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ON THE COVER: From left: BJ McCoy (A Nearly New You Chairman), Nela Laughridge (Home Run for Healthy Kids™ Co-Chairman), Amy Hunter (Kids in the Kitchen Chairman) and Carrie Scott (Home Run for Healthy Kids™ Co-Chairman) photographed at Wyche Pavilion in downtown Greenville.

Our cover photo was taken by photographer Meg Terry. In addition to serving as a primary photographer on *VISIONS*, Meg serves as 2008-2009 Chairman of *The Update* newsletter. In 2009-2010, Meg will serve on the JLG Board of Directors as Communications Vice President. Meg is an architect at DP3 Architects and lives in the North Main area with her husband, Geordan, and their two dogs.

VISIONS

Spring 2009

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

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 volunteerism.

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A Year of Growth

Growth (N) *growth*: The process of growing. Full development or maturity. Development from a lower or simpler to a higher or more complex form, an increase as in size, number, value or strength: extension or expansion. See also change or evolution.

This is how the dictionary defines growth. It is no surprise to discover that these words could also serve as the definition of the Junior League of Greenville (JLG). The Mission of the JLG is to promote voluntarism, develop the potential of women and to improve our community through trained volunteers. Without constant growth and change, we could not fulfill our



Mission. In this 79th year of the Junior League, we have experienced change and evolution in many areas. Just as it has been done many times in the history of JLG, the organization has developed and implemented our own programs and projects such as Home Run for Healthy Kids™

and A Nearly New You.

Not only has the League touched thousands of lives in our community through these and other programs, but we have sparked growth in our members. By empowering our members with leadership roles, their management and volunteer skills mature, and they are able to pass these skills on to other members through

training. We also expand our circle of membership by welcoming new members to the fold every year. These new members will serve as the leaders of the Junior League of Greenville in the years to come ensuring many more years of growth and new ideas. As Peter Ferdinand Drucker said,

“Leaders are the ones who keep faith with the past, keep step with the present, and keep the promise to posterity.” ■

Regards,

Mary Belvin

Mary Belvin
President, Junior League of Greenville, 2008-2009

Mary Belvin serves as President of the Junior League of Greenville 2008-2009. She has been an Active member of the Junior League of Greenville for nine years. Mary is married to Lee and is mother to: Emma Caroline, 9; Rhett, 5; and Holland, 2. Mary can be reached at president@jlgreenville.org.



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Spring Forward

Spring is my favorite season. I love the warmer weather, the flowers blooming and all the growth and change that the season brings. President Mary Belvin's theme for this 2008-2009 Junior League year has been "A Year of Growth." Just as the season of spring represents growth and change, the Junior League of Greenville (JLG) has seen its own growth and change in the two years that I have worked on *VISIONS*. Not only have I have enjoyed seeing new programs and events come to life, but I have also seen our established efforts evolve as almost 1,400 members work to fulfill the



Editor Traci Beasley (right) with Vice Editor Olivia Hawkins (left)

Junior League mission of training women volunteers and improving the community. In this issue, we report on the latest efforts of our newer programs, A Nearly New You, Kids in the Kitchen and Home Run for Healthy Kids™, as well as share a glimpse

of our local fundraising event, Oscar Night® America, which is in its seventh year.

To me, the concept of growth and the ability to change and evolve are closely linked together. Alice Walker, the author of *The Color Purple*, recently said, "This is how change happens, though. It is a relay race, and we're very conscious of that, that our job really is to do our part of the race, and then we pass it on, and then someone picks it up, and it keeps going. And that is how it is." This statement rings true for the Junior League of Greenville as the 2008-2009 year is ending, and we transition our current volunteer responsi-

bilities to others for the coming year. I will be passing the baton to Olivia Hawkins, *VISIONS* Editor for 2009-2010, who will keep things going in reporting the growth and change of the Junior League. Thanks to all who have worked and contributed to the magazine and best wishes in the coming year. ■

Regards,

Traci Beasley

Traci Beasley
VISIONS Editor, 2008-2009
editor-VISIONS@jlgreenville.org

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Scenes from the 2009 Oscar Night® America event at the Greenville Country Club. Pictured left: Oscar Night® America Chairman Sara Cornish (left) and Vice Chairman Ashley Bates (right)



The Junior League of Greenville Shines on the Oscar Night® America Red Carpet

WRITTEN BY DONNA MURPHY

SPECIAL THANKS TO KISMET PHOTOGRAPHY

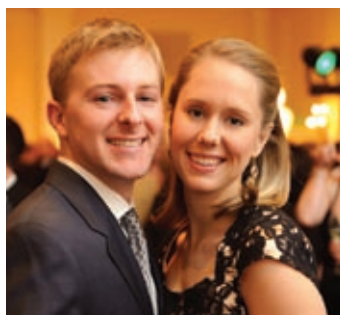
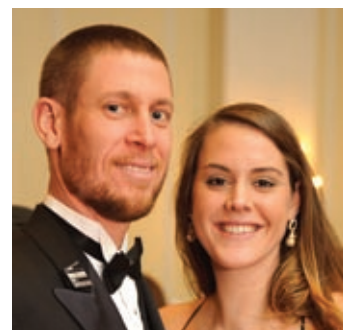
As one of 53 organizations around the country sanctioned by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Junior League of Greenville approached the seventh year of Oscar Night® America with a desire to create a successful and unique event, all in an effort to raise funds to support programs and projects of the Junior League of Greenville.

