

Junior League of Abilene
774 Butternut
Abilene, TX 79602
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May Birthdays

Lynn Barnett 05-01
Patty Simpson 05-02
Christina Wilson 05-02
Kristin Hyland 05-02
Tiffany Lamb 05-03
Abby Walla 05-03
Claudia Walker 05-04
Andrea Leggett 05-04
Nancy Brock 05-05
Carol Chappell 05-07
Nanci Liles 05-08
Sydney Harrell 05-08
Sue Stubbeman 05-09
Jo Ann Davis 05-09
Amy Hess 05-11
Lisa Jones 05-12
Kristi Thaxton 05-12
Tara Curry 05-12
Holly Cowan 05-13
Gloria Fulwiler 05-14
Charla McCracken 05-14
Doris Grosvenor 05-15
Dulcey Fulenwider 05-15
Katie Wick 05-15
Jessica McGaughey 05-16
Kerry Di Gioia 05-17
Brandie Stallsworth 05-18
D'Ann Davis 05-19
Margaret McCarty 05-20
Martha Forman 05-20
Lucy Vinson 05-20
Carolyn Rinard 05-21
Claire Carlson 05-21
Cassie Ohlhausen 05-21
Summer Sims 05-22
Candice McCray 05-23
Shannon Robinson 05-25
Susan Bacon 05-26

June Birthdays

Katie Browning 06-01
Diane Stearns 06-02
Molly Lenker 06-03
Marsha Hamilton 06-04
Megan Bolls 06-04
Amy Gebhart 06-07
Jackie Love 06-09
Amanda Teten 06-09
Betsy Duncan 06-10
Tania Sweeney 06-10
Kay Lanier 06-12
Carol Corley 06-17
Kerry Watson 06-17
Dana Decker 06-18
Johanna Weltzin 06-20
Nancy Bander 06-23
Sara McBeth 06-25
Elizabeth Doughty 06-26
Leeann Rudolph 06-26
Cindy Parker 06-27
Alice Wright 06-29
Crystal Nichols 06-29
Courtney Wagley 06-29
Tresa Tutt 06-30
Kari Polk 06-30

July Birthdays

Gretchen Henson 07-02
Linda Stanley 07-03
Willys Treanor 07-04
Joy Jordan 07-07
Jo Nell King 07-08
Gail Thames 07-09
Erin Moosbrugger 07-10
Ashley Landfield 07-11
Amy Windham 07-12
Mindy Flowers 07-13
Dodge Hubbard 07-14
Kim Dickenson 07-15
Cara Fournier 07-15
Jamie Belz 07-16
Mary Hunter 07-19
Dottie Preston 07-20
Jan Woodward 07-21
Barbara Gibson 07-22
Carey Arrington 07-23
Mary Lou Fry 07-24
Ginny Breland 07-24
Judy Daniels 07-25
Tonya Crenwelge 07-27
Lisa Bloomer 07-28
Monica Houston 07-31



Amy Milam
President 2012-2013

INCOMING PRESIDENT

I recall a quote from Helen Keller, "When we do the best we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life or the life of another." It reminds me how hard Junior League members work because they truly want to, and as a result, lives change. This is the exact reason I continue my active membership in the Junior League of Abilene. I am proud to be a member and very excited and honored to be elected as your upcoming President.

Our history and roots are deep in our community with our formation in 1948 with just 24 women who partnered with the Barbershop Quartet Singing group to raise 1750.00 for programs to help handicapped children in the community. The demographic of a member of the league at this time was a woman who did not work outside the home and she was looking to join an organization that would provide social interaction as well as volunteer training and most all her volunteer time was done during the day. As we move through the decades, the demographics of a typical member has changed drastically. A typical member today has many hats to wear from wife to mother to employee to leaders in our community and the list goes on. Her volunteer hours are not done just during the day, but range from Tuesday lunch Board meetings to Sunday afternoon Project Evaluation meetings all the while balancing a family and career.

This leads me to introduce my theme for the upcoming year: **The Junior League of Abilene: Rooted and Relevant in our Community and Membership.** As I mentioned, with our proven history of paving the way of training women and taking care of our community, our roots are deep and something to be very proud of.

I love this quote: "The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.", Nelson Henderson. Our Sustainers are so important to us. They planted seeds for future generations. They may never see the full results of their efforts but they planted anyway. We must also do the same.

Second, we must be Relevant in that we recognize the needs of not only our community at the present time but our members as well. Our community is experiencing dramatic demographic changes. Our commitment to diversity and inclusion is a contributing factor to the League's future viability and success. We are a stronger organization with a broad reach and impact when we embrace the differences of our membership, the community and our partners.

A few of my goals for the upcoming year include:

- * Strengthen current partnerships and create new strategic alliances with diverse organizations that support our mission
- * Continue to increase the diversity of our membership to accurately reflect the demographics of our community
- * Promote the positive image of the League as a place of diversity and inclusion where women become trained volunteers and experience rewarding opportunities to serve in the community
- * Stay Mission focused. We must continue to focus on our Mission while staying rooted and striving for relevancy. It is amazing and I am so impressed that our Mission never waivers even while our projects, members and community continue to change.

