

CAPITALINES

A PUBLICATION BY THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF AUSTIN

Inside the Issue:

CON MI MADRE CELEBRATES 20

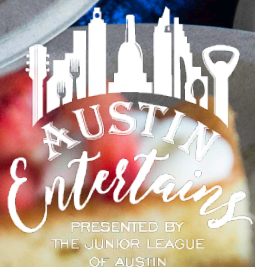
With humble roots as a program of The Junior League of Austin, Con Mi Madre has a lot to celebrate

COMMUNITY IMPACT CENTER

After almost 10 years, the League's new Community Impact Center is closer than ever to breaking ground

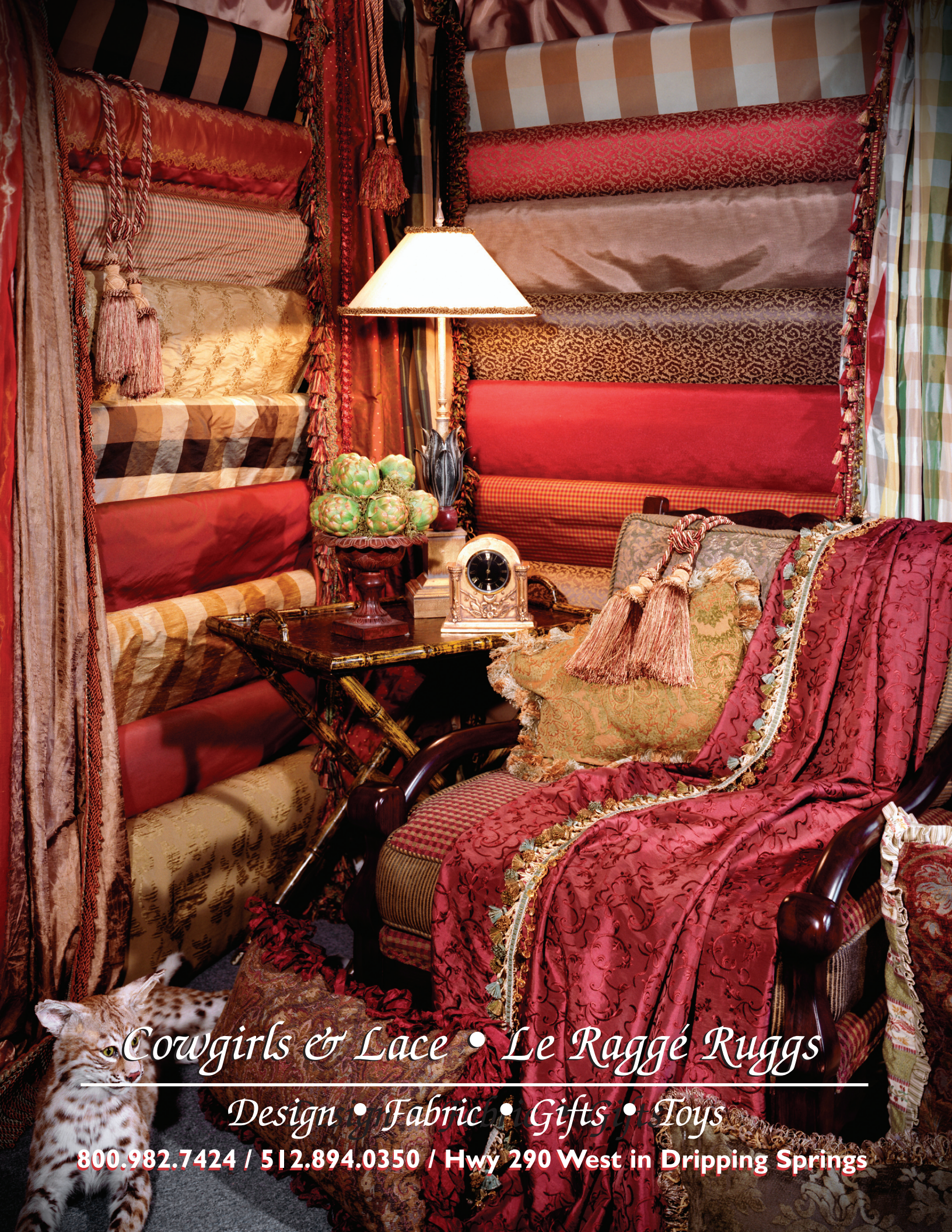
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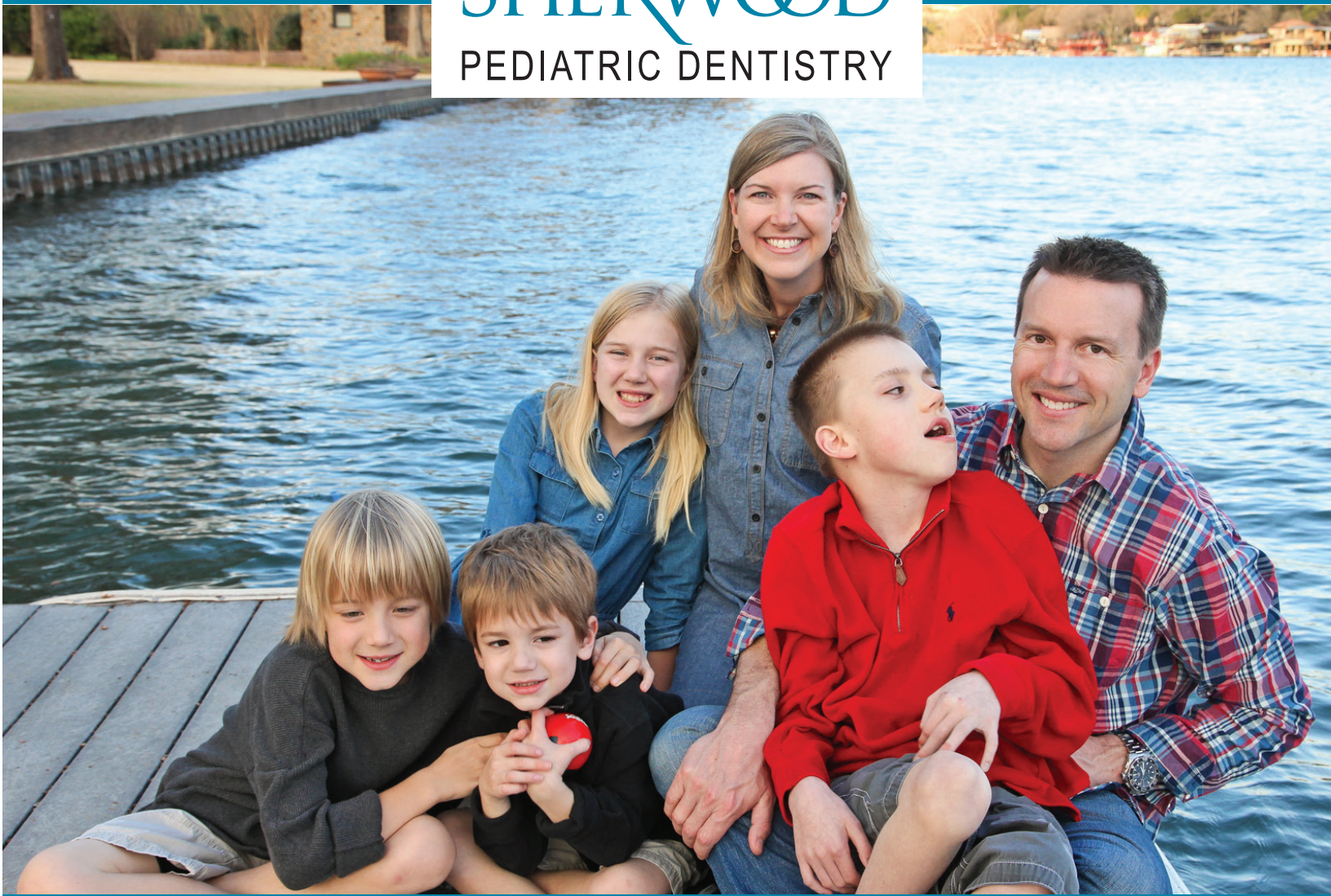
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pg. **22** *Savoring the Spirit of Austin*
1st Annual Austin Entertains