A committee of 18 women began planning for what is the League's biggest fundraising event of the year in April 2008 for the event which took place the evening of February 22, 2009 to coincide with the actual award ceremony held in Hollywood.

As part of the planning, the Greenville Country Club agreed to be location sponsor

Continued on page 8





for Oscar Night® America. According to Oscar Night® America Chair, Sara Cornish, the Greenville Country Club was chosen as the event location because, “it captures the ambiance of the Oscars and has that old Hollywood style.” The venue also allowed for multiple rooms to accommodate auctions, live music, food and beverages, and viewing of the televised Oscar award ceremony. In addition to securing the location, the Oscar Night® America Committee knew they needed to host an event with large community and membership involvement. Businesses agreed to donate items for auctions and even sponsor the event, while local restaurants and vendors agreed

to provide heavy hors d’oeuvres and beverages for the attendees.

On the evening of February 22, all the planning came together. Guests entered the Greenville Country Club on the red carpet with Oscar statuettes silhouetting the door. Journalists and photographers reminiscent of the 1940’s also outlined the entrance to provide attendees with the feeling of walking the red carpet just like this year’s actors and actresses experienced at the Kodak Theatre. Inside the Greenville Country Club, the glamour continued with sights and sounds to fill all the senses. Complimented by the sounds of Still Cruzin’, tables with decadent hors d’oeuvres, cocktail tables draped in plumes and

bars were stationed throughout.

In addition, the Oscar Night® America Committee introduced for the first time a live auction to complement the silent auction, which had been a tradition at the event. The creativity of the live auction hosted by Matt Holiday of Holiday Auctions drew crowds. Some guests experienced a live auction for the first time. Sarah Baxter stated that the “live auctions had high energy and fun...and that they had an interesting array of packages.” Heather Miller, a League member, stated she “loved the live auction.” The energy and engagement in this room was contagious.

Jack and Kimberly, local TV celebrities from the Channel 7

program *Your Carolina*, helped Sara Cornish and Ashley Bates, Oscar Night® America Chairman and Vice Chairman, recognize the companies that donated funds or merchandise to support the event. Specially made thank you plaques were presented to each sponsor as recognition for their contributions.

Although it was an evening of Hollywood style, fun and festivities, all attendees recognized the event was for a good cause and would greatly contribute to the local community. The funds raised through this event will help support Junior League of Greenville programs, such as Kids in the Kitchen, Home Run for Healthy Kids™ and A Nearly New You - programs that



directly impact the Greenville community. So, it's time to roll up the red carpet and put away the lights. Until next year's star studded event, Junior League members will trade their dresses for their red T-shirts as they volunteer time in the community. ■

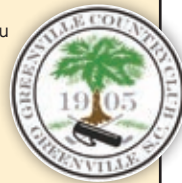


Donna Murphy currently serves on the Public Relations Committee as the Oscar Night® America Liaison. Donna has been an Active member of the Junior League for five years, both here in Greenville but also in Birmingham, Michigan.



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A special thank you to the Greenville Country Club for providing an excellent venue for Oscar Night®



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We would also like to thank another trusted community partner, *The Greenville News*. Through this partnership, the JLG was able to take advantage of several product offerings such as *City People* and *TALK* to help the Junior League of Greenville publicize our programs, projects and Oscar Night® America. For subscription information, please contact *The Greenville News* at 1-800-736-7136.

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JLG Programs Grow and Expand

WRITTEN BY AMY HUNTER, HEATHER KILLGALLON AND NELA LAUGHRIDGE

Over the past few years, the Junior League of Greenville (JLG) has been focusing on new, philanthropic programs to benefit the Greenville community. A Nearly New You, Kids in the Kitchen and Home Run for Healthy Kids™ are three programs specific to the Junior League each with a unique mission to help others while utilizing the volunteer power of the JLG membership. 2008-2009 has been an exciting year of growth and development for each program.

A Nearly New You

A NEARLY NEW YOU

A Nearly New You (ANNY) is a committee of 28 Junior League of Greenville volunteers that is making a visible, concrete impact in the community by touching the lives of women and children in need. The purpose of ANNY is to partner with and bring together various non-profit agencies to “equip”, “educate”, and “empower” the women and children of the community.