I look forward to a great year and working with each of you. I am so proud to be a member of the Junior League of Abilene.

Sincerely,

Amy Milam
President, 2012-2013

OUTGOING PRESIDENT

The Junior League of Abilene has been "On the Road to Change" throughout our 2011-2012 League year, and it is hard to believe that this road trip is winding down. While the calendar says that the League year is almost over, I want to remind each of you that we have not yet reached our destination. Changing our community and changing ourselves is an ongoing process that requires a year-to-year commitment from each member.

The Junior League of Abilene has worked hard this year to improve our leadership skills, raise funds to improve our community, promote voluntarism through our support of other non-profit organizations, recruit and train new members, educate children about healthy living choices, and provide food, hygiene items, and clothing to children in need. I am very proud to have been a small part of all that you have done this year. By the time you read this article, you will have voted to set in motion our plans and projects for 2012-2013. I encourage you to support these projects not only with your vote, but with your time. The League can only fulfill our mission if our members are committed to improving the community, promoting voluntarism, and embracing training and leadership opportunities. At times this may mean saying "yes" to a placement that may feel too challenging for you, or signing up for a volunteer opportunity that is outside your comfort zone. Please consider stretching yourself in these areas, and see how you and your community can change as a result.

The impact League Members have made in our community this year is testament to what a talented, hardworking, passionate and committed group of women you are. I feel blessed and honored to have witnessed this in my role as President this year, and I thank you for the opportunity. I look forward to our continued journey together.



Megan Cheek
President 2011-2012



Kids in the Kitchen has been busy this winter/spring semester! We recently held an event at the mall in order to promote "Heart Healthy" snack and meal choices for kids and their families as well as exercise and activity to go with it. We had a pretty good turnout at the event-around 150 participants.

Our next big event will be the first annual KITK Family Fun Run/Walk and Activity Day to be held on April 21st at Nelson Park. This event will be sponsored by KITK but will be aided by the Junior League of Abilene as a whole as well as several local businesses and organizations (they will be making donations in the form of food/beverages/supplies as well as having their own informational tables/booths. This event

is going to be aimed towards promoting family involvement and togetherness where healthy eating habits and activity are concerned.



The Junior League of Abilene Make-A-Wish project works closely with the Make-A-Wish Foundation of North Texas in Midland to grant wishes of area children with lifethreatening medical conditions. Children receive wishes in four major categories: a wish to go, a wish to be, a wish to meet, or a wish to have. The Make-A-Wish Foundation provides this wish at no cost to the child or his/her family.

The Junior League of Abilene has appointed a chair-person and a small committee to assist the MAW Foundation in granting the wishes. The MAW committee members are trained by the North Texas office. Two to three representatives from the committee meet with the family to gather the information needed to begin the process of granting the child's wish. One person visits with the child to see what his/her wish is. Another person works with the parents to complete paperwork needed for wish approval. The MAW committee also assists in making phone calls or email contact to facilitate the wish process. Finally, the committee members play an integral part in the planning and launching of the "enhancement party." The enhancement party is the final step, the "wow factor," in making the wish come true.

This year, the Make-A-Wish committee was involved in a few wishes that were active and being processed from the previous year's committee. No new wishes were assigned to our committee. The committee were trained as Wish Granters, shopped for enhancement gifts for wishes in process, created scrapbooks for the children with existing photos, and made other phone calls needed for the wish granting. Although no wishes were completed this year, our committee worked diligently to move them closer to completion. We look forward to helping next year's committee in finalizing the current wishes.

Christmas Carousel 2011 has come to a close and could not have been better! The amazing events, fabulous shopping, decorations to take you to places far away and hospitality that keeps merchants and thousands of shoppers and event attendees coming back year after year. This year we managed to get by with only a hand full of 911 calls, which did not result in any permanent injuries and yes we were able to keep the civic center from burning down after we caught it on fire! I call that a success!!!!

I want to thank our annual sponsors who give to us generously knowing we will always have a little flub here and a mis hap there but in the end they see the work we do in the community and the smiles on the faces of children who benefit from our projects. The Event would not happen without the yearlong work of the amazing women on this years committee. These ladies suffered thru monthly meetings with me, took time from their jobs and families to plan, implement and make certain the Junior League of Abilene raised the funds to support our mission to improve the community and enhance the lives of the children. Junior League and I were blessed to have the extraordinary group of women who were the 2011 Carousel Committee.

The countless hours of the Committee, Actives, Sustainer and volunteers make me proud to be a member of the Junior League of Abilene.



The P.A.V.E. (Providing Assistance & Volunteer Experience) Committee has been hard at work the past several months sorting through applications submitted by nonprofit organizations who serve children. These nonprofit organizations have applied for funding and/or volunteers to help carry out their child-related projects, programs or events. We funded organizations such as Day Nursery of Abilene, Children's Miracle Network, and Ministry of Counseling and Enrichment. The donation of funds and volunteers that Junior League of Abilene provides to these organizations might seem small but the response we get from them is quite the opposite. Some of the projects or events wouldn't be held without our assistance through funding and volunteers. The League is truly making a difference in the lives of many children in Abilene and the surrounding communities.