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of AUSTIN

THE STRENGTH *of* WOMEN
THE POWER *of* COMMUNITY

Mission Statement

The Junior League of Austin is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Connections

Last night I was talking to a fellow League member about Austin Entertains, and I mentioned how I'm continually amazed at the ability for The Junior League of Austin (JLA) to plan and host a successful fundraiser from scratch. This got me thinking about how connected we are as League members, and what that means to the success of our organization.



enrich our connection to Austin by growing our ability to serve.

Speaking of growing, in 2017 the League found itself hosting two successful Spring fundraisers; these events didn't exist in 2015. Our League members used their connections to build these events, so that we could add to the support for our League programming and Community Partners.

Officially, the word connection is defined as "a relationship in which a person, thing, or idea is linked or associated with something else." We are rich with opportunities to foster connections in the League: connections to fellow members, to the Austin community, and to the League's past and future.

In this issue, I hope to highlight the power of those connections. Some of our connections remind us of our past. The League started what is now known as Con Mi Madre, which is celebrating 10 years of serving the Austin community. Some remind us of the future. After many hurdles, we finally look forward to breaking ground on our new Community Impact Center (CIC), which we hope to see by the end of the year. The CIC will help us

I believe our commitment to the JLA and to the Austin community shines through these deep connections, and through the work we do. I'd like to thank my wonderful Capitalines Committee for their dedication to making an excellent issue, as well as the many members of JLA who provided additional content and editing support. The issue could not be produced without you. I'd also like to thank our sponsors, donors and advertisers. The League could not accomplish our mission without you. Best wishes for an amazing summer.

Sincerely,

Mary Quin Moore
Capitalines Editor, 2016-17

Photos by: Susan Hoermann, Evergreen Studios





Photo by: Susan Hoermann, Evergreen Studios

2016-2017 Board of Directors

Back Row: (Left to Right) Abby Raines, Keri Walling, Lisa Kaspar, Amy Hurt, Hadley Hempel, Julie Hall, Sarah Valenzuela, Courtney Dickey, Stacey Mather, Ann Townsend, Jenn Galbraith, Kathi Haralson, Ashley Kelm
Seated: Shannon Creekmur, Lorena Legarreta, Jamielle Ruebsahm, Cat Mattingly

Letter FROM THE President

What a year this has been for The Junior League of Austin! We began last June with the charter to build a better Austin, build a better League and build a better You. And as we conclude our League year, I am elated to announce that we achieved these goals. We benefit from many supporters that extend beyond our membership to help us to realize major successes this year. I thank you for your personal investments into this organization – from volunteering alongside us, supporting our fundraisers, sharing our message – The Junior League of Austin is stronger because of you!

Building a Better Austin:

This is truly a working League of women committed to driving change and bettering Austin through hands-on volunteering and training opportunities. Our 2,500 members commit to thousands of hours in service each year to more than 32 non-profits across a broad range of support services throughout the Austin area.

From our own celebrated programs – Coats for Kids and FIT-Food In Tummies – supporting basic needs for Austin's youth is key focus area for this organization. More than 35,000 coats were distributed and 45,000 backpacks of weekend meals were prepared this year.



Photo by: Susan Hoermann, Evergreen Studios

Building a Better League:

We celebrate a major victory in the future development of The Junior League's Community Impact Center. The new 48,000 square foot facility will allow The Junior League of Austin to expand its operations and scale our programs to help meet the growing needs of Austin.

Building a Better You:

Each member realizes personal development through on-the-job volunteer service, leadership opportunities and structured training curriculum. With these opportunities, we help develop future civic leaders, fundraisers, and trained volunteers for Austin.

As we conclude the final weeks of the 2016-17 League year, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to our membership for allowing me to serve as your President. These experiences and relationships have enriched me in ways that I never imagined. And a special note of thanks to my family for affording me the flexibility and support to serve as President of The Junior League of Austin.

With sincere thanks,

Sarah Valenzuela
 President, 2016-17

Letter FROM THE President-Elect



When I look back at the last 12 months I am in awe at what the Junior League of Austin was able to achieve. Through Sarah's steadfast leadership we made great progress with the Community Impact Center, launched two new fundraisers (Austin Entertains and Macaron & Merlot), piloted a board training program and accelerated our impact in the Austin community. In addition to the tangible successes, Sarah's dedication, calming presence and focus on the individual Junior League member has left an

amazing legacy and a very tough one to follow.

As the league year transitions, my hope is that we can continue with the momentum that many have started before us. Our mission will

continue to drive everything we do on a daily basis. We will continue to empower women, we will continue to increase our impact in the community, and we will continue to be visionary thinkers who plan for the future of both our organization and the city around us.

In order for us to be successful we need to leverage the talents and skills of every single one of our members – from Provisionals to Actives to Sustainers. I look forward to being one small part of this exciting journey.

I am so very thankful for the opportunity to serve as the President of the Junior League of Austin and am particularly humbled to follow in the footsteps of the many amazing women who served before me. I hope with a little humility and a lot gratitude we show the community the power of an organization 2,500 women strong.