The program “equips” by providing women and children who are served by various agencies throughout the Greenville community with everyday items and necessities. ANNY utilizes The Nearly New Shop and seeks appropriate corporate sponsor-

ships and community donations to meet the needs of the participants in these agencies. These needs include clothes, household items and school supplies. The program “educates” by providing basic skills necessary for job placement. ANNY enlists the volunteered time of experts in the areas of resume writing, basic personal accounting and image consulting to provide the education needed for career development. In addition, the program “empowers” by giving participants tools to improve self-esteem and personal development. ANNY recruits personal stylists to offer suggestions on hair and make-up. The committee also works to secure

motivational speakers to build leadership skills and provide the boost that is needed for personal improvement.

With this approach, ANNY hosted three events, partnering with Safe Harbor, YouthBASE and A Child's Haven in the fall of 2008. The largest and most recent event of the A Nearly New You program was the March Madness Bash held on March 22. At this event, 15 volunteers of the ANNY committee brought together college bound students from Furman's Bridges to a Brighter Future Program and junior high students from the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club for a day of encouragement and equipping. Furman's Bridges to



“Being a part of ANNY for the last two years has been an amazing experience! It has been so rewarding to see how the Junior League reaches out to the women and children in our community. I have been so honored to be a part of it. We have an awesome committee, and I am looking forward to watching the program grow each year.”

—BJ McCoy, A Nearly New You
Chairman 2008-2009



a Brighter Future is a three-year pre-college academic enrichment program at Furman University for Greenville County high school students whose potential outdistances their circumstances. Through tutoring, college planning workshops, mentoring and emotional support, Bridges has seen 100% of its graduates complete high school and 90% enroll in college. The mission of the Salvation Army Boy's and Girl's Club is to enable all young people, especially those who need them most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens. The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club provides a safe place to learn and grow, ongoing relationships with caring adult professionals, life-enhancing programs and character development experiences.

The purpose of the March Madness Bash was to equip 30 high school seniors for their journey to college and inspire younger students to participate in the Bridges program once in high school. Bridges students were grouped with Boys and Girls Club participants for the event's activities which included listening to a motivational speaker, shopping at The Nearly New Shop and stations on exercise, healthy snacks and beauty tips. At the end of the day, the Bridges students were sent home with clothes, school supplies and dorm supplies for the coming fall semester, and the children of the Boys and Girls Club received clothes and school supplies. The day came to a close with a special gift of a Nintendo Wii gaming system donated to the Boys and Girls Club for use in their facility for all of their students. Through the generosity of sponsors Stein Mart, BI-LO, Greenville Family Partnership, John Horton, Run In, The West



End Spa, Kathryn R. Freedman DMD, Angela Ford Nelson and the efforts of the volunteers of the Junior League of Greenville, the March Madness Bash was a huge success!

Looking ahead into the 2009-2010 year, A Nearly New You will continue to grow by pursuing a focused effort on the women of our community who are in need. The committee will build on the Mission of the Junior League of Greenville by helping to "develop the potential in women" through equipping, educating and empowering ANNY participants.

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

Kids in the Kitchen is an initiative of the Association of Junior

Leagues International (AJLI) designed to help communities address the urgent issues surrounding childhood obesity and poor nutrition. The Junior League of Greenville introduced its participation within Kids in the Kitchen in 2006 with its first Kids in the Kitchen event. In 2007, the Junior League of Greenville's first Kids in the Kitchen Committee was established with 10 members. This committee implemented 13 Kids in the Kitchen events in the Greenville County community. For 2008-2009, the Kids in the Kitchen Committee grew to 32 members with emphasis placed in two areas to reach our youth: interactive events in the community with involvement from

local businesses; and educational agency visits delivering engaging, instructive lessons on cooking and preparing healthy foods, nutrition, exercise and planting a healthy garden. Throughout the 2008-2009 League year, this committee has impacted and educated over 2,000 children at 42 Junior League of Greenville Kids in the Kitchen events and agency visits.

Our most recent events and community agency involvements have been providing healthy food cooking and preparation lessons at YouthBASE, Frazee Dream Center and St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School, and implementing events for children at Pendleton Place,

Continued on page 12



Monaview Elementary, Tigerville Elementary, YMCA, Building Dreams, and Sharing, Inc. As March was National Nutrition Month, many children were motivated by their opportunity to be in the company of Kids in the Kitchen. In May, Kids in the Kitchen will finish the League year by participating in Roper Mountain Science Center's Second Saturday and by providing exercise and healthy garden planting lessons for Girl Scouts at Camp WaBak.

