

SPRING 2017

The Commentator

A PUBLICATION OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ABILENE



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
ABILENE



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF **ABILENE**

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.

Table of Contents

SPRING 2017

- 03** **President's Letter**
Welcome by Katie Browning
- 04** **Donor Tribute**
Shining a Light on Our Partners
- 08** **Provisional Class of 2017**
Meet Our Newest Members
- 10** **Community Initiatives**
Highlighting Our JLA Projects
- 11** **Upcoming Events**
Rhinestone Round Up Derby and Abilene Gives!

2016-17 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Katie Browning, President; Kristina Campos Davis, President-Elect; Tifani Smith, Immediate Past President; Amy Carnes, President Elect-Elect and Community Director; Taylor Tomanka, Communications Director; Tabitha Coffman, Diversity and Education Director; Jennifer Woodard, Membership Development Director; Tara Curry, Secretary; Jana Moreno, Treasurer; Risha Sanders, Sustaining Director.

Hours of Operation


Monday through Wednesday
12 p.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

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Abilene, TX 79602
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Welcome

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



"Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. You can be that servant." This is Martin Luther King, Jr.'s explanation of Matthew 23:11 and how I see the women of JLA – as community servants.

As the Junior League of Abilene's 69th year of service to this community comes to a close, I sit in awe of this group's hearts full of grace, their commitment to showing up and serving our mission in spite of other responsibilities and demands, and that these women do so cheerfully. On page 6 is a brief synopsis of our year so far, proving that there's nothing "junior" about this league!

As we execute our projects and programs, the women of Junior League are simultaneously receiving volunteer experience, leadership training, personal growth, and

developing community friendships that will have long-term community impact. These ladies will be trained, effective solution-seekers and action-takers within our community. Seek them out. They are extraordinary!

We've accomplished a lot, but we still have a lot of work to do. Over 900 children were determined to be abused or neglected last year, and the number is expected to grow. There are children on waitlists to receive weekend food. We received requests for \$30,000 in grants and expect even more next year. There are over 1,000 homeless students in Abilene. There are still so many needs to be met within our community and I'm confident that the women of JLA will be a driving force to meet these needs. We are so grateful to the community for supporting us and to donors and Christmas Carousel proceeds that enable the Junior League of Abilene to continue our mission. Thank you!

Katie Browning

President, Junior League of Abilene



EDITOR'S NOTE

It has been a true pleasure to help revive *The Commentator*. It brings me joy to know that this magazine has lived in the homes of some of our key community stakeholders. These influencers now have a heightened awareness of the number of hours JLA invests to build our community. May we continue to be the bridge that uplifts the lives of others.

Emerald Cassidy

Public Relations Chairman, Junior League of Abilene

Donor Tribute

SHINING A LIGHT ON OUR PARTNERS

Looking for a mission to support? We'd love for you to be a part of ours! Junior League of Abilene is committed to enhancing the lives of children in our community, a mission we would not be able to achieve without the generosity of our many donors. With the support we receive from our partners in the community we are able to fund six important projects: Backpacks for Kids, C.A.L.F. (Children's Art and Literacy Festival), Community Partners, Kids in the Kitchen, PAVE, and Suds Buds.

Any size gift to the Junior League of Abilene will make an impact on the community, as even just \$1.00 can provide a hygiene pack to a student in need as part of the Suds Buds program!

While all of our donors have enabled us to help the children of Abilene, we would be remiss if we did not

give special thanks to former member, Julia "Judy" Jones Matthews. Matthews' devotion to the community will be forever remembered through the continuing legacies of the projects, foundations, and causes that she, along with her family's organization, The Dodge Jones Foundation, so generously supported. Matthews passed away on November 17, 2016, at the age of 97, but her gifts to the community will live on through all of us.

