

In my opinion Skeeter is brave and becomes more brave as her eyes open to the injustice around her. She could not turn back nor did she want to do so. She was changed. As members of the Junior League, our charge is to make an impact on the community in which we live. Do you speak the truth, fight for justice, learn, and persevere while remaining true to yourself? Are your eyes open? Are you kind? Are you smart? Are you important? Why yes, I do believe you are. ■

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True stories contributed by fabulous Junior League of Greenville Actives and Sustainers

10TH ANNUAL OSCAR NIGHT® AMERICA

By Mary Allison Zimmerman

The Junior League of Greenville hosted its 10th Annual Oscar Night® America party at Zen on Sunday, Feb. 26, 2012. One of only 49 parties officially sanctioned by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences that was held across the country on Oscar Night®, Greenville's Oscar Night® America was a huge success.

Amongst the thrills and surprises of the 84th Academy Awards, the Junior League of Greenville announced the four very worthy local charities that will benefit from funds raised by the event: the Meyer Center, Greenville Light Opera Works, Girls on the Run and the Julie Valentine Center. McCall Hospice House also received \$3,500 for a special project.

Attendees at this year's Oscar Night® America party in Greenville watched the Academy Awards telecast live on large screens while enjoying fabulous food catered by Good Life Catering, open bars and specialty drinks, and music provided by 7 Once Band. There were also incredible auction items, a Geiss & Sons Diamond Dig and a Wine Cellar Raffle.

"This year's Oscar Night® America was one of the best yet," said Oscar Night® America Committee Chair for the Junior League of Greenville, Lindsay Powers.



Photos from the 10th annual Oscar Night America® party.
(Photography by Jennifer Rogers)

What a Party!







"Guests enjoyed VIP perks, a red carpet arrival, fabulous food, great live music and so much more. And the best part is that the money raised stays right here in the Greenville community."

This is the 19th year that the Academy has cooperated with local charities to support official Oscar Night® viewing parties. This year marks the 10th year that the Junior League of Greenville has hosted an Academy-sanctioned event for the Upstate to enjoy.

"We are so grateful to continue to have the unique opportunity to partner with the Academy and host this one-of-a-kind event to raise funds to benefit several worthy nonprofits who share our vision for improving the Greenville community," said Communications Vice President for the Junior League of Greenville, Liz Baker.

Last year alone Oscar Night® parties raised more than \$3.5 million in 51 cities. All monies raised stay in each event's community. The Junior League of Greenville is proud to donate the funds raised this year to the four very worthy recipient organizations mentioned above.

"Oscar Night® America is one of the largest fundraising events held by the Junior League of Greenville, and we are thrilled to have raised these funds to support those in need in the Greenville community," said President of the Junior League of Greenville, Amie Owens. "We are so thankful to Greenville's residents and businesses for their supporting Oscar Night® America, as well as for their continued support of the Junior League's efforts to improve the Greenville community as a whole." ■

2011-2012 Grant Award Recipients



Children participate in a class at the Greenville Light Opera Works.

By Rebecca Ellefson

This year the Junior League of Greenville granted funds to agencies chosen through our grant process. We opened the process in June 2011 and placed the grant application online for local nonprofit organizations to fill out and submit by Aug. 15. The response from the community was incredible. We had more than 40 applications submitted, all of which detailed wonderful community projects and programs that the League could help with funding. One of our main goals in picking the agencies was to find those that fit our focus, which reads: "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." The Community Project Research and Development Committee (CPRD) began researching and narrowing down the agencies in mid-August. We were able to get down to about 30 choices, and then we began calling the agencies to discuss their grant applications. Not only were we looking for applicants that fit in with the League's Focus, but we were also looking for Placement opportunities, for our members. CPRD held meetings

during September and October to discuss the process by which we would proceed with selecting the recipients. At the end of October, the committee met once again to narrow down the applications and determine which agencies would receive funding. The League budgeted \$37,000 to gift to the community for the 2011-2012 year. After a final meeting, it was determined that we would give the money out to four agencies. The agencies selected were Girls on the Run, the Julie Valentine Center, the Meyer Center and the Greenville Light Opera Works (GLOW).

Girls on the Run (GOTR)

Girls on the Run, a program affiliated with The Children's Hospital at Greenville



Girls on the Run is presented with the Oscar Night® America grant.