The Junior League of Greenville's Kids in the Kitchen program is already planning for the 2009-2010 League year. Recognizing that obesity is a problem affecting children at even the earliest stages of life,

the Kids in the Kitchen Committee has established as one of its specific goals for the upcoming year the development and implementation of an educational curriculum for younger children that is fun, easy to understand and likely to leave a lasting impact on their lives. The Junior League of Greenville will also be debuting a Kids in the Kitchen public service announcement (PSA) from the Association of Junior Leagues International. Kids in the Kitchen will continue to work with various business partners and community agencies throughout Greenville County in an attempt to expose children of all backgrounds to strategies and reasons for living a healthy lifestyle. The JLG sin-

cerely appreciates all of the businesses and agencies that have supported Kids in the Kitchen's passion of health and nutrition awareness for the children of our community, as well as Bloom who has been a continued supporter of the program.

HOME RUN FOR HEALTHY KIDS™

Expanding upon the Kids in the Kitchen message of promoting a healthy lifestyle, the Junior League of Greenville decided to launch a community-wide event that would bring together a wealth of internal and external resources to improve the health and wellness of children in our area. We made it happen with Home Run for Healthy Kids™,

an interactive and free two-day event November 14 and 15, 2008, at Fluor Field at the West End. Partnering with Premier Sponsors Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center and the Greenville Drive, as well as many other supporters, the JLG was able to provide a fun and educational event for approximately 1,000 children of Greenville County, teaching the values of good nutrition, healthy lifestyles, physical fitness and activity, and safety at home and at play.

A committee of 13 women designed and executed 5 great stations for the Home Run for Healthy Kids™ event: "Jump for Nutrition", "A Taste of Nutrition", "Fishing for Nutrition",

"Planting a Healthy Seed" and "The Scoop on Nutrition". Thanks to the generosity of Junior League Provisional members, each child received a backpack when they arrived along with *The Busy Body Book: A Kid's Guide to Fitness*, providing a great message about the joy of physical activity and a primer in human physiology. As our attendees enjoyed the activities, they also picked up great handouts provided by our sponsors and presenting partners: frisbees, balls, gardening trowels and seeds, toothpaste and toothbrushes, workout videos, pedometers, water bottles, samples of healthy foods and lots of great workout ideas.

The specific exhibits ranged from educational booths to hands on exercise and activities. Local chefs from Intuition Café and Chicora Alley, along with our own Kids in the Kitchen committee, demonstrated easy and healthy recipes for kids. The team from Greenville Hospital System's Life Center, along with Girls on the Run and YMCA's Activate Upstate, took each child through a fun, energetic, and educational circuit where they learned about increasing their heart rates and the benefits of exercise. Our community partners from Safe Kids Upstate, Greenville Family Partnership, Greenville Eye Care Associates, City of Greenville Fire Department and Greenville Pediatric Dentistry were on hand providing some great, interactive programming for our kids, along with additional support from Greenville Hospital System and our friends at BI-LO. On Saturday, we were thrilled to have Shaun T. from Team BeachBody on hand to lead our children (and adults) through some fun and accessible workouts.

The launch of this event

would not have been possible without the support and dedication of our Junior League of Greenville volunteers and community partners and sponsors. Overall, Junior League of Greenville Provisional, Active and Sustaining members contributed more than 1,400 volunteer hours towards Home Run for Healthy Kids™. In addition to Premier Sponsors Greenville Hospital System and the Greenville Drive, other sponsors included: The Children's Medical Center, P.A.; BI-LO; The Spinx Company; Crockett Pediatric Dentistry; Dixon Hughes, PLLC; and Fluor Corporation.

Looking forward to our second year, Home Run for Healthy Kids™ hopes to expand our program to more schools, after-school programs and agencies in Greenville and surrounding areas, increasing the impact that we have upon our children.


The Greenville Drive and Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center are already on board for this year's event, which will be held November 5-7, 2009. ■

Amy Hunter serves as Chairman of Kids in the Kitchen Committee for 2008-2009. Amy is a technical packaging materials specialist for Sealed Air Corporation and is married with three children.


Heather Killgallon currently serves on the Public Relations Committee as A Nearly New You Liaison. A beginning kayaker, she enjoys days on the water and looks forward to retirement on the beach.

Nela Laughridge is Co-Chairman of Home Run for Healthy Kids™ and has been a Junior League member for six years. Married to Craig with two children, she works as a child advocate and legal investigator.

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Transfer Program Welcomes New Members

WRITTEN BY HEATHER PURTLE



Transfer Coordinator Heather Purtle (center) enjoys fellowship with Transfers Elizabeth Walker (left) and Amanda Piekutowski (right).

Most new members of The Junior League of Greenville (JLG) join locally and commit to their first year of Provisional year training. However, another way the JLG experiences growth is by accepting "Transfers," women who have been members of Junior League organizations in other cities and relocate to the Greenville area. In fact, the JLG is one of 292 associations across the United States, Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom that belong to the Association of Junior Leagues International. By joining

one of the nearly 300 member organizations, a member has the opportunity to transfer to other Junior League organizations should they decide to move or if they have to relocate for work or personal reasons. This year's transferring members in the Junior League of Greenville are from as close as Spartanburg, Columbia and Charlotte, and from as far away as Florida, Ohio and Michigan.