Julie Hall

President-Elect, 2016-17
The Junior League of Austin

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Ruth McCelvey Bremond+	1934-1935	Nancy Chapman Collins	1981-1982
Mamie Ray Earnest+	1935-1936	Ann Johnston Dolce	1982-1983
Julian Devereux Weeks+	1936-1938	Clare Ritchie Hudspeth	1983-1984
Margaret Ann Caldwell Scarbrough+	1938-1940	Regan Kimberlin Gammon	1984-1985
Ina Williams Walker+	1940-1942	Mary Gideon Herman*	1985-1986
Hilda Rudd McElhenney+	1942-1944	Elizabeth Snyder Malone	1986-1987
Frances Coopwood Morgan+	1944-1946	Pamela Pitzer Willeford	1987-1988
Mary Tucker Muse+	1946-1947	Cynthia Hendrick Kozmetsky	1988-1989
Julia Matthews Perry Robinson+	1947-1948	Christina Kazen Attal	1989-1990
Virginia Nalle Page+	1948-1949	Judith Allen Shelton	1990-1991
Elizabeth Schneider Rogers+	1949-1950	Elizabeth Walters Atherton^	1991-1992
Mary Helen George Ammann+	1950-1951	Melissa Owens Jackson	1992-1993
L. Ellen Steck Ross Carter+	1951-1952	Paula Thompson Herd	1993-1994
Eleanor Niggli Tyler+	1952-1953	Kristen Jones Holland	1994-1995
Frankie Gist Peterson+	1953-1954	Cookie Gregory Ruiz	1995-1996
Eleanor Stayton Gammon+	1954-1955	Hallie Powell Cardwell	1996-1997
Mary Ireland Graves Dougherty+	1955-1956	Emily Heebner Baker	1997-1998
Mary Lee Wilson Crusemann+	1956-1957	Nancy Cummins Prideaux	1998-1999
Hallie Groos Slaughter+*	1957-1958	Nancy Schoenvogel Edsel	1999-2000
Elora Watt Smith	1958-1959	MariBen Ramsey*^	2000-2001
Sue Kone Drake	1959-1960	Joan Granger Talley	2001-2002
Beverly Nash Bell+*	1960-1961	Amy Johnson Dunham	2002-2003
Mary Lucile Wicker O'Brien+	1961-1962	Suzy Balagia	2003-2004
Elinor Willis Pittman+	1962-1963	Diane Catalani Falkenberg	2004-2005
Marjorie Dodge Granger+	1963-1964	Laura Wolf	2005-2006
Irene Hopkins Harwood+	1964-1965	Beth Nance Smith	2006-2007
Alice Kleberg Reynolds Meyer+	1965-1966	KaLyn Laney	2007-2008
Nancy Price Bowman+	1966-1967	Melissa Greenwood Morrow	2008-2009
Barbara Louise Davis Neff+	1967-1968	Kathi Livingston Haralson	2009-2010
Eugenia Betts Miller	1968-1969	Sandy Segura Alcalá	2010-2011
Shelby Reed Hearon	1969-1970	Morgen Cesarano Hardin	2011-2012
Diane Hierholzer Finch Grant*	1970-1971	Cathy Knapp McHorse	2012-2013
Marian Marley McCrummen	1971-1972	Kelly Breeden	2013-2014
Alison Gray Kimberlin*	1972-1973	Gregory Noack	2014-2015
Josephine Klotz Roche	1973-1974	Casie Wenmohs	2015-2016
Josephine Drake McRee+	1974-1975		
Barbara Leonard Smith*	1975-1976		
Margaret Craig Cowden	1976-1977		
Susan Dean Stayton*	1977-1978		
Susan Page Driver	1978-1979		
Carolyn Kellam Curtis	1979-1980		

* Denotes additional service at the regional level

^ Denotes service on the AJLI Board of Directors

+ Deceased



A Decade in the Making

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF AUSTIN MAKES MAJOR STRIDES WITH COMMUNITY IMPACT CENTER SITE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT

BY: KENDALL GUINN

It's an unseasonably warm Texas February night at Austin City Hall. Members and leaders of The Junior League of Austin (JLA) flood into the hallway outside the main council chambers, exchanging hugs and high fives.

Just minutes earlier, the City of Austin's Zoning and Platting Commission unanimously approved the variances requested by JLA - the final commission approval needed to achieve the coveted Site Development Permit needed to begin construction on the League's long-planned Community Impact Center.

"This is a big 'yes' for us!" explains Liz Neff, who is serving as Community Impact Center Coordinator. "We have been working through the City's permitting process for almost seven years and it's exciting to finally see the process nearing completion."

Just weeks earlier, the League had passed the City of Austin's other large hurdle: approval from the Environmental Commission. That vote was also unanimously passed.

This year Sarah Valenzuela, the current President of The Junior League of Austin, made it her personal goal to secure a permit by the spring of 2017. These two approvals mark a major milestone in achieving that goal.

"Sarah worked tirelessly and stayed on all of our various vendors, including project managers, architects, lawyers and environmental consultants to reach this goal. She kept them all on track and her hard work paid off," says Neff. Though the permitting process has consumed the last seven years, the process of expanding the League's facilities started well over a decade ago. JLA first

embarked on the process in 2006 under the leadership of then President Beth Nance Smith, who commissioned a study to look at the League's future growth and space needs. After weighing all the options, League leaders and members ultimately decided that a new facility would allow The League to best serve the needs of its growing membership and the Austin community.

Four years later in May 2010, under President Kathi Livingston Haralson, The League purchased 10.2 acres of land at 5330 Bluffstone Lane. The League purchased property that falls under the protection of the Hill Country Roadway Act that adds some complexities to our building regulations. So, work immediately began to hire architects and environmental consultants to get the planning and permitting processes under way.

For the next several years, JLA volunteers, leaders and outside consultants worked to design a facility that would maximize the League's ability to serve the community while also preserving the precious natural elements that the land offered. Designers, architects and project managers worked with City of Austin staff members to create a program that would meet City of Austin and Hill Country Roadway Ordinance along with City of Austin building requirements.

Through many setbacks, design changes and permitting pitfalls, The League persevered, and kept pursuing the project relentlessly. Ten JLA Presidents have overseen progress on the project, including KaLyn Laney, Melissa Greenwood Morrow, Kathi Livingston Haralson, Sandy Segura Alcalá, Morgen Cesarano Hardin, Cathy Knapp McHorse, Kelly Breeden, Gregory Noack, Casie Wenmohs, and Sarah Valenzuela.

But, as these ladies know, the permitting process was not just about design, code

and zoning variances. It has been largely a campaign to educate city, neighborhood and other community leaders about the mission, impact and vision of the League.

"Throughout this process we have had to substantially educate political and community leaders who may not be familiar with the JLA on what our true impact on the city of Austin truly means," says Morgen Hardin, Past President of JLA. "Once we are able to have a person truly grasp the impact the League makes on the community, it has been much easier to get buy-in for our project."

The Community Impact Center's final design calls for a 48,000 square foot facility and a parking garage. The design allows for the League to retain much of the natural beauty of the site with a big focus on sustaining trees and leaving much of the area undisturbed. Additionally, JLA has committed to dedicating several volunteer positions to keeping the natural elements of the lands preserved.

THROUGH
MANY SETBACKS,
DESIGN CHANGES AND
PERMITTING PITFALLS,
THE LEAGUE
PERSEVERED

Once the development permit is received, there are two major next steps: beginning construction, and kicking off a more public fundraising campaign. Until now, fundraising for the Community Impact Center has been largely an in-league effort.

This year, the active campaign team put special focus to provisional and active member participation in the campaign. "We've had a great improvement in the number of our actives contributing - starting the year at 24% from our active membership and ending at 38% from our active membership and 55% from our provisional membership" explains Julia Null, this year's Capital Campaign Coordinator.

