

# The Commentator

A PUBLICATION OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ABILENE



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**ABILENE**



## JUNIOR LEAGUE OF **ABILENE**

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

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### A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS\*:

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\*as of October 1, 2016

### Hours of Operation

Monday through Wednesday  
11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Office Manager

Nancy Allen

### Let's Get Social

Follow us on social media to stay connected with the most up-to-date League news. You'll also catch us behind-the-scenes at our different League events!

 Junior League of Abilene

 @jlabilene

 @jlabilene

 @jlabilene

### Junior League of Abilene

774 Butternut St  
Abilene, TX 79602  
o (325) 677-1879  
f (325) 677-1870



# Welcome

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am so happy to serve as President of The Junior League of Abilene this year alongside such extraordinary, intelligent, “go-getter” women.

We are a group of women who have a desire to serve, work hard to effect positive change, have fun, and create lasting friendships throughout the community.

The Junior League of Abilene has helped initiate projects such as The Boys Ranch, The Children’s Museum located within the historic Grace Museum, Children’s Performing Art Series, Fort Imagination, Hendrick League House, The National Center for Children’s Illustrated Literature (NCCIL), Reach Out and Read, After School Care, drug education programs, and more!

This past year, the Junior League of Abilene awarded nearly \$10,000 in grants to fourteen local organizations such as the Center for Contemporary Arts, Day Nursery of Abilene, Regional Crime Victims Crisis Center, Upside Down Club, and others.



During the holidays, the Junior League of Abilene provided 200 children with Christmas gifts and over forty families with Thanksgiving meals.

We appreciate our generous donors and Christmas Carousel proceeds that enable the League to continue to effect positive change within our community and I can’t wait to see what the remarkable, servant-leader women of The JLA achieve this year and in the future!

### Katie Browning

President  
Junior League of Abilene

### Become a member of the Junior League!

The League provides volunteer experience, leadership training, and lifelong friendships that members carry into the community long after their service to League is over.

Contact **Angela Tomlin** by calling 325-665-9433 or sending an email to [angi2@aol.com](mailto:angi2@aol.com) to learn more about becoming a member of the Junior League!



### EDITOR'S NOTE

The League hosted a celebration earlier this spring to honor our 60th year of service to Abilene. I am excited that we once again have the opportunity to share all these goals we have set and accomplished. In the spring issue, we will proudly celebrate those projects that have brought heightened awareness about our community's needs. Please join me in welcoming back *The Commentator*, a publication of The Junior League of Abilene.

*Emerald Cassidy*

Public Relations Chairman  
Junior League of Abilene

# Meet the Team

## A LOOK INSIDE LEAGUE LEADERSHIP

### Board of Directors



**President**  
Katie Browning



**President-Elect**  
Kristina Campos Davis



**Immediate Past President**  
Tifani Smith



**President Elect-Elect & Community Director**  
Amy Carnes



**Communications Director**  
Taylor Tomanka



**Diversity & Education Director**  
Tabitha Coffman



**Membership Development Director**  
Jennifer Woodard



**Secretary**  
Tara Curry



**Treasurer**  
Jana Moreno



**Sustaining Director**  
Risha Sanders

### Committee & Project Chairs



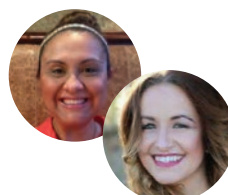
**Admissions & Headquarters**  
Tiffany Loftin



**Backpacks for Kids**  
Monica Reid



**Children's Art & Literacy Festival (C.A.L.F.)**  
Ashley Hall



**Community Partners**  
Jennifer Kluza & Raechel Walton



**Christmas Carousel**  
Jenna Dozier



**Fund Development**  
Jana Moreno



**Junior Leaders**  
E.J. Jessup



**PAVE**  
Erin Poindexter & Megan Schweigert



**Provisional Chair**  
Angela Tomlin



**Public Relations & Commentator**  
Emerald Cassidy



**Research & Development**  
Kristina Campos Davis



**Suds Buds**  
Melissa Kelley & Meghan Martin



# JLA Projects

## HIGHLIGHTING OUR COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

League members are committed to enhancing the lives of children in our community - we serve nearly 4,000 volunteer hours each year! This commitment is evidenced by the community projects that are funded and staffed during the year. Here's a highlight on just a few of these community initiatives!