Transfers are welcome to jump right in and fulfill normal volunteer responsibilities just like all other Active members

in the JLG. But in an effort to help women learn more about Greenville, learn about the local League and settle into a new town, the JLG Transfer and Reinstatement Program offers an option with fewer responsibilities during the first year to town. The program consists of monthly JLG General Membership Meetings, opportunities to volunteer with the JLG and monthly social get-togethers. The 2008-2009 Transfer calendar has included dinners, desserts, a wine and cheese party, appetizers, the downtown mouse hunt and many more



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activities. The gatherings are held at local business all around Greenville County to help newcomers see different places in the area. Other members of the JLG and community have also been invited to these gatherings to help members network and gain more firsthand information on Greenville and JLG membership. After the first year, Transfers then choose volunteer placements and responsibilities alongside other Active members of the JLG.

The Transfer and Reinstatement Program for 2008-09 had 13 Transfers who are proving to be fantastic assets to the Upstate and the JLG. Their occupations range from doctor, teacher, businesswomen and stay-at-home mom, as well as many others. Many of these Transfer members have already branched out forming community connections with local churches, schools and other volunteer organizations. And,

some have moved to Greenville with such leadership skills that the JLG is moving them into prominent positions next year.

Another branch of the Transfer Program is an opportunity for local women who previously were members of the Greenville Junior League to rejoin. These "Reinstatements" are welcomed back with minimal requirements, in an effort to reorient members to the current practices of the League. Women who reinstate their memberships have the chance to take part in the social and volunteer activities offered by the JLG.

The addition of both Transferring members and local, Reinstated members have made a welcome addition to the JLG. If you would like more information on the Transfer and Reinstatement Program, please contact the 2009-2010 Transfer and Reinstatement Coordinator,



Transfer Vice-Coordinator Brooke Culclasure (left) and Gena Runnion (right) at a Transfer event

"The Junior League of Greenville Transfer Program has made it so easy to get involved and meet people! I have enjoyed the smaller gatherings with other Transfers who are also new to the area. At the same time, it has been nice to meet leaders within JLG and learn about involvement and leadership opportunities. I am so impressed at how welcoming members of the JLG have been, especially Heather Purtle and Brooke Culclasure."

—Gena Runnion (2008-2009 Transfer from Columbia, SC)

Brooke Culclasure, at transfer@jlgreenville.org. ■

Heather Purtle serves as the Transfer Coordinator for

2008-2009. She has been a JLG member for seven years. A graduate of Duke University, she enjoys volunteering, traveling and reading.

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Project Research & Development Committee Evolves to Serve Growing Programs

WRITTEN BY ERIN TULLY

One of many internal committees within the Junior League of Greenville (JLG) is the Project Research and Development (PR&D) Committee. In keeping with this year's theme, "A Year of Growth," the Project Research and Development Committee has been doing just that - growing and changing to keep up with the desires of the JLG membership and the needs of the Greenville community. The original purpose of the PR&D Committee was to research and evaluate grant requests from Greenville agencies who desired funding or partnership with the Junior League of Greenville. Committee members were charged with managing the grant process, which included everything from reviewing initial applications to visiting agencies, to grantee follow up.

As the Junior League of Greenville has evolved and grown, leaders saw an opportunity to develop original philanthropic programs that would directly serve the JLG Mission of both developing trained volunteers and serving the Greenville community. Over the past two years, programs like Kids in the Kitchen, A Nearly New You, Community Impact and Home Run for Healthy Kids™ have been launched. With the introduction of these programs, the members of the PR&D Committee have shifted their focus to



Seated (left to right): Chairman Erin Tully and Vice Chairman Kristin Bailey. Standing (left to right): Committee Members Rebecca Wentzell, Lauren Briles, Kendall Snyder and Lynsey Kmetz.

identifying community agencies that would benefit from partnering with JLG through these events and causes in lieu of awarding grants.

Because the work of so many Greenville agencies is closely aligned to the JLG's Mission, this year's PR&D Committee was charged with developing a system for evaluating program partners in an effort to streamline the selection process, which begins in the fall of each year and is finalized in March. The general process for selecting partners is as follows:

- Non-profit agencies may request to participate in one or more of our programs by completing an online application form on our website. In addition, the PR&D Committee researches agencies that have been suggested as potential partners by members of the

League or other individuals in the community.

- Once a comprehensive list of local non-profit organizations is compiled, each committee member selects 10-15 agencies and conducts preliminary research to determine the potential for partnership. Discussion of the initial research findings allows the list to be narrowed to just those agencies deemed to be the best fit for the League in the coming year. These agencies are divided among the committee members, thoroughly evaluated and the finalized list of recommended partners is presented to the JLG's Community Council and Board of Directors for approval.
- Finally, to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our members, partners and the community, the PR&D Committee distributes an online

survey to League members who serve as event or program chairs, as well as personnel at partner agencies. This brief survey asks participants to provide feedback regarding their experience with the Junior League and its volunteers.