"We have worked hard this year to get the technology and financial processes in place to support a public campaign. Now that we have momentum going from our recent approvals, we're working towards a groundbreaking and an exciting public launch to help raise those critical funds needed to make the Community Impact Center a reality."

"Our building project has been my priority #1 all year," says Sarah Valenzuela, current JLA President. "I am so pleased that we've seen such significant progress with the City and excited for the year ahead to see action at the site!"

For more information on how to support the JLA's Capital Campaign, please visit www.jlaustin.org/capital-campaign.



JLA Members at the City of Austin's Zoning and Planning Commission meeting in February

Volunteer Extraordinaire: KALYN LANEY

BY KELLY CRIFE

Each year since 1985, the Volunteer Extraordinaire Award is given to a sustaining member of The Junior League of Austin (JLA) who has utilized her League training to promote volunteerism in the community beyond her time in the League. The recipient of this year's award is KaLyn Laney.

Through her nearly 20 years of service to the League, KaLyn has held numerous roles including President from 2007-08. "KaLyn has poured so much of herself into the League," said active member Ashley Kelm. "She is invested in the mission and the people. She is a mentor for countless JLA members."

KaLyn's commitment to the community goes well beyond JLA. She has served on the board of directors for the Settlement

Home for Children and co-chaired the organization's 2016 Garage and Estate Sale. She is a Rodeo Austin Board Member and currently serves on the Executive Committee. KaLyn is a founding member of the Sine Die Smokers BBQ Cookoff team, raising money for Rodeo Austin's scholarship fund. She has also held roles in the American Cancer Society, Lone Star Girl Scout Council, and Kappa Alpha Theta.

"KaLyn is an authentic leader. Giving back is simply part of who she is," said JLA 2015-16 President Casie Wenmohs. "She was raised in a family that recognizes the importance of serving others, and it's a value she carries with her each day."

KaLyn once told Wenmohs that her dad always said, "It's amazing what you can accomplish when you don't care who gets

the credit." This practical, wise and effective leadership strategy exemplifies KaLyn's approach to community involvement.

"She is a wonderful representative of JLA and an incredible example of true servant leadership," said Wenmohs.



Ashley Kelm, Casie Wenmohs, KaLyn Laney celebrating the announcement at the May General Meeting.

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SAFE: Training, Healing and Helping

BY: KENDALL GUINN

Grace Young, a first year active in The Junior League of Austin (JLA) is out on a jog when she gets a phone call. It's SAFE -- they have a client who needs her assistance. Grace hurries to Eloise House, a trailer where SAFE conducts forensic and medical exams. She patiently and empathetically accompanies a recent victim of sexual assault through a litany of forensic testing and medical care.

Grace does her best to provide comfort while advocating for the patient. She attempts to give control back to the survivor, giving them the power to choose whether or not they file a report, have photos taken, or even simply what they'd like to eat or drink.

"We are trained to call our clients 'survivors' instead of victims," Grace explains. "Using the term survivor serves to empower them and give them back some of the power they might have felt they lost in the attack."

This year Grace is serving the League as a Sexual Assault Advocate for SAFE. Grace's volunteer position involves serving "on call" shifts, so, if needed, she can go to assist with situations like this.

SAFE, an Austin non-profit whose mission is to end sexual and domestic violence through safety, healing, prevention and social change, has been a JLA Placement for over two decades. According to Christine Langa, Volunteer Services Coordinator for SAFE, SAFE offers Austinites several services, such as a 24-hour domestic and sexual abuse hotline, 105-bed Family Shelter, support for rape survivors at local hospitals, legal advocacy and assistance to domestic violence and sexual abuse survivors, skillbuilding services for youth, counseling services, and 51 transitional housing apartments to name a few.

JLA volunteers can choose from four volunteer positions with SAFE: Legal

Advocate, Sexual Assault Advocate, PlanetSafe Volunteer or StocktonHicks Family Tree Child Development Center Volunteer.

Legal and Sexual Assault Advocates work directly with survivors of sexual assault and domestic abuse. Legal Advocates accompany and assist survivors who are going through the protective order process in courtrooms while Sexual Assault Advocates accompany survivors of recent sexual assaults during forensic exams.

"There is something transformative about this work, and it takes a special type of volunteer to take on positions like these. But, to support another person in such a critical time of need is a unique and meaningful opportunity," says Langa.

For placements with PlanetSafe and Family Tree Volunteers, volunteers work with the children of survivors. PlanetSafe volunteers work with and provide care to children whose families are using PlanetSafe, SAFE's supervised visitation and children's exchange center located in downtown Austin. Family Tree volunteers work with children who are living at SAFE by assisting staff in providing arts and crafts, reading time, music activities and one-on-one nurturing attention.

"This is my first year as an active," explains Project Chair and SAFE Sexual Assault Advocate Melissa Dillon. "There were a couple placements I was interested in, but I really wanted to choose something where I could make a real impact."

"Honestly, the idea of working with survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence scared me since I didn't have

experience with anything like that. My biggest fear was that I might not do the

"THE TRAINING PROGRAM WAS ONE OF THE MOST EYE OPENING EXPERIENCES OF MY LIFE"

- MELISSA DILLON

people I work with justice."

Luckily, Melissa didn't have much to worry about. SAFE puts its volunteers through an intensive 40-hour training program. The program teaches skills and provides a foundation of knowledge and experience, so volunteers are equipped to professionally and empathetically handle the difficult situations they are faced with.

"The training program was one of the most eye opening and important experiences of my life. I've learned so much about advocacy and our justice system," says Dillon. "The education truly taught me how to be a strong advocate for and excellent listener for the survivors I interact with."

Volunteers like Melissa and Grace are important for SAFE, which employs the assistance of hundred of volunteers per year.

"The continuous volunteer support and funding provided by The Junior League of Austin has been critical to the success and growth of SAFE. The League has been involved here since the 1970's, and I think it's a real testament to its commitment to social change," says Langa.



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FIT FUN FEST

BY: KELLY CRIPE

On Saturday, February 25, more than 200 Del Valle Independent School District (DVISD) elementary school students and 340 of their family members, teachers and friends came together for fun and fitness at The Junior League of Austin's (JLA) FIT Fun Fest. The event featured physical activities, games, face painting and a community health fair. The League's FIT - Food in Tummies (FIT) Committee, along with more than 80 JLA Provisional members, volunteered to make the event a success.

Although this is the first year the event has been called FIT Fun Fest, this was the third year the JLA supported an event for DVISD students to complete a lap around the track at Veteran's Memorial Stadium in Del Valle to mark their journey to healthier lives. After completing their lap, each student was received a medal in recognition of their commitment to health and fitness.

"Seeing how much of a community Del Valle is was great. When the schools were called down to the track to run the final lap, it wasn't just the students who came to the starting line. Parents, family members, P.E. coaches and even school principals joined the students in running," said FIT Project Chair Elissa Pate.