**Backpacks for Kids**  
 Almost 60% of children enrolled in Abilene ISD receive free or reduced meals. Often they do not have food during the weekends or holidays when school is not in session. In collaboration between the League and the Food Bank of West Central Texas, Backpacks for Kids

was launched. This project offers children in need a "backpack" filled with non-perishable food to eat during weekends and holidays.

*The women of the Junior League assembled 1,900 backpacks of non-perishable food last year.*

### Make an impact!

Donations to the Junior League of Abilene are 100% tax-deductible. Contact **Jana Moreno** by calling 325-829-9922 or send email to [janamoreno@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janamoreno@sbcglobal.net) to begin supporting these projects!



### Provisional Project

For their class project, this year's provisionals chose to assist the Taylor County Child Welfare Board with renovating Child Protective Service's family visitation rooms. On September 9 and 10, *thirteen provisionals joined other community members at the CPS facility to clean, paint, assemble furniture and toys, and decorate.* "The rooms hadn't been updated in 20 years, so CPS was delighted that the League was willing to take this project on," said Brittany Wade, community partners coordinator for CPS. "Junior League has been a longstanding partner through the Bluebonnet Room and maintains an ongoing pulse on the needs of children in our local community." The once-dreary rooms are now bright and welcoming, and CPS staff say the effect is noticeable.

### Suds Buds

The Junior League of Abilene purchases, assembles, and delivers packets of toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, and other necessary hygiene items to the Title 1 schools in Taylor County including Early Childhood Centers like Locust and Woodson. On September 17, *the women of the Junior League assembled nearly 9,000 Suds Buds hygiene kits* for children in Title 1 schools. Upon request, the League is available to distribute additional hygiene kits for students.

### WHO'S WHO

**1. (Left to Right)** Tara Curry, Secretary; Katie Browning, President; Jama Cadle, Provisional; Johlisa Broadfoot, Provisional; Taylor Tomanka, Communications Director; Stormi Steed, Provisional; Monica Reid, Backpacks for Kids Chair. **2. (Top Row)** Laura Mason, Provisional; Carly Etter, Provisional; Jama Cadle, Provisional; **(Middle Row)** Christin McClain, Provisional; Ashley Hickman, Provisional; **(Bottom Row)** Nell Tebbetts, Provisional.



# Say Cheese

## AROUND THE COMMUNITY



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.

### WHO'S WHO

1. (KTXS-TV) Abilene organization creates 7,000 hygiene kits for kids in need. September 17, 2016.
2. (Abilene Reporter-News) Junior League of Abilene celebrates 60 years in Abilene. June 11, 2016.
3. (Facebook) Katie Browning and Tifani Smith accept proclamation from Mayor Norm Archibald. June 11, 2016.
4. (Facebook) Erin Chambers and Jessica Ambrose volunteering during "National Night Out". October 4, 2016.
5. (Facebook) JLA members volunteer for Children's Performing Arts Series event. March 6, 2016.
6. (Facebook) Casilea Rodriguez, Johanna Morrow and Samantha Hart at the Annual May Dinner. May 10, 2016.
7. (Instagram) Erin Poindexter, Angela Tomlin and Megan Schweigert volunteer at the 10th Annual "Men of Strength" Style Show & Luncheon benefitting the Regional Crime Victims Crisis Center. October 5, 2016.
8. (Instagram) JLA members during a social at The Mill Winery. July 7, 2016.

Say Cheese! Submit photos to the Public Relations Committee for a chance to appear in upcoming issues.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ABILENE

# Christmas

C A R O U S E L

November 3-6, 2016

ABILENE CIVIC CENTER



**WHO'S WHO**

(Front) Kalee Fisher, *Style Show*; Miller Loudemilk, *Assistant Chairman*; Frann Smith, *Sustaining Advisor*; Jenna Dozier, *Carousel Chairman*; Michelle Rainwater, *Decorations*; Jennifer Harrison, *Style Show*. (Middle) Caslea Rodriguez, *Merchants*; Britt Willis, *Merchants*; Kristie McBrayer, *Events*; Belinda Southall, *Café/Concessions*; Chephra McKee, *Decorations*; Tenia Fitts, *Treasurer*. (Back) Abby Wesson, *Café/Concessions*; Geraldine Wills, *Style Show*; Paula Fiel, *Sustaining Advisor*; Haley Tabor, *Events*; Jenna Hall, *Tickets/Reservations*; Mandy Ott, *Marketing*; Kendall Harrison, *Tickets/Reservations*. (Not Pictured) Amy Brazell, *Sustaining Advisor*; Tera Gibson, *Sustaining Advisor*; Erica Gooding, *Sustaining Advisor*; Lea Hutt, *Sustaining Advisor*; Chesley Martin, *Sustaining Advisor*; Amy Milam, *Sustaining Advisor*; Crystal Nichols, *Hospitality*; Linda Stanley, *Sustaining Advisor*.