The 2008-2009 PR&D Committee is comprised of members: Erin Tully (Chairman), Kristin Bailey (Vice Chairman), Kendall Snyder (Kids in the Kitchen Liaison), Lauren Briles (A Nearly New You Liaison), Rebecca Wentzell (Researcher), Lynsey Kmetz (Researcher) and Michelle Shain (Sustaining Advisor). As we move into the next Junior League year, the composition of the PR&D Committee will undergo slight changes in an effort to expedite the research process. In addition to the current positions, we plan to add a Community Impact Liaison, an Agency Liaison, and two additional Researchers, which will serve to enhance the committee's ability to form partnerships in the community. ■

Erin Tully serves as Chair for the Project Research & Development Committee for 2008-2009 and will serve as Community Vice President on the Board of the Junior League of Greenville in 2009-2010. Erin is the grant writer for Greenville County Schools and can be reached at chair-prd@jlggreenville.org.

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The Children's Museum Gears Up for Summer Opening

WRITTEN BY REBECCA FELDMAN



The Children's Museum will open its doors this summer after many years of hard work. Over 13 years ago, a mother wished to create a place that her child and all the other children of the Upstate could go and be inspired and learn in an informal, hands-on environment. For over 10 years, a group of supporters, including the Junior League of Greenville, has been committed to seeing The Children's Museum become a reality. The Children's Museum is located in the former Greenville County Library building at Heritage Green at the corner of College and Academy Streets in downtown Greenville. With 79,000 square feet of space and three floors filled with hands-on exhibits, The Children's Museum will be one of the largest

children's museums in the United States and will serve children and families from around the Southeast.

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE PRIMARY PROGRAM ROOM

In 1997, the Junior League entered into an agreement to donate \$100,000 for the naming of a primary program room housed in The Children's Museum. The museum will offer a wide array of learning opportunities including one-day adventure camps, after-school and weekend workshops, weeklong summer camps, parent resource programs, programs for at-risk and underserved youth, as well as morning school group lessons. Many of these programs will take place in the primary program room that will be named for the Junior League

of Greenville. It is an incredible honor for the Junior League of Greenville to be associated with The Children's Museum in such a way that will reach so many of our community's children. As part of the partnership with The Children's Museum, the Junior League will also offer JLG members annual volunteer placement opportunities working in The Children's Museum beginning in the fall of 2009.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

In addition to educational programming offered, The Children's Museum Board of Directors, staff and volunteers are working diligently with the designers to make exhibits that are one-of-a-kind, interactive and challenging, bringing excitement to all ages of chil-

The Children's Museum ground-breaking event in September 2007



Reedy River Bend Exhibit



3,2,1, Blast Off Exhibit

dren, from the young to the young at heart. A few of the 18 exhibits that will be included in The Children's Museum are highlighted below:

Reedy River Bend: This water exhibit is built to look and feel like rocks and our local river and encourages kids to interact, explore and learn about water and nature.

3,2,1, Blast Off: This exhibit allows children to explore the physical properties of flight through an eight-foot wind tunnel, a flight simulator and a

Continued on page 21

Close Up with Carol Scott, President and CEO of The Children's Museum

Carol Scott, the President and CEO of the Museum, is directly involved with the Junior League of Greenville (JLG). She currently serves as one of the JLG Community Advisors. This is by no means her first interaction with the Junior League. Mrs. Scott is currently a Non-Resident Active member of the Junior League of Pasadena, CA. She became an Active member in 1981 with the Dallas, Texas League and has served various other Leagues in many capacities including President of the Pasadena League. Mrs. Scott has also served in multiple positions with the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI). She continues to lead training sessions for AJLI, most recently fundraising sessions at Organizational Development Institutes. She states that these training sessions force her to be current on fundraising practices, which certainly has helped her lead The Children's Museum

during its capital campaign.

While talking with Mrs. Scott, I asked her several questions regarding her vast Junior League experience and I learned several fun facts. For example, in all her years as an Active member, she never received her first placement choice. She says that she honestly enjoyed every one of her placements, and although she was the most leery about chairing a major fundraiser, she learned the most from that placement. In her AJLI roles, she was afforded amazing opportunities including serving on the equity task force, attending the United Nations' Conference on Women in Beijing, visiting the White House during the Clinton administration, serving as chair of the National Advocacy Dialog, and attending the President's Summit on Volunteerism. She had the opportunity to hear many speakers including Maya Angelou, Dr. Jeanetta Cole and

Hillary Clinton. The highlight, to date, of Mrs. Scott's tenure with the Junior League is having the "responsibility" (she laughs) of hosting Sandra Day O'Connor the evening that Justice O'Connor received the Mary Harriman award from AJLI! What an honor that must have been.