FIT Fun Fest celebrates the major partnership between the League's FIT program and DVISD. Now in its eighth year, FIT is a collaboration with two schools in DVISD, Baty and Hillcrest Elementary. The program provides food filled backpacks each Friday to the student populations of both schools, where 97 percent of students are considered economically disadvantaged. Healthy recipe cards and nutrition tips, in English and Spanish, are also included in the backpacks for students to share with their families.

The event allows JLA to expand its reach to all eight DVISD elementary schools that participate in the event. "FIT Fun Fest directly aligns with the mission and vision of the FIT program," Pate said. "This event allows us to promote a healthy lifestyle to not only students, but parents and the Del Valle community."

Looking towards the future and further down the track, Pate says the JLA plans to grow FIT Fun Fest and to further increase community involvement in Del Valle.

A special thank you to Fiesta Mart, Sway Water, and GoGo SqueeZ for sponsoring this inaugural event. For more information on FIT - Food in Tummies, visit www.jlaustin.org.



FIT mission

To educate children, parents and the community in order to promote nutritional health and maximize student potential.

FIT vision

To eliminate weekend hunger in our community and ensure children and families have knowledge to make informed nutritional choices.

The Center for Survivors of Torture:

HOLDING OUT A HAND OF COMPASSION

BY: MEREDITH CLIFFORD

It's a warm spring afternoon and The Junior League of Austin (JLA) Active, Yael Rackley, is waiting patiently inside Amy's Ice Creams for the three kids to make the ever-difficult decision of which flavor to pick. It's hard to believe that just two years ago this family, consisting of a 31-year-old nursing assistant and her children, ages 11, 8 and 3, left their home country of Burundi with just the clothes on their back to start a new life and seek asylum in the United States.

This will be Rackley's second year serving as a volunteer for The Center for Survivors of Torture (CST). She also serves in the Army National Guard and has even been deployed to Africa. Despite her unique profession, her placement has given her a completely different perspective. "I have more empathy and compassion now," she says.

The Center for Survivors of Torture (CST) provides free mental health and social services to refugees and asylum seekers who have suffered torture and trauma before fleeing their countries. With treatment from licensed professionals, survivors can overcome the devastating effects of torture and trauma to live healthy, productive lives and contribute to society. In Texas alone, there are over 54,000 torture survivors displaced from their home and in desperate need of help. CST has served more than 2,050 of these survivors since 1997.

There's a sense of intimidation and uncertainty surrounding this particular JLA Community Placement. The name of the organization, Center for Survivors of Torture, can have a jarring effect.

"We consider a broad definition of torture to be any refugee or asylum seeker that in their home country, their government did not protect them," says CST Executive Director Celia VanDeGraaf, M.A.. "These are innocent people, many times farmers or teachers."

Rackley says, "The woman I was assigned to was part of a minority political party that was being attacked in their homes. The U.S.

Embassy helped her escape, but she had to leave behind her husband and father of her children for their safety. Her aunt was killed in the street, because she didn't get out in time," says Rackley. "It is easy to get lost in our own world. This placement has been eye opening and humbling. If I have a bad day at work, it's nothing compared to what these people have been through."

This year, the League placed 12 volunteers at CST. They are each matched with an individual or family that they continue to meet with throughout the year. "We do everyday things with them, like take them shopping for groceries, to see what American life is like, and to get them more comfortable in public," says Active and Community Placement Project Chair, Jennifer O'Shea.

Many of the League members serving CST have been invited to dinner at the families' homes to try their native cuisines and learn more about their culture. "There's a self-education component to this placement as well. It makes you want to learn more about this person's home country and politics," says O'Shea.

In addition, JLA members in this placement meet for a monthly happy hour to discuss their experiences volunteering at CST.

"What is so wonderful about this organization is it allows for us as Junior League members to hold out a hand of compassion to these people coming to a country in a tremulous political climate. A lot of these people don't feel welcome here and we help provide that for them. My client is from northern Iraq and came to the country with nothing, yet she is so optimistic. They don't necessarily know anyone; it can be daunting," says O'Shea. "We are really just a friend to them."

For more information on The Center for Survivors of Torture and their local services, please visit www.cstnet.org

IN TEXAS, THERE
ARE OVER 54,000
TORTURE SURVIVORS
DISPLACED FROM
THEIR HOME AND IN
NEED OF HELP



Sustainer Spotlight:

Q&A WITH SHERI KRAUSE

BY KELLY CRIPE

For Sustaining member Sheri Shelby Krause, The Junior League of Austin (JLA) can be summed up with the saying, "How much you put into something is directly related to how much you get out of it." When she joined JLA in the 1980's she dove right in, taking on numerous leadership positions, including A Christmas Affair Chair, Finance Chair, Training & Education Vice President and Treasurer. Since her time with the League, Krause has held influential roles in the community, and Capitalines spoke with her about the effect JLA has had on her work.

As a past recipient of the JLA Community Service Award and a past Chair of several boards, which affiliations are you most proud of and why?

My years as Chair of the Elizabeth Ann Seton Board and the Seton Development Board were particularly rewarding. It has been wonderful to watch these organizations continue to flourish and do so much for the growing healthcare needs in Central Texas.

I was also honored to be appointed by Governor Rick Perry to serve as a Commissioner on the Texas Historical Commission, eventually serving as Chair. The training I received through the League helped me preside over public (and sometimes heated) meetings, deal with press, and help guide the preservation of the rich history and historic places in our great state of Texas.

What have been the most rewarding and challenging placements you have had as a member of The Junior League of Austin?

My first placement was on the A Christmas Affair (ACA) committee. I learned so much from the leadership of other members. Little did I know, in less than 10 years I would be Chair of ACA myself! Those years are very special to me, and many of the members I served with are still dear friends today. Working that hard together for an entire year is truly a bonding experience!

My most challenging placement was Treasurer. I am an English major with no background in accounting, but the outgoing President, MariBen

Ramsey, encouraged me to get out of my comfort zone. I still use the skills I learned that year every day of my life. Often the JLA is referred to as a training organization, and never has this been more true than in the confidence and knowledge that I gained as Treasurer-Elect and Treasurer.

How has being a member of The Junior League of Austin helped you professionally?

For over a decade, I worked professionally as the first Development Director at The Settlement Home for Children. The success I had in my professional life was directly related to the skills I gained as a JLA member.

Why do you support the campaign for the Community Impact Center?

As I look back on how much my life has been enriched through philanthropic service, I believe more strongly than ever in the mission of the JLA to train and encourage strong, young women to be active volunteers in our community. My husband and I have been proud to financially support the Community Impact Center. As Austin has grown, the needs of our community are greater than ever. Supporting the Community Impact Center ensures the continued growth of the League, and it's incredible impact in our very special city.



Photo courtesy of Con Mi MADRE; Latina Mothers and Daughters after the 2017 Graduation Ceremony

A History of Raising Expectations

BY MARY QUIN MOORE

CON MI MADRE CONTINUES TO HELP YOUNG LATINA WOMEN IN THE AUSTIN COMMUNITY, BUT NEVER FORGETS THE CONNECTIONS THAT HAVE TIED THE ORGANIZATION TO THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF AUSTIN FOR OVER 25 YEARS.