We're grateful for the support of corporate partners and in-kind sponsors, as well as the generosity of individual donors. Each contribution truly makes a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Jana Moreno

Treasurer, Junior League of Abilene



Julia "Judy" Jones Matthews



Sponsor Signage at League Events

LEAGUE LEGEND

Dodge Jones Foundation
KTAB / KRBC

BENEFACTOR

Suddenlink Communications

CHAMPION

Dian Graves Owen Foundation
Dr. Norm Dozier
Gift from the Steve Arthur Family Foundation
at the Community Foundation of Abilene
United Supermarkets - Market Street

SIGNATURE

Browning Law Firm, PLLC - Cade and Katie Browning
FDLIC
First Financial Bank
Lawrence Hall - Big Country Chevy Dealer
Fox 15 Abilene
Dr. Eric and Mrs. Sue Schackmuth

VISION

Abilene Cultural Affairs Council
Abilene Pediatric Dental
Abilene Regional Medical Center
Dr. James and Mrs. Lauri Bass
Greathouse Foundation
Gene and Cindy Lantrip
Kristie McBrayer
Billye Proctor Shaw

COMMUNITY

Barber Foundation
Ben E. Keith
Robert and Lou Briley
Chef Darren Grace
Russell and Beverly Guthrie
Kay and David Alexander
Bob and Peggy Beckham
Glen Hall, DDS
Mrs. Sheryl and Dr. Brad Kendrick
Jamie Miers

COMMUNITY (cont'd)

Risha Sanders - State Farm Agent
Shelton Foundation
Sylvan Learning Center

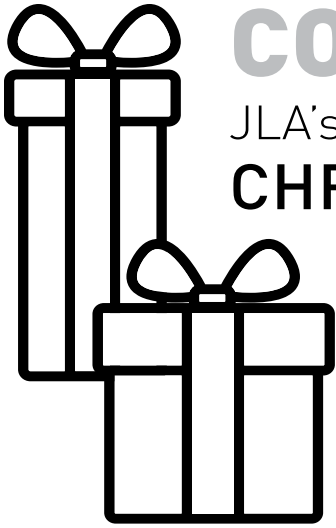
FRIEND

4B Ranch
Abilene Ballet
Abilene Interior Design
Abilene Running Co.
Dixie Bassett
Dr. Laura Bennett - Image Sculptors
Charles Erwin
CrossFit Abilene
Ruby Jo Day
Family Vision Associates
Fat Matt Roofing
Fergus & Fergus, L.L.P.
Paula Fiel
Frontier Motors
Tonya Harbin - Harbin Properties
Hickory Street Café
His Little Angels Daycare
Karla Hutchinson
Kelly Moore Paints
Lantrip's Custom Homes
John and Amy Milam
Prosperity Bank
Bush and Cindy Ramsey
Dr. Belinda Southall - Southall Chiropractic
& Acupuncture Clinic
Star Dodge
Mrs. Nancy and Dr. Price Brock
Robert and Ellen Knox
Cheryl Leonard

MAKE AN IMPACT

The League's fundraising efforts, teamed with our trained volunteers, ensure maximum impact of your gift. Contact **Jana Moreno** by calling 325-829-9922 or sending an email to janamoreno@sbcglobal.net.





COMMUNITY PARTNERS

JLA's donations to CPS provided

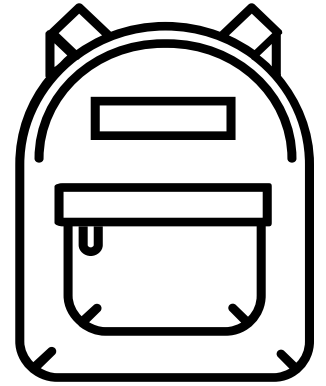
CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR 39 CHILDREN