Hospital System, trains girls to run a 5K (3.1 miles). The program helps young girls boost their self-confidence by teaching them the concepts of a healthy body image and how to make healthy choices in their diets. The grant awarded (\$11,000) by the JLG will help expand the program into new schools as well as help fund a program for the Latin American community. Placements for League members include coaches as well as opportunities for partnerships with our Kids in the Kitchen and A Nearly New You programs.



The Oscar Night® America grant is presented to the Julie Valentine Center.

Julie Valentine Center

The Julie Valentine Center works to stop sexual violence and child abuse. The funds awarded (\$5,000) will provide staff with Play Therapy Training, providing Trauma-Focused Play Therapy for victims of child abuse. Funds will also help with the purchase of play materials to be used in this therapy. The Julie Valentine Center will also be partnering with Safe Harbor to provide child therapy to children exposed to domestic violence, furthering the impact of the grant dollars. For Placement opportunities, League members can be Children's Playroom Supervisors or help facilitate special events.

Meyer Center

The Meyer Center is a program that provides early childhood education and therapy services for children with disabilities. More than 70% of the students at the Meyer Center have sensory processing disorders (SPD) ranging from mild to severe. SPD is a neurological disorder causing difficulties with processing information from the five senses, the



The Oscar Night® America grant is presented to the Meyer Center.

sense of movement and/or the positional sense. The grant (\$11,000) will help with the Meyer Center's project to create a Multi Sensory Environment (MSE) for the students with sensory processing disorders. The MSE will be used to educate, stimulate, relax, calm or energize special needs children by adapting the lighting, atmosphere, sounds and textures to the individual needs of the children in a designated room at the Center. The Sensory Solutions innovative project will focus on the physical, emotional and educational well-being of the children we serve at the Meyer Center. Placement opportunities include Classroom Volunteers and

helping with daily activities. The Meyer Center may also benefit from working with Done-In-A-Day and A Nearly New You Committees.

Greenville Light Opera Works (GLOW)

The Greenville Light Opera Works provided a thank-you letter to the JLG and described how the grant awarded would be used.

"When we at GLOW opened the letter that the Junior League of Greenville sent us approving our grant request, one of our earliest visions for this company came true. GLOW's mission has always been to forward and preserve opera, operetta and

musical theater, but we know that the best way to do that is to instill an appreciation of these arts forms in our children and to provide this service to all children, not just those who can afford training. With the funds from this grant, we can provide a safe and fun place for kids to learn and perform, as well as offer them training from top-notch educators."

The grant from the Junior League of Greenville will be used to establish The GLOW School of Music and Drama, which is a program open to ages 5-18, providing children with affordable private music lessons and group drama classes. The school will enrich the lives of children throughout Greenville County by giving access to high-quality instruction and performance opportunities in classical music (vocal and instrumental) musical theater and drama, as well as provide scholarship to those students unable to afford training.

Placement opportunities at GLOW will include acting as Registration Assistants and Stage Dressers. Done-In-A-Day Members can help with performances, while Kids in the Kitchen can also serve the children. ■



GLOW is presented with with the Oscar Night® America grant.

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SPOTLIGHT

on 2011-2012 Provisionals



Interview by Liz Baker and Elizabeth Clark



Name: Laurel Stephens Shaler

Hometown: Born in Orangeburg (our President's hometown) and raised in Greenville.

College/University: College of Charleston (Bachelor's in Sociology with a minor in Dance; Florida State University (Masters in Social Work); Regent University (Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision)

What inspired you to join the Junior League of Greenville?

I have different interests in the community, and when I learned that the Junior League is not only an integral part of the Greenville community but it provides the opportunity to volunteer in different locations, I knew it was the right fit.

What has been the best experience you've had as a Provisional?

I have felt very supported by everyone involved with the Provisional Class from the Provisional Chair (Ashli Vanderford) and my Adviser (Marjorie Maxon) to the President (Amie Owens) and the Present-Elect (Kristy Way). I was also thrilled to win the award for selling the most bookplates for Home Run for Healthy Kids®.

Tell us a touching or funny story about an

experience you've had at the Nearly New Shop (NNS).

I have loved getting to know fellow Provisionals during our time at the NNS. I found that I got to know some girls better through the NNS than in any other way. I remember talking and laughing the hours away. What fun!

What else do you do to support the Greenville community?

I am currently the Vice-Chair of the Human Relations Commission for Greenville County. Another way I support this community is through the Caine Halter Lungs4Life 5K each November, raising funds for lung cancer research. My family has been involved in this event since it was started in 2007...the same year my father became a lung cancer survivor. Last, but certainly not least, I am very active in my church.

What are you looking forward to in your first Active year?

I would love to have an In-League and a Community Placement so that I can learn more about JLG. I would also like to be able to support the new Provisional class as they begin their JLG "career."



Name: Ashleigh Hambricht

Hometown: Gaffney

College/University: Clemson University

What inspired you to join the Junior League of Greenville?

I wanted to become more involved with my community, and I felt Junior League was a great place to contribute to our growing city.

What has been the best experience you've had as a Provisional?

The best experience I've had has been learning about different organizations and opportunities that Greenville has to offer. Being from Gaffney, I did come to Greenville quite a few times growing up. I moved here after I graduated from college in 2007. I felt like I knew pretty much everything Greenville had to offer. By joining the League, I've networked with so many new people, and I have learned so much about the community that I didn't know before.

Tell us a touching or funny story about an experience you've had at the Nearly New Shop (NNS).

I thoroughly enjoyed working my hours at the Nearly New Shop. I grew close to the staff members and enjoyed getting to know them while working at the NNS. I quickly began to form relationships with the regular customers. I was nervous at first about having to work at the Shop, but after a few shifts, I was very relaxed. The NNS was definitely a highlight of my Provisional year in the League.

What else do you do to support the Greenville community?

Volunteer for Hands on Greenville; active member of my church; 1st Grade Teacher at The Sterling School.

What are you looking forward to in your first Active year?

I'm excited to have a Placement and become really involved with an organization.



Name: Elizabeth Crouch

Hometown: Louisville, Ky.

College/University: Centre College, B.S.; Clemson University, M.S.; Clemson University, Ph.D.

What inspired you to join the Junior League of Greenville?

As a doctoral student the last few years, I had not had a chance to become connected with the community, nor had I found ways to volunteer. I have found that the JLG has been an awesome way for me to do both. As well, I have already found dear girlfriends.

What has been the best experience you've had as a Provisional?

There are a lot of fun experiences so far. Huddling with other JLG members while working in the cold rain at Enchanted Tracks for Halloween created great friendships. As a Provisional class, we have gotten together for lots of sushi, pizza, and champagne nights. Voluntarism and friendship have combined to make great experiences.

Tell us a touching or funny story about an experience you've had volunteering at the Nearly New Shop (NNS).

Due to my crazy school year schedule, I spent a concentrated week last June at the NNS with Elizabeth, a Provisional Adviser. A week of working with someone every day for eight hours will make you close. She has become a great Mentor for JLG as well as a great friend.

What else do you do to support the Greenville community?

I am a member of the Greenville Track Club and am very involved in helping with race organization in the Greenville area.

What are you looking forward to in your first Active year?

I am looking forward to not having a dissertation to work on! I am so excited that I will be able to volunteer in and out of the NNS. I was not able to do as much volunteering as I would have liked to do this year due to the writing required for completing my doctoral program. I am looking forward to a year of business with the JLG this upcoming year!



Name: Elizabeth McSherry

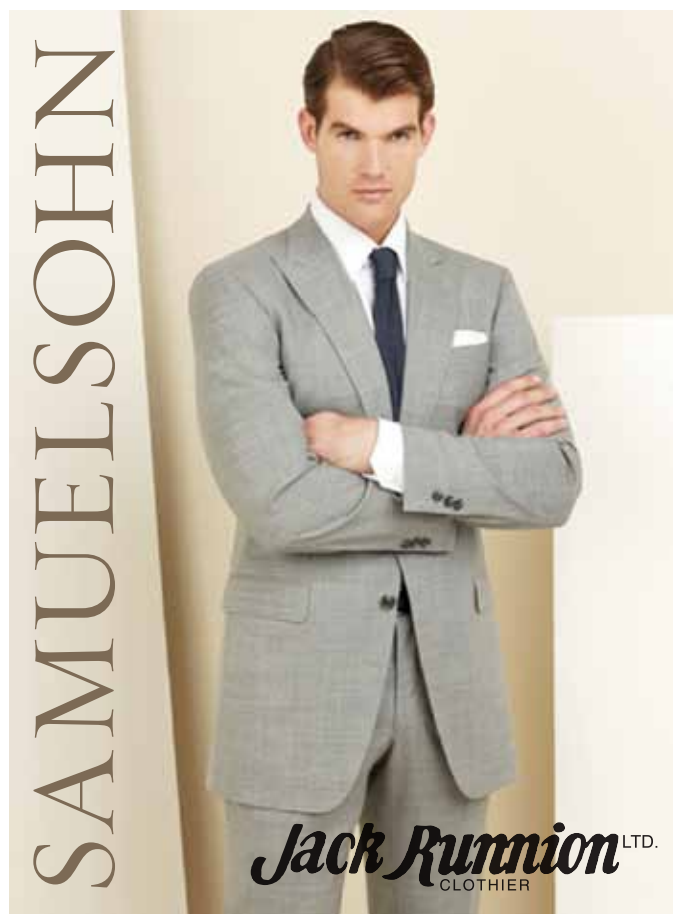
Hometown: Redding, Conn.

Continued on page 24



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College/University: Furman University for undergraduate studies and Johns Hopkins for my Master's.

What inspired you to join the Junior League of Greenville?

After working with current League members like Jenny Lewis and Amy Rush Sheppard, I knew that the JLG was an organization full of passionate and driven women. I had been looking for opportunities to become more involved in volunteering when Amy mentioned JLG was having an information session. JLG is the perfect mix of voluntarism and community development. I want to be a part of an organization that supports women and their role in our world. The League is that place.

What has been the best experience you've had as a Provisional?

The Provisional year has been a lot of fun, but if I had to choose a favorite experience it would be volunteering at Home Run for Healthy Kids®. I was one of the group leaders, and my classes had a blast! The students loved every station and learned a lot about staying healthy. We even fit in some songs and dancing games since we arrived early.

Tell us a touching/funny story about an experience you've had volunteering at the Nearly New Shop (NNS).

Every shift is interesting at Nearly New; you never know what will happen. One day while I was there a family came in to look at formal dresses. They were preparing for a Quinceanera. We spent an hour trying different dresses and shoes, trying to match bags. The girls were all so excited to dress up. It felt wonderful to help them find beautiful dresses that were affordable. I only wish I could have seen pictures from the event.

What else do you do to support the Greenville community?

As Vice President for Furman University's Young Alumni Council, I help current students connect to the Greenville community. I also serve on Furman's Admissions Network. As Volunteer Coordinator for The Children's Museum of the Upstate, I partner with other nonprofits in the Greenville community as part of the Piedmont Association of Volunteer Administrators. For fun, I assist with an Upward cheerleading squad. Our K5-2nd

graders have more spirit than anyone I know.

What are you looking forward to in your first Active year?

Everyone I have met this year has an amazing story and special talents. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone better through this next year. The more involved I can be with our fellow members and the community, the better.



Name: Kaitlyn Williams

Hometown: Montgomery, Ala.

College/University: Auburn University (Although we pull for University of Alabama. My husband is a die-hard Roll Tide fan and from Tuscaloosa, Ala.)

What inspired you to join the Junior League of Greenville?

My family moved to Greenville last March for my husband's job. Having an infant son and being seven months pregnant with my daughter, I needed a way to meet other women and make some new friends. I knew that the Junior League would provide me opportunities to do both. It has also given me a chance to become more familiar with the Greenville community.

What has been the best experience you've had as a Provisional?

My favorite part of being a Provisional member of the JLG has been the meetings. For the October GMM, I visited Project Hope Foundation, an organization committed to educating and equipping individuals with autism. If not for this JLG meeting, I might not have been aware of this excellent community resource. Who knows when I may need to refer a family

to Project Hope for help? I feel grateful for the opportunities that the JLG provides.

Tell us a touching or funny story about an experience you've had volunteering at the Nearly New Shop.

I had the chance just a few weeks ago to volunteer for an entire week at the Nearly New Shop. I was there Monday through Friday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and I got to see the shop operate from open to close. Other than the surprising number of women, men, and families that shop here to find items for their wardrobe and home, it was amazing how many people visit the Shop on a daily basis. More than simply retail, I think that the NNS provides a place for people to come socialize and interact with the NNS staff as well as other customers.

What else do you do to support the Greenville community?

Other than the JLG, my husband and I participate in several local charities, including the American Heart Association and the Community Foundation.

What are you looking forward to in your first Active year?

I am looking forward to continuing to meet other members. Oftentimes, I don't realize that I am in the company of League members unless the topic comes up. Sharing this membership helps create a commonality between all types of women. I can't wait to get involved with my Placement as well. The League offers opportunities to volunteer in all different areas. The hard part now is deciding where I want to help!



Name: Jenn Parker

Hometown: Robbins, N.C.

College/University: UNC

What inspired you to join the Junior League of Greenville?

When I realized how much more of my time and passion I wanted to give to Greenville, the answer was clear: The Junior League was not only where some of my close friends made a difference, it was where I could learn more about the city I love and more about how to serve it best.

What has been the best experience you've had as a Provisional?

For me, I think it's been most powerful not only to see the enormity and capability of JLG, but also to understand the fiber of it during smaller gatherings. To have quality time over dinner and drinks at an Active's home to talk, laugh and walk through the possibilities within JLG? That was pretty awesome.

Tell us a touching or funny story about an experience you've had volunteering at the Nearly New Shop (NNS).

During one Saturday afternoon shift, a young woman shyly carried a wedding gown into a dressing room at the NNS. Naturally, the three of us volunteering asked

her to model for us when she tried it on. Moments later, she stepped out of the room and the three of us let out loud, long gasps of delight. She was absolutely radiant! I'll never forget how she beamed in that dress or how thrilled she was to find her wedding gown.

What else do you do to support the Greenville community?

I'm fortunate to have a job that keeps me on my toes in supporting our city: I work in annual giving for the philanthropy department at Greenville Hospital System, where I tell patient and donor stories through online campaigns. I'm in awe every day at the compassion of our community! I also love volunteering at Ten Thousand Villages (while simultaneously trying not to buy the entire store), and I've enjoyed joining my church as it partners with other churches through Mission Upstate, a group dedicated to better serving our area.

What are you looking forward to in your first Active year?

I'm excited about serving our city well, whether that's through one of our non-profit partners or with the next class of Provisionals!



Name: Lauren Payne Lanford

Hometown: Simpsonville

College/University: North Greenville University and the Medical University of South Carolina

What inspired you to join the Junior League of Greenville?

I have friends who were in the Charleston and Columbia Leagues. They always mentioned how much they loved it and how much their Leagues gave back to their local communities. After I attended the Provisional "open house" and saw the different Placement opportunities,

Continued on page 29



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SUSTAINER SPOTLIGHT:

Liz Semen

By Stephanie Morgan

Met Liz Semen. She epitomizes the Mission of the Junior League of Greenville. As the Executive Director of Meals on Wheels and an elected member of Greenville County Council representing District 24, she walks the walk by leading and serving. Bringing to the plate personality, business sense and strong leadership, Liz is making a difference in the Greenville community. Recalling her time as an Active member of the JLG, Liz reminds us that the JLG is much more than an organization providing volunteers. Instead she remembers and values the leadership training she gained and praises the JLG for continuing to guide women into leadership positions in the community.

JLG: Tell us a little about your life in nonprofit Greenville.

Liz: Steve, Walker (our son), and I moved here in 1999. At that point I began working for the American Red Cross as the Director of Volunteer and Community Relations and eventually the Director of Development. Next, I moved on to Hands on Greenville, now under the umbrella of United Way. I was there for a little over three years before accepting this position as the Executive Director of Meals on Wheels.

JLG: Do you look back on your days as an Active Member of the Junior League and remember specific Placements that have shaped you in your current role?

Liz: I have a huge appreciation for the leadership training that I received as an Active Member of JLG. We learned to run meetings effectively, to listen to each other's opinions and to follow through with our goals. These skills and oth-

ers practiced in the Junior League carry through every single day here at Meals on Wheels.



Volunteers prepare meals at Meals on Wheels. The Greenville County nonprofit is working to end hunger in Greenville by 2020 and will deliver its 10 millionth meal in October.

JLG: Most of your Placements were In-League Placements, those that maintain the functionality of the JLG. What stands out in your mind when you reflect on those?

Liz: I am a huge advocate for fostering and encouraging women leaders in the community and remember seeing those women speak to me and my peers in meetings and learning opportunities. It's great that now I am working beside them on many projects as we sit side by side on community boards. The Junior League of Greenville is the only organization in our community that provides training for women. It encourages them and gives them skills to rise as community leaders. We need more women leaders in our com-

munity, and it brings me peace to know that JLG is training them.

JLG: What word would you to describe your experience as an elected official?

Liz: It's very humbling to know that people are relying on me to protect and move our community forward. Our jobs as elected officials are often centered on compromise and finding a middle ground that benefits a group. I have to remember what I am fighting for and that I am not going to win every small battle. I try to keep my eye on our end project.

JLG: What are you reading?

Liz: "No Higher Honor: A Memoir of My Years in Washington," Condoleezza Rice's biography.

JLG: What's in your cup?

Liz: Coffee with cream and sugar, but I do love a latte.

JLG: What would you consider luxury right this second?

Liz: A cleaning lady! I could really use one of those.

JLG: What do you want this community to remember about Liz Semen?

Liz: One day I want to be able to be a philanthropist. My experience in nonprofit organizations has shown me that giving to an organization makes a huge difference. Here at Meals on Wheels, I hope that I have shown our team that business has to balance the warm and fuzzy. We are working to end hunger in Greenville by 2020 and will deliver our 10 millionth meal in October. We can't meet either of those goals without managing the business components of the organization.

We are thankful for Liz, for her spirit and for her leadership. ■





2010-2011 ACTIVE OF THE YEAR: Ashley Slagel

By Elizabeth Clark

The 2010-2011 Helen Horton Hunt Service Award for Active of the Year was given to Ashley Slagel. Ashley is 32 years old and grew up in Atlanta. She and her husband Ben are parents of 2-year-old daughter Emery and son Bodie, who was born in February. Ashley has been in the League for five years.

Where did you go to college?

University of Notre Dame, South Bend.

Where did you meet Ben?

On a boat in Lake Lanier.

How did you get from the University of Notre Dame to Lake Lanier?

I followed in my father's footsteps — he went to Notre Dame. As much as I loved it, I couldn't handle the Midwest. So I went back to Atlanta and worked for Coca-Cola. I met Ben one day on the lake. We did the long distance thing. When he proposed three years later, I moved here.

Were you working in marketing at Coke?

My first couple of years I did account management, and then I did sales representative training.

You joined the Junior League of Greenville when you moved here? What was the best part of your Provisional year?

Yes. I think learning about Greenville. I felt like such a transplant, and then through doing different tours and Placements and community projects, I felt like "OK, this is my home."

What did you do after your Provisional year?

The first year I Double Placed — I volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club and on the Arrangements committee. We did not have

children so I thought if I'm ever going to Double Place, this would be the year to do it. I also wanted to see how I liked In-League versus Community Placement.

What did you like about Arrangements?

The Arrangements Committee was a good fit for me because it's like event planning, which I have always enjoyed. I went to every General Membership meeting that year, which helped me learn a lot. We had a great crew that year. I really loved everything about it! Again, I learned so much about Greenville. I learned about the BMW Zentrum Center. We held meetings at different agencies and restaurants downtown.

How long were you on Arrangements?

For three years. I was a member, then Vice-Chair, then Chair.

What is your Placement this year?

Provisional Development.

What do you enjoy about Provisional Development?

It's been really fun to work with the Provisionals. I look at them and remember being in their shoes five years ago. They are very enthusiastic. It's a small class this year, but I'd like to think it's "quality over quantity". A lot of the women are in the same boat I was in — they are new to Greenville, and it's been really fun for them to meet new people. I think your Provisional year can be so confusing — I know I was very overwhelmed about Placement Fair and meeting all of my requirements, so I like to be able to reassure them that they are on track and tell them in a year from now this will all make perfect sense. Provisional Development has definitely been my favorite Placement.

Next year you are going to be serving on the Board of Directors as Corresponding

Secretary. How are you going to balance your young children and your new position?

Well, Anna Kate Brown (the current Corresponding Secretary) has begun my training (copying me on emails, etc.). Honestly I'm a little panicked right now, but I know because of status changes that this is the busiest time of the year for the Corresponding Secretary. I plan on working a lot of nights at my computer after the kids are in bed! ■

SPOTLIGHT continued from page 25

I realized it was a great way to become involved in my own community.

What has been the best experience you've had as a Provisional?

The best thing about Provisional year was developing new friendships. Between my Provisional group and working the Nearly New Shop, it was very easy to meet a wonderful group of ladies.

Tell us a touching or funny story about an experience you've had volunteering at the Nearly New Shop (NNS).

One of my favorite experiences was helping a younger gentleman find a suit for a job interview. He was very nervous talking about where his interview was, and so I wanted to help him find a suit that made him feel confident. He was able to find one at a great deal while also looking and feeling great.

What else do you do to support the Greenville community?

Outside of the JLG and different committees within my workplace, I am active with the Building Dreams Program, where I serve as a mentor for a 12-year-old girl.

What are you looking forward to in your first Active year?

Being involved in a Placement where I can give back to the community. ■

ACTIVES AND SUSTAINERS

Membership Benefits

By Jean Hunt

What do we expect to receive from our membership in the Junior League of Greenville? Maybe you have to become a Sustainer, like me, before you really know the answer. I hope you'll look back and say, "Wow! That's our League!"

As new and young Junior League members, my friends and I joined when we were rushing from one car pool to another — baseball, field hockey, scout meetings, etc. As busy as life was back then, we were thrilled to be part of the Junior League. I'm sure the lives of the young Actives, especially professionals, are even busier today.

We found life in the League exciting — being exposed to new opportunities to train for volunteer work. The League opened up doors for learning and experiencing our Greenville community as never before. We all knew this when we joined the League, but something else happened. We made new friends! That seems like a weak statement, but it became powerful as we grew older. Eventually there were no more car pools or scout events or Junior League committee meetings. We all loved our Active years, but we had become Sustainers. "What now?" we wondered.

We refused to lose contact with the Junior League of Greenville. The Actives must have realized our desire to remain connected. A committee had been formed to keep the Sustainers aware of League business and projects. The Sustainers met once a month, usually a luncheon (box wine or jug wine was served). Back then, Mary Merritt always wore her beautiful hat, adding to the fun. Time went by and some of the older girls were asked to take over this committee and continue the monthly meetings. A small group was called on the telephone (not texted) and everyone eagerly agreed. The committee was made up of girls of all ages. We lived in different locations around Greenville and didn't know each other well.



From left to right: Jean Hunt, Judy Adcock, Salley Batson, Sylvia Boineau and Dot Webster (seated)

The one thing we had in common was our love and respect for the League. We met often and planned events we hoped the Sustainers would enjoy. Plus, we invited the Actives to participate and give reports of their projects. We enjoyed helping with some of their fundraising events. The circus fundraiser was one of our favorite projects.

Our committee planned to keep the Sustainers entertained and involved in the arts, a few lectures, the museums, Furman University, trips to Charleston and Biltmore at Christmas. Singing carols on the bus home from Asheville is a favorite memory. Of course, we threw in a few cocktail parties so we could meet everyone's husbands. Our committee met often and soon realized we had become not only good friends, but cared deeply for each other.

We were having a good time working on our committee, but wanted to do more. We talked to Joyce Boyette at the Cancer Society and with much help from Harriet Goldsmith, Caroline Tompkins and other Past Presidents, we packed our first holiday bags for cancer patients at Harriet's house. By late afternoon, our committee, with lots of help from others, delivered the Christmas bags to Joyce at the Cancer Society. Something

special happened that day — we had a great new project!

Years went by and it was time to turn our committee over to a new group. Val Post was selected to be the new Chairman. With this new group, it meant our committee would not see each other as often, so we decided to continue meeting every month for lunch and sometimes for tea (wine) in the afternoon. Twenty-five years have gone by and we still get together every few weeks. We lost three of our members and good friends, Val Post, Liz Mahon and Susan Blythe, but the memory of each one will always be with us. We remember how Susan Blythe made us laugh even when the situation was not funny. We still laugh at our funny memories and enjoy making new ones. I especially love to watch my friends' eyes light up and smiles spread across their faces every time we meet.

All those years ago, we looked to the Junior League of Greenville for educational and charitable training and it exceeded expectations. We also received a gift we had not counted on — loving friendships that last a lifetime. May all of you have the opportunity to experience the wonderful gift that comes from being a member of the Junior League of Greenville. ■

AD INDEX

ADVERTISER.....PAGE NUMBER

Christ Church Episcopal School.....	Inside Front Cover	Leon Loard Oil Portraits.....	21
My 102.5	Inside Back Cover	Palmetto Urology Group	25
Fa'brik.....	13	Rocky Creek Dental	Back Cover
Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center	7	Ralph Callahan Consulting.....	25
The Greenville News	23	Shutterbooth	31
Jack Runnion Clothiers	23	Two Men and a Truck	31
		Wells Fargo.....	9

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Are you committed to improving the community?

Do you have an interest in voluntarism?

IF SO, WE WANT YOU TO JOIN US!

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 2013. 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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For more information on how you can support the Junior League of Greenville, please contact us at
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