When a study was released in 1992 showing that a Latina baby girl only had about a 1% chance to get a college education, The Junior League of Austin (JLA) wanted to find a way to improve this statistic and provide help to Latina girls in the Austin community. After all, one of the missions of JLA is to improve the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Hispanic Mother-Daughter Program began that same year, working with Latina daughters and their mothers to keep them in school. It was so successful, the program became its own non-profit and was renamed Con Mi MADRE in 2008.

"JLA built the Hispanic Mother-Daughter Program with a strong foundation, visionary leadership, and community support. It is for these reasons that Con Mi MADRE was able to not only come alive, but to thrive in the Austin community," said current Executive Director Teresa Granillo. Granillo made it clear that it was the leadership of Sandy Alcala, a former JLA President, that set up

Con Mi MADRE for success long-term. Alcala served as Executive Director from 2008-13 and came up with the name.

For its first 6 years, Con Mi MADRE was a Community Partner of the League and volunteers provided thousands of hours of service, including direct mentorship to Latina girls. Con Mi MADRE still shares strong ties with the League even though it's no longer a Community Partner. JLA now provides financial and volunteer resources that allow Con Mi MADRE to fully execute its mission. League Done-In-A-Day volunteers give their time to various programs like the Leadership Summit, the Corazon Awards, conferences, and mentoring students.

The program's continued success can be attributed to basic fundamentals of Con Mi MADRE. They work with Latinas to start early, encourage parental engagement, keep the programming culturally relevant, and maintain a holistic approach to education.

Young Latinas and their mothers enroll into Con Mi MADRE together. The girls tend to come from low-income households and are often the first in their families to pursue education beyond college. Con Mi MADRE gives young Latinas many opportunities that they would not otherwise be know were even possible.

JLA Member Angelica Rodriguez has volunteered with Con Mi MADRE's School Year Support Team. She says, "it was so fulfilling to be a part of the journey of moms and daughters over a 9-month period, and see them grow so much in their relationship as mother and daughter, but also individually."

For Rodriguez, her involvement with the organization went beyond just her placement. "As a Latina and first-generation college student myself, I understand the importance of having strong, positive influences to guide you through uncharted territory," said Rodriguez. "The value and impact of Con Mi Madre's work in our community and beyond is immeasurable!"

Con Mi MADRE has had a clear influence on the Latina girls in Austin. Today, there are 758 mother-daughter pairs participating in the program, and 100% of the girls in the program graduate from high

school. An astounding 77% of the young women end up enrolling in a post-secondary program. Those numbers are certainly a far cry from the 1% predicted in 1992.

"THE VALUE AND
IMPACT OF CON
MI MADRE'S WORK
IN OUR COMMUNITY
AND BEYOND IS
IMMEASURABLE"

- ANGELICA RODRIGUEZ

Looking to the future, Granillo hopes that the connection between Con Mi MADRE and JLA will stay as strong as it was in 2008. Her hope is that they will continue to engage JLA members to learn more about the history between the two and to know that the League is leaving a legacy through Con Mi MADRE.

"Con Mi MADRE would not exist without JLA!" said Granillo. "The fact that the Junior League stepped up to address an issue in our city that no one else was addressing back in the 1990s is one thing, but the fact that they implemented a culturally rich program that was making an impact and they gifted it to the community, that is what I call truly serving the needs of the community and making a lasting impact!"

For more information on how you can help Con Mi MADRE, visit www.conmimadre.org.





A Hoppin' Good Time: Bunny Brunch 2017

PHOTO ESSAY BY MEREDITH CLIFFORD





Bunny Brunch returned for 2017 on April 1, held once again at the UT Golf Club. Families enjoyed a fun-filled day with children's crafts, a petting zoo, live music, an Easter egg hunt, and a special appearance by our Guest of Honor, the Easter Bunny. Thank you to all the attendees, sponsors and donors, especially St.David's HealthCare, Baylor Scott & White Health, and Tide Cleaners, for making this year's event a success. Funds raised at Bunny Brunch help support the mission of The Junior League of Austin. For more information on the event, visit www.bunnybrunch.org.





Savoring the Spirit of Austin

BY MARY QUIN MOORE

After the huge success of the 1st annual Bunny Brunch in 2016, The Junior League of Austin (JLA) added another fundraising event to the Spring calendar, but with grown-ups in mind. Inspired by the JLA's cookbook of the same name, Austin Entertains was born. The event, which took place on May 4, 2017 at Brazos Hall, featured tastings by Austin's leading female chefs, cocktails from local mixologists, and music from DJ Mel.

And who says you can't have dessert first? The Spring Events Committee also organized a pre-event, Macaron & Merlot, which was held on April 30, 2017 at Juliet Ristorante. Ten female pastry chefs competed for the best macaron, and some of Austin's most

experienced Sommeliers paired these delicious creations with their favorite merlot. Juliet's executive chef, Jacob Weaver, also provided tastings of some of his signature menu items to help top off the evening.

All funds raised through these events benefit JLA's programs including Coats for Kids, FIT- Food in Tummies, and more than 30 local community non-profits.

Thank you to all the chefs and local businesses who participated in both events, as well as all our generous sponsors and donors. Save the date for next year - February 2018!

THANK YOU TO OUR AUSTIN ENTERTAINS PARTICIPANTS:

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Alma Alcocer-Thomas, El Alma
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Kattie Davis, Juliet Italian Kitchen
Michelle Arcilla Hall, Second Bar + Kitchen
Soraiya Nagree, Luxe Patisserie

*Winner of the Best Macaron Contest

SOMMELIERS

Jackie Granelli, Dionysus Imports
Mandi Nelson, New Waterloo

Chefs from El Alma, setting up at Austin Entertains





Amplify Austin Success

AMPLIFY AUSTIN RAISES MORE MONEY FOR AUSTIN NON-PROFITS THAN EVER BEFORE

BY MEREDITH CLIFFORD

Amplify Austin Day is Austin's annual community-wide day of online giving. The 24-hour period in March provides an easy and fun way for the entire community to give together, while helping over 700 local non-profits. Amplify Austin broke records this year, raising more than \$9.8 million.

For the third year in a row, The Junior League of Austin (JLA) focused our fundraising efforts on the innovative flagship program, FIT - Food in Tummies, which provides weekend nourishment to children grades K-5 who qualify for the National School Lunch program (NSLP).

The campaign kicked off with a fabulous watch party sponsored by Juliet Ristorante

and Cape Classics, where League members and guests enjoyed delicious Italian bites, cocktails and live music. The League raised \$26,334 from 415 donors, surpassing the goal of filling 5,000 backpacks.

Once again, JLA was the recipient of the "Bass Booster" prize awarded to the non-profit that received the most donations within an hour. The Carl C. Anderson, Sr. and Marie Jo Anderson Charitable Foundation graciously provided The Junior League of Austin a challenge grant and matched \$25,000 in donations for the FIT-Food in Tummies program. Thanks to our generous donors in Central Texas, we were able to make our vision a reality!