and funding for **4 CPS CASEWORKERS.**

BACKPACKS FOR KIDS

JLA will provide over

2,000 BAGS OF FOOD for **59 CHILDREN.**



PAVE

JLA provided **\$8,000** to

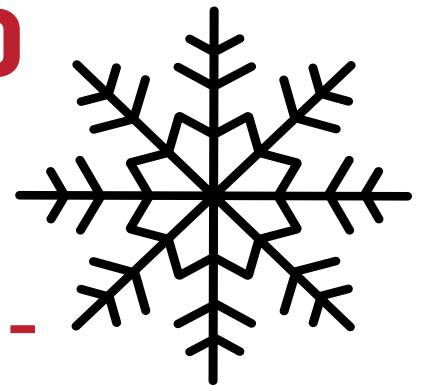
13 LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS that benefit children.

CHRISTMAS CAROUSEL

"A Frozen Affair" raised **\$118,000**

to **SUPPORT JLA'S PROJECTS**

as well as many other local non-profits.



SUDS BUDS

JLA packed **8,700 HYGIENE PACKETS**

and **664 LICE KITS** for students enrolled at Title I schools.



Say Cheese

AROUND THE COMMUNITY



WHO'S WHO

1. (Facebook) Christmas Carousel committee preparing for move-in. October 30, 2016.
2. (Facebook) Junior League of Abilene members join in on the fun at the annual Dancing with the Abilene Stars benefiting the Hendrick Home for Children. January 12, 2017.
3. (Facebook) League members share their support for Allilyn and Ted Evans' daughter, Rosie, at the downtown mural painted in her honor by artist Calina Mishay Johnson. November 1, 2016.
4. (Facebook) Alice Yates, Erin Chambers Wilson, Taylor Tomanka, Katie Browning, Kristina Campos Davis, Amy Carnes, Jana Moreno and Tifani Smith at the American Heart Association's annual Go Red Luncheon at Abilene Christian University. February 15, 2017.
5. (Facebook) Tabitha Coffman and son, Klinton, volunteering at the NCCIL. February 27, 2017.
6. (Facebook) Trista Bailey, Melissa Strain, Emerald Cassidy, Monica Reid, Jama Cadle, Ashley Hickman and Nell Tebbetts working a Backpack for Kids shift at the Abilene Food Bank. January 13, 2017.

Submit your photos to the Public Relations Committee to appear in our next issue!

Membership

PROVISIONAL CLASS OF 2017



ANNA VAIL
Abilene, TX

My Reason: To teach my children to be humble, grateful, and generous. I wanted them to learn what serving others looks and feels like.



ASHLEY HICKMAN
Abilene, TX

My Reason: Although I'm an Abilene native, I've learned so much about how my membership in League helps our mission within the community.



ASHLEY SCOTT
Camarillo, CA

My Reason: Our community has so many needs. I enjoy serving alongside women who have a common goal to make a difference.



CARLY ETTER
Abilene, TX

My Reason: I love getting to serve our community alongside women I might have never known without have joining League.



CHEYENNE ZIEMANN
Stratford, TX

My Reason: I love that we, as a League, are always looking for new ways to help support our community and improve on our current projects.



CHRISTIN MCCLAIN
Abilene, TX

My Reason: I grew up around League. I was always amazed by the selfless generosity of its members. Now, I'm proud to be a part too!



CYNTHIA GRANT
Abilene, TX

My Reason: Joining with like minds and collaborating together to accomplish amazing things for the children of our community.



JAMA CADLE
Arlington, TX

My Reason: I was looking for ways to volunteer in the community and to cultivate relationships with other Abilene women.



JESSICA AMBROSE
Irving, TX

My Reason: To better understand my personality, as well as the people around me, in order to work together to achieve success.



KATY MCREYNOLDS
Abilene, TX

My Reason: I love the people. The women are so supportive of each other and every time I have volunteered, there is always someone to talk to!



LAURA MASON
Abilene, TX

My Reason: My friends kept telling me how great JLA was! They were right! I've made new friends and love giving back to the community!