The goal for Suds Buds is to provide basic hygiene items, which include soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss, for children attending Bowie, College Heights, Fannin, Lee, Long, Ortiz, Reagan & Tye Elementary Schools, as well as to Woodson and Locust Head Starts. All of these schools are Title One schools.

We provide tubs of laundry detergent, and due to a growing need, we also provide lice kits to be handed out on an 'as needed' basis by the school nurses.

This past September, over 3,350 hygiene packs were assembled & delivered along with 880 lice kits and 100 tubs of detergent that will do a total of 25,000 loads of laundry!

Because lice kits are so expensive for the parents, the school personnel said that they needed assistance with those items most. In many cases when I would ask, "How many lice kits could you use?", the response was "We will take as many as you can manage. We never have enough."

We have been able to increase our number of lice kits and detergent packets given to schools due to a very generous donation of all the dental hygiene products by Dr. Bart Bourland as well as being able to purchase the lice kits at a discounted rate through Jon Pate at the Wal-Mart Pharmacy.

With a fifteen thousand dollar budget (part of which is funded by a Dodge Jones Foundation Grant), 60 Junior League volunteers and the tremendous support of the Abilene Food Bank who allows us to store and package our products at their warehouse, we are able to assist so many Abilene families with a very basic need.

This project is crucial to meet basic needs for the children at these schools, according to the teachers and principals we speak to when we deliver the products. They are so very appreciative!

We had a very successful Suds Buds Day, and I am very proud to have been able to serve as Chairman for this project.

2012 JLAboard



Amy Milam
President

- We love to be outdoors, participate in sports, and being involved in our church and vacation together whether it is at the beach or skiing in the mountains.
- To keep the mission at the forefront of all our decisions and to create an inclusive and diverse atmosphere for our members as well as focusing on the current needs of our community.
- I have learned many skills as far as how to run meetings; I am more organized and have networked with community leaders because of my involvement with the Junior League of Abilene.
- I am a Christian and my family and friends are the most important things in my life.



Camille Kovsky
Communications Director

1. Proud Air Force Family!
Every move is an adventure
Me: energetic, determined, and loyal
2. My goal is to dig deeper into the needs of our community by getting more involved in the JLA!
3. I think the JLA has prepared me for my duties of communications director by teaching the importance of teamwork and service.
4. I would like for members to know that I have an open door policy. I love to laugh and getting to know new people.



Chesley Martin
Membership Development

- Close, supportive, happily busy...I have amazing children! (Children...even though they are 21, 18 and 13.)
- I want the members to all feel connected and find their place in our League.
- The past several Membership Development Directors have done a great job re-inventing the wheel with the changing times and using our website. I want to continue down their path, making it stronger each year.
- I may have been in JLA for a "million" years, but I feel I still have things to offer the League and our community. (And...I am addicted to watching Pretty Little Liars with my daughters, and I love the new show GCB - I know these people, don't you?)



Glenna Cordray
President Elect

- Enthusiastic, Inquisitive, and Diligent.
- To research additional volunteer opportunities within our community and to identify additional sources of revenue to further the Mission of the Junior League of Abilene.
- The Junior League of Abilene has taught me to be confident in my abilities as woman by surrounding me with confident, successful women mentors who have encouraged me to accept positions of increasing leadership within the League.
- I considered myself as very blessed to have been invited to join the Junior League, and I love helping other ladies develop their potential through the League.



Kay Alexander
President's Sustaining Advisor

- Busy with work and play and blessed with family and friends...and two beautiful grandchildren.
- I am excited to be working with Amy and the board along with Sherri Statler as my coadvisor.
- It will take both of us to follow in Rolanda's footsteps! I love the League and am happy to help.
- I am a past president of the League so it will be fun to be back involved as Amy's advisor.
- I have a favorite quote: it is not enough to have a wonderful life; you must recognize it and be THANKFUL!



Sherri Stelter
President's Sustaining Advisor

- Blessed, Crazy about each other! Busy.
- I'm committed to supporting, encouraging and praying for Amy and the JLA leadership.
- The mentoring and good counsel I received from countless former JLA presidents and sustaining advisors combined with great League training and experiences prepared me for all sorts of JLA leadership roles, this one included.
- Many of my closest friendships were made through the Junior League of Abilene.



Tifani Smith
Community Director

- Comical, Blessed, Grateful
- My main goal as Community Director is to look at how our Community Advisory Board is a part of our organization and how to maximize their investment of time as well as to grow from their knowledge. This synergistic relationship will help us best impact our community AND train our members.
- JLA has provided training opportunities for me in the form of formal sessions as well as experiential training through the opportunities to serve as a Committee Member and as a Chair for projects. I feel that after serving as a volunteer and/or chair on the projects we support, I am equipped (and exciting) to serve as a Board member serving our project chairs.
- Every encounter is an opportunity to make someone's experience more rich, so I hope you will join me in the challenge of bringing your best self to your volunteer opportunities and leadership positions.