Community Impact Report

BY JENN GALBRAITH

2016-2017 has been a busy year for The Junior League of Austin (JLA) in our community. The League supported 32 non-profits with volunteers and funding, including a handful of new non-profits and placements!

Over 500 members served as volunteers with these Community Projects and will give a minimum of 25,000 hours of service. These local nonprofits benefit from some of the best volunteers in the city and our members gain important skills.

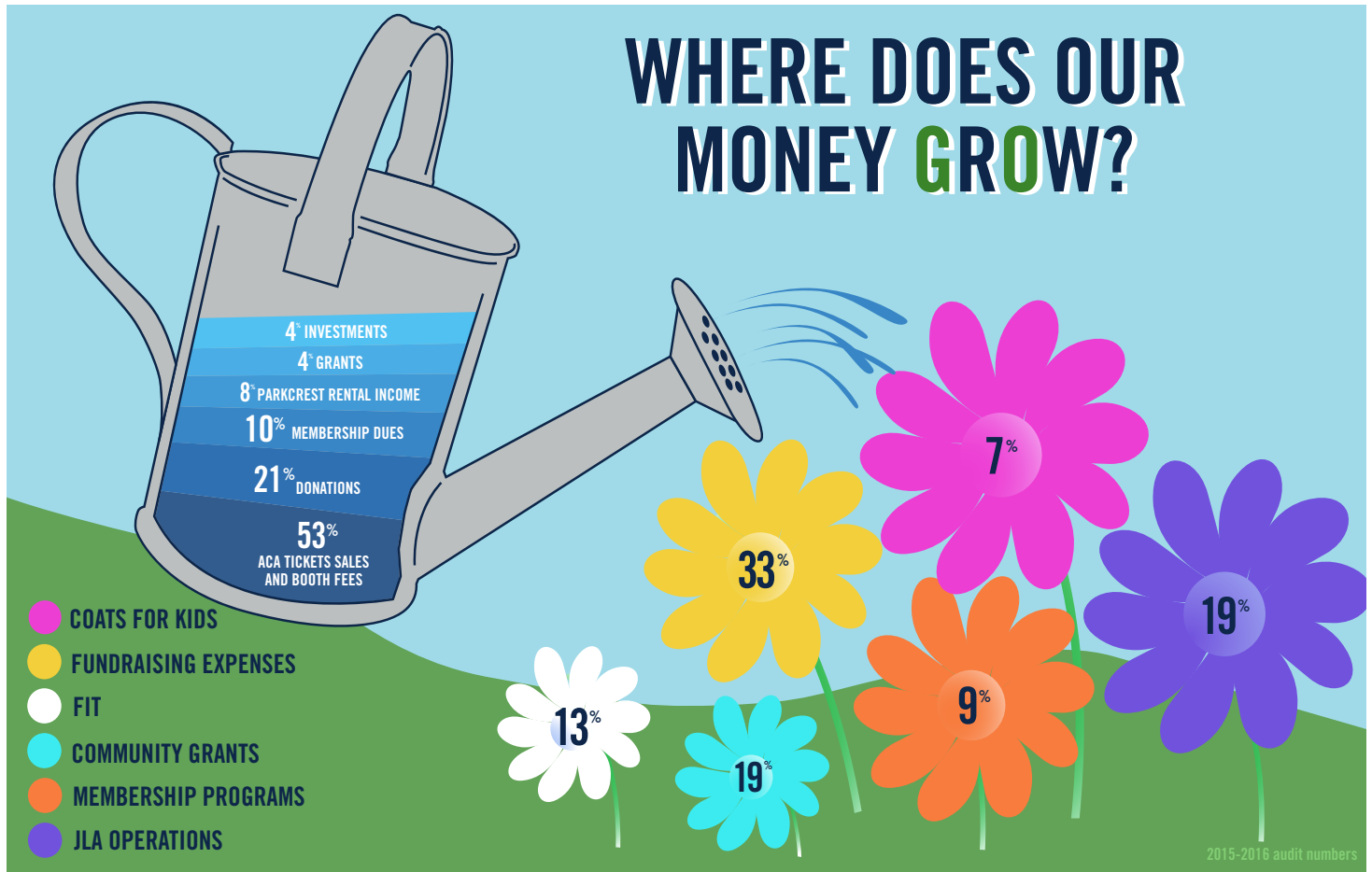
The League's own programs also had much success. Our FIT - Food in Tummies Provisional members worked approximately 4,103 FIT shifts to deliver 48,000 bags of

food. The program continues to expand its program in the areas of fitness and nutritional education through collaboration with Del Valle ISD. The League continued to address basic needs through our involvement in the 34th annual Coats for Kids, with over 2200 volunteers collecting and distributing over 34,000 coats as well as continuing the Community Fair on Distribution Day.

Our Done-in-a-Day program focused on short-term needs in our community, providing 3,768 volunteer hour opportunities in the Fall alone. The ¡Sí!-Spanish Immersion Program grew this year, offering classes to over 20 members in both the Fall and Spring with 12 members

taking spring placements in the community to further their language skills.

This year, our Impact Area Committee also conducted extensive research on community needs and gaps in coverage. The intent here was to assess if there are unserved needs and if the league should consider a new project to serve identified gaps. League driven projects like Coats for Kids and FIT are not only very popular with our members but also very impactful in the community. As JLA membership grows, so does our commitment to training future civic leaders making an impact in our community and continuing the legacy for the future. As we grow in membership, we grow in impact!



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The Junior League of Austin thanks the following sponsors for their support of our charitable work in the community. League volunteers serve the community through well-known programs such as Coats for Kids and FIT - Food In Tummies, and also projects with non-profits, increasing their capacity with our members as a volunteer workforce. With every dollar raised for community programs, the League triples its impact when combined with the commitment of our trained volunteers. Thank you again to all of our donors and sponsors!

Benefactor Sponsors

CARL C. ANDERSON SR. AND MARIE JO ANDERSON CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Carl C. Anderson, Sr. and his wife, Marie Jo, established their family foundation in 1966 with the main goal to help others. The mission of the foundation is: to support medical research seeking the cure and prevention of catastrophic disease; to assist in meeting the essential needs of children; and to enhance the quality of life for elderly persons and those with mental and physical disabilities. The Carl C. Anderson Sr. and Marie Jo Anderson Charitable Foundation has been a long term supporter of the League and, more specifically, has been a supporter of the FIT program since its inception. With the foundation's help, the FIT program has expanded and is helping the League work toward our goal of ending weekend hunger for students in Del Valle Independent School District.

IBC BANK – AUSTIN

IBC Bank's philosophy of "We Do More," reflects its dedication to the growth and success of not only its customers but the communities it serves as well. Celebrating its 50th year anniversary, IBC continues to work relentlessly to give back to the community on a local level through philanthropic and volunteer endeavors. Since 2009, IBC Bank has been an annual sponsor of The Junior League of Austin's A Christmas Affair, and looks forward to another Merry and Bright year as a supporter of our League's mission and work throughout our community.