Mrs. Scott's time with the Junior League has not only helped to prepare her for the various aspects of running a not-for-profit organization, but it has also brought about a passion for the advocacy of children. Her background has always been teaching special education and teaching to a child's strengths, but she credits her involvement with the Junior League, and witnessing firsthand the power of this organization, as the catalyst for her advocacy. Mrs. Scott states that her experiences have definitely made her a better non-profit executive.

When asked what has surprised



Carol Scott

her most about the journey to open The Children's Museum, she stated, "There really haven't been any true surprises. A pleasant surprise has been how generous the Greenville community has been not only with money, but also with their time. I could not have facilitated this project without the commitment of the group who has loved this Museum since the beginning."

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BI-LO Market: A child-scaled grocery store where little shoppers can make healthy food selections and then proceed to checkout counters with real cash registers and a beeping scanner.

Talkin' Trash: This gallery shows how practicing reducing, reusing and recycling can be fun and how you can make an environmental difference in your own home. It features a dinosaur made

completely of found objects.

With the support from the Junior League of Greenville and from all of the Greenville community volunteers and contributors, The Children's Museum dream will soon come to fruition. The generosity, support and encouragement received will not only help to make Greenville a better place, but will also make Greenville a destination city for families everywhere. For more information on The Children's

Museum, visit the website at www.tcmgreenvillesc.org. ■

Rebecca Feldman currently serves on the Board of Directors of The Children's Museum as the Junior League Liaison. She has been an Active member of the Junior League of Greenville for seven years. Rebecca is married to Bryan and they have a 3-year-old son, Reid and a 1-year-old daughter, Caroline. Rebecca and her husband own the local Two Men and a Truck franchise.



BI-LO Market Exhibit



Talkin' Trash Exhibit

THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM TIMELINE

The committee to develop The Children's Museum was formed

December 2003 – The former Greenville County Library building site was donated to the Museum

Summer 2009 – Grand Opening

1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009



The Junior League of Greenville first partnered with The Children's Museum and agreed to donate \$100,000



May 2004 – The Children's Museum Capital Campaign was launched with a \$16.7 million goal

September 2007 – Groundbreaking



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An Interview with Susan Reed

INTERVIEW BY TRACI BEASLEY

Susan Reed has been a Junior League member for over 20 years and is described by friends as a “selfless” and “generous” volunteer. While an Active member of the Junior League, her volunteer placements ranged from Co-Chairing the first Dinamation fundraiser to delivering meals for Meals on Wheels with her children in tow. Now a Sustaining member, Susan’s volunteer commitments in recent years include serving as a Board Member of The Meyer Center to PTA President of Greenville Senior High School. She is an example and role model for those of us struggling to keep our respective balls in the air, with years of experience balancing multiple volunteer commitments with family time and raising children.

Where were you born and raised? Hampton, SC, a small town in the lower part of the state.

What brought you to the Greenville area? I attended Clemson University and never thought I would end up in the Upstate. I took a job with Arthur Young & Company (now Ernst & Young) as an accountant when I graduated from Clemson.

Where did you meet your husband? I met Tim at Clemson, but we never dated until I moved to Greenville. If I hadn’t taken that job offer with Arthur Young, I probably wouldn’t have ended



“Susan accepts responsibilities and then gets the work done. She has a keen sense about strategy even when faced with sensitive and complex issues and effectively leads an organization to productive solutions. Susan works well with others, is selfless in her effort and motivation, and builds lasting friendships along the way.”

—Liz Einstein, JLG Sustainer and fellow PTA member

Susan Reed, photographed by her husband, Tim Reed, in downtown Greenville

up married to Tim. I always thought I wanted to be back in the SC Lowcountry, somewhere like Charleston. I am so glad the path I could not see led me to Greenville.

Tell us about your family?

Tim and I have three daughters, ages 21, 18 and 16, and there is never a dull moment! This year, we have two graduates - one from college and one from high school. It really is so much fun having a lot of girls in the house.

Why did you decide to join the Junior League? I decided to join the JLG to get to know other women in Greenville and to learn more about the community. Because I was not “from here” and was working in mostly a male environment, it was a great opportunity for me. I remember Tim saying that I had learned more about Greenville than even he knew, although he had grown up here. I toured Bob Jones Museum, attended plays at the Greenville Little Theatre and had many other requirements that allowed me to learn more about the city.

What was your most memorable service placement while in the League? I had so many challenging placements, but probably

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the most demanding, and therefore exciting, was the first Dinamation Exhibit in 1994, Makin' Tracks. I was Co-Chairman with Anne Propst, and our steering committee essentially worked to design a life-size educational dinosaur exhibit out of an empty warehouse. We felt this fundraiser was unique because it raised money for needs in our community while providing hands-on science education at the same time. It also ended up being the largest JLG fundraiser up until that time. My third daughter, Mary, was born during the planning stages, and she called the Disney series "101 Dinamations" for her first early years. When I head down I-85 toward Woodruff Road, I remember the many trips to the exhibit along that Frontage Road. It is nothing like it looks now!