MAGGYE JORDAN
Abilene, TX

My Reason: I wanted to get more involved in the community and serve with an organization that benefits so many people in Abilene.



NELL TEBBETTS
Batesville, AR

My Reason: Abilene has so many resources that I didn't know existed, such as the Abilene Food Bank and Hendrick League House. JLA offers a platform for me to help with these organizations.



PATRICIA GARCIA
Hargill, TX

My Reason: I love being around the other women of JLA. I have gained a heart of gratitude and have learned to live in the present.



RACHEL MOORE
Oxford, MS

My Reason: My confidence has grown in my own instincts during this year. Before joining JLA, I might have felt unqualified to make a decision on how to proceed in this aspect of my life.



STORMI STEED
Canton, TX

My Reason: I've learned how much I truly value the community experience. I hope to improve my leadership skills through JLA to assist those in the Abilene community.

Find Your Reason. Join the Junior League of Abilene.

Mimosas & Mingle

Sunday, April 9, 2017 | 2 o'clock in the afternoon | 774 Butternut St

Join us to find out more about what it means to be an active member of the Junior League of Abilene.

JLA Projects

HIGHLIGHTING OUR COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



PAVE

Providing Assistance and Volunteer Experience (PAVE) is the League's program to support non-profit agencies and outreach programs in Abilene through funding and/or volunteer hours. This year, JLA was able to provide \$8,000 to 13 local organizations: Abilene Community Theatre's Center for Theatre Education, Abilene Performing Arts Company, Betty Hardwick Center, Big Country CASA, Children's Performing Arts Series, Chorus Abilene, Day Nursery of Abilene, Ministry of Counseling and Enrichment, Noah Project, Regional Victim Crisis Center, The Center for Contemporary Arts, The Grace Museum, and West Texas Rehabilitation Center.

CHILDREN'S ART & LITERACY FESTIVAL (C.A.L.F.)

The Junior League of Abilene will continue its partnership with the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council with a \$5,000 contribution to the Children's Art & Literacy Festival (C.A.L.F.) from June 8-10, 2017, in downtown Abilene. This money will sponsor five craft stations as well as festival passes for economically disadvantaged families. In addition to this sponsorship, JLA will continue to provide volunteers for the event.

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

Kids in the Kitchen is an international Junior League program, active in more than 200 communities, which is

designed to educate children and their parents about nutrition and healthy eating. JLA has partnered with local chefs and organizations such as the Abilene Parks and Recreation Department and Abilene Community Theatre to provide classes and videos on the preparation of healthy meals and snacks. Find out more about Kids in the Kitchen by visiting their website at kidsinthekitchen.org.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Through our Community Partners program, 39 children receiving CPS services were provided Christmas gifts. Community Partners also provided funding for four caseworkers, enabling them to meet the needs of the families they serve. Over 1,600 CPS clients are served annually through the Bluebonnet Room, which provides emergency resource items for families served by CPS. These items, such as diapers, car seats, coats, and cribs, can allow a child to remain in the home in a safe environment.

Cordially Invited

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS



RHINESTONE ROUND UP DERBY PARTY

Mark Friday, May 12, on your calendar for the NEW, completely redesigned Rhinestone Round Up Derby party, Western Heritage style! This derby-themed party will be held under an elegant Sperry tent next to the coliseum. Ladies can wear traditional derby hats, derby dresses, and a Texas twist, boots, for in-and-out access to the rodeo. Men can wear traditional derby suits or stay closer to Western heritage roots with cowboy hats and boots. It's Kentucky Derby meets Western Heritage, so anything goes!

While sipping mint juleps, you can enjoy creations by Chef Darren Grace, play racing-themed games, pose for a picture on a Watusi, see the Six White Horses and the Budweiser Clydesdale horses, and dance to the music of a fun party band!

The real Triple Crown Winner of this event will be the children of Abilene! Half of the proceeds will benefit the Junior League's PAVE projects (read more on