LINDSEY SCOGGINS STUDIO

Lindsey's passion for jewelry began while in college. During that time her mother had a small collection of family jewelry redesigned into beautiful rings, which she presented to her daughters on each of their 21st birthdays. It was then when a love affair with the sentiment and significance of diamonds was born. Today, Lindsey is leading the way designing custom jewelry with fresh, beautiful designs, diamond expertise, and precision craftsmanship. Lindsey Scoggins Studio is a proud supporter of A Christmas Affair and the work The Junior League of Austin does within the Austin community.

 LINDSEY SCOGGINS

STERLING CATERING AND EVENTS*

Sterling Events is the caterer of choice for the most stunning and spectacular events in Central Texas. For over 21 years Sterling Events has created unparalleled events for Austin's social calendar whether it be Weddings, Social and Corporate Events, or Fundraisers. From groups of 20 to 2000, the experienced team at Sterling Events has a long history of executing fabulous social functions of all kinds. From tapas to tents and HVAC too; Sterling Events has everything you could possibly need for your event!



SPIRIT 105.9*

SPIRIT 105.9, The Spirit of Austin, features Adult Contemporary Christian music where listeners enjoy a fresh variety of music surging in popularity. SPIRIT 105.9 is an encouraging, family-friendly radio station aiming to be a beacon of light to the city of Austin. With live and local programming, families of Austin and Central Texas are kept in mind. The Spirit of Austin fully supports the community they serve and is proud to partner with The Junior League of Austin to support A Christmas Affair for the third consecutive year.



WHOLE FOODS MARKET

Whole Foods Market is proud to be working with The Junior League of Austin FIT – Food In Tummies Program for the 2016-2017 school year to help support Del Valle schools and inspire families to improve children's nutrition and wellness. Through partnerships with innovative organizations, schools, and educators, the Whole Kids Foundation® works to provide children with access to fresh, nutritious meals with the goal of ending the childhood obesity epidemic. Whole Foods Market's support of the FIT Program is a great opportunity to help fulfill this mission within the Austin community.



Title Sponsors

IHEARTMEDIA*

iHeartMedia and all of its broadcast radio stations are dedicated to inspiring and creating positive change that improves the lives of others. The mission of iHeartMedia Communities is to galvanize local radio and outdoor resources to educate and inspire residents to make a difference within their own communities. Dedicated to supporting non-profits throughout the Austin community, iHeartMedia is proud to support A Christmas Affair year after year and is looking forward to another exciting and successful event.



NELSON PUETT FOUNDATION

The Nelson Puett Foundation is a proud sponsor of The Junior League of Austin and continues to support the League's mission of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

RANDALLS

Randalls continues to work together with its customers to support programs that improve the quality of life in the communities they serve, and is committed to assisting non-profit organizations that are important to its customers and their families. Randalls Food Market is proud to be a long-time supporter of The Junior League of Austin working together to enrich the lives of those in our community. Randall's believes that The Junior League of Austin's programs and remarkable volunteers are a tribute to the strength of women and the power of community.



Grand Sponsors

BOHEMIAN BARBECUE

As their motto states “uncommonly delicious... community conscious”. Bohemian Barbecue is more than just barbecue catering, they use recipes from great Bohemian pit masters to create their delicious barbecue and they use their passion for community to help raise awareness and funding for several non-profits throughout Central Texas. Bohemian Barbecue is proud to support the projects and programs of The Junior League of Austin as a sponsor of this year’s A Christmas Affair.



CHARLES H. PHIPPS FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Charles H. Phipps Family Foundation is one of the original believers and supporters of the FIT – Food In Tum mies program, providing The Junior League of Austin help and insight into hunger within Central Texas. Pairing with many non-profits addressing hunger within our community, the Charles H. Phipps Family Foundation continues to support the FIT program year after year, finding ways to feed hungry children, provide families with nutrition education and help to bring awareness to the issue of hunger within Central Texas.

DONALD D. HAMMILL FOUNDATION

The Donald D. Hammill Foundation was established to improve the quality of life for people who have disabilities, the aged and people who are financially disadvantaged, including the working poor and those who are indigent or chronically ill. By supporting local programs, including The Junior League of Austin’s FIT - Food In Tum mies program, the Donald D. Hammill Foundation is working to supply basic needs to the Central Texas community.

JULIET ITALIAN KITCHEN*

The greatest stories are told with family over food and wine. Juliet Italian Kitchen embodies just that, bringing nostalgic and classic Italian-American cuisine to the heart of Austin on Barton Springs. Their ability to create a charming atmosphere of camaraderie and good times extends beyond the kitchen and into the community with their continuous support of the Arts as well as several local non-profits. Juliet Italian Kitchen is a proud supporter of The Junior League of Austin and sponsor this year’s Amplify Austin Watch Party and our inaugural Macaron & Merlot spring event.



ST. DAVID'S HEALTHCARE

With more than 110 sites across Central Texas, St. David’s HealthCare includes seven of the area’s leading hospitals and is one of the largest health systems in Texas. Since the inception of St. David’s HealthCare in 1996, more than \$269 million have been given back to the community to improve the health and healthcare of people in Central Texas. St. David’s HealthCare is proud to partner with The Junior League of Austin for the second consecutive year in support of A Christmas Affair.



SXSW COMMUNITY FUND OF COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION OF TEXAS

The SXSW Community Fund is SXSW’s first-ever philanthropic fund administered by the Communities Foundation of Texas. The fund has been used for honorees of the Dewey Winburne Community Service Award and the Grulke Prize for Career Act, as well as making charitable contributions to non-profit organizations including The Junior League of Austin.

THE BANK OF AMERICA CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Bank of America helps improve communities by addressing issues fundamental to economic health and sustainability. Needs addressed include: workforce development issues and education, community development, and basic needs. Not only does the Bank of America Foundation help address the immediate need, the foundation helps create a longer term solution for the issue addressed. The foundation plans to invest \$2 billion over ten years. Bank of America has been a long term supporter of our FIT program and has made a significant difference in the depth of services we can provide through the JLA FIT program.

THE LOWE FOUNDATION

The Lowe Foundation was created in 1988 by Erma Lowe and her daughter Mary Ralph Lowe. Their goal is to give back to the State of Texas by supporting women and children's health and educational needs. Since its inception, The Lowe Foundation has assisted over 400 organizations, which now includes FIT - Food In Tum mies program. Funding will be used to continue the mission of reducing child weekend hunger and providing health and nutrition education to families.

WELLS FARGO

Benefiting the communities where we live and work is at the heart of Wells Fargo's culture since the company was founded. This heritage continues today through the continued support of The Junior League of Austin programs. Wells Fargo continues to support The Junior League of Austin's A Christmas Affair year after year, ensuring that programs such as Coats for Kids and FIT - Food In Tum mies continue to greatly add to the quality of life in our communities.



LEFT: JLA Volunteers at Thinkery RIGHT: JLA Volunteer Amy King at BIG Love Cancer Care Center



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