## Market Hall Hours

**Friday, November 4**  
10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Saturday, November 5**  
10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Sunday, November 6**  
12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

## Tickets

**\$5** Single-Day Market Hall Ticket

**\$10** Three-Day Market Hall Pass

## Events

**THURS 3** **A Snowman's Soirée: Preview Party**  
\$45 individual ticket

**FRI 4** **Frozen Fashion Frenzy Style Show**  
\$40 individual ticket

**SAT 5** **Fast & Flurry-ous 5K Run/Walk**  
\$25 individual adult entry

**SAT 5** **Frozen: A Family Movie Night**  
\$70 family pack

To purchase tickets, visit [jrleagueabilene.com](http://jrleagueabilene.com).

Hello and Merry Christmas! I am so honored to be leading Christmas Carousel this year. The theme, *A Frozen Affair*, encompasses all things frozen like frosty snowflakes, snowmen, and of course, the falling snow! *A Frozen Affair* will be outstanding fun and whimsical all wrapped up in one cool weekend. Carousel is such an important event because it helps fund our projects all year! I encourage you to support the Junior League by attending one or all of our fabulous events! I am so grateful for my amazing committee who have been giving so much of their own time to help make this event the best!

They have worked so hard and I am so proud of them. They made my job such a joy! I want to thank the members of League and those in the committee. The way you all give yourselves to the community to help make it a better place is very inspiring and is an 'act of true love'!



**Jenna Dozier**

Christmas Carousel Chairman  
Junior League of Abilene





JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
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774 Butternut St, Abilene, TX 79602

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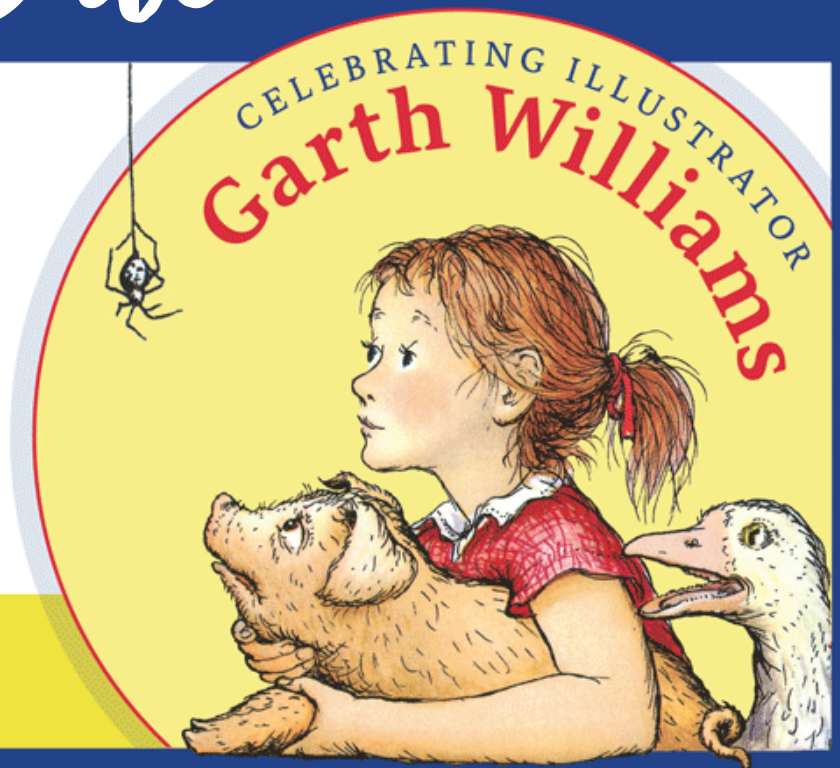
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# Save the Date

CHILDREN'S  
**ART &  
LITERACY  
FESTIVAL**

**JUNE 8-10 2017**

**DOWNTOWN ABILENE • [WWW.ABILENECALF.COM](http://WWW.ABILENECALF.COM)**



The Storybook Capital of Texas will celebrate all things illustrated by Garth Williams next summer during the annual Children's Art & Literacy Festival (C.A.L.F.) hosted by the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council.

The C.A.L.F. will surely amaze children and families alike. Stay tuned for more details on how the Junior League of Abilene plans to partner for this community-wide event!