What advice would you give to a person interested in joining

the JLG? I have served on many boards since my time in the JLG, and I believe the leadership training received in the League provided me a real road map for the future. It helped me learn about myself, learn about the needs in the community, yet provided me with the ability to lead others. While receiving this invaluable training, I forged many wonderful friendships with other women at the same time.

Who, within the JLG, has had the most impact on you and why? It has to be JLG Executive Administrative Assistant, Tina Hampton. She and Financial Manager Betsy Littlejohn are the strength behind the many volunteers. They provide the continuity that can be lost in other organizations where leadership is passed from volunteer to volunteer. It is amazing to think of all the women Tina has en-

countered in her tenure with the JLG, all with different strengths, varied passions and diverse viewpoints. She has really been the "village" helping lead the JLG to today.

What are other volunteer opportunities you have been involved with in the Greenville community? While I have done a variety of things, most of my time the past 16 years has been involved in PTA. I served as PTA President both at Hughes Academy and at Greenville High. Parents seem to think their middle school and high school students do not want them around by that age, but I always found my children and their friends seemed happy to see me. My PTA involvement has covered the spectrum of baking cookies for an event, to selling lunch in the Greenville High school store, to fundraising and helping figure out just what those monies will

fund. As with the JLG, wonderful parents and staff abound!

What has been the most rewarding thing and the most challenging thing about raising your daughters? The most rewarding thing is that it really is fun! Girls always involve you in their lives. We are constantly feeding them one place or another - out, at home or at our lake house. Nothing brings Tim and I more pleasure than watching our girls and their friends riding the tube at the lake or just listening to them laugh as they all sit together on the dock. The most challenging thing is to find balance. How do you raise faithful, compassionate and reliable young women without taking away all of the fun? There are so many outside forces and pressures coming at them from all directions. It is sometimes difficult to figure out what is

Continued on page 26

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best for each of them and their own unique styles. With three in the house, it seems tricky to have everyone on a "high" all at one time. When one is struggling with a disappointment, one is celebrating a success. Then, there are some amazing days when everything seems to be going well for everyone.

How do you instill the spirit of giving and volunteering in your own children? We encourage our girls' involvement in many different ways. Through our church, Westminster Presbyterian, they play with kids through Camp Opportunity, wrap gifts at the mall to help fund the youth group's mission trips and purchase Christmas gifts for children who are in need. Tim and I have always asked each child to make their own pledge to both our annual church budget and to each of the church's capital

campaigns. Additionally, through Westminster, they participated in Dominican Republic mission trips. Our girls are just like all other young women. These trips and their pledges don't make them want new jeans any less, but we hope as time goes by we will see them develop into giving, compassionate adults.

Your husband is also an active volunteer in the community. How do the two of you work together to balance your commitments with family life? Tim and I really work as a team - as in basketball, sometimes man-to-man and sometimes in a zone. Once you have three children, you are outnumbered. We really do make an effort to prioritize our girls and their activities. I know for me, my parents were always there watching every basketball game, cooking hamburgers at the football games

and baking a cake for me to sell (and for mom to purchase right back) at the bake sale fundraiser. Tim and I have followed this example. We will always choose to be there for our kids when they need us before we will choose a social activity for ourselves. That does not mean we haven't missed things or that we are perfect, it is just that we work hard to juggle it all.

What causes do you personally feel are most crucial to the growth of Greenville as a community? I truly think literacy and education are the most important things we can give our children. It disturbs me that funding for education seems to continue to be a struggle in our state. A lot of our students don't have a background that values education or shows how it can make a difference in their future. Did you know that only 74% of

our students graduate from high school? Greenville County Schools, United Way of Greenville County and The Alliance for Quality Education (AFQE) formed a partnership called Graduate Greenville, a program designed to improve high school success and increase the graduation rate. Such efforts to make strides in education are crucial. ■

Traci Beasley is Editor of VISIONS and has been a Junior League member for six years. Married to Roger, she is mother to Grace (8) and Luke (5) and works as a freelance media planner and buyer.



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JLG 2008-2009 Year in Review

32,000

volunteer hours were worked from May 2008 through April 2009 by Active and Provisional members of the Junior League of Greenville.



3,000

children were impacted this year by programs of the Junior League of Greenville such as Kids in the Kitchen and Home Run for Healthy Kids™.

1,379

total JLG members each played in a role in making this a successful JLG year.



107

members completed their Provisional year training and will become Active members in 2009-2010.

32

local Greenville agencies or non-profits have benefited from the programs, offerings and volunteer hours of the JLG in 2008-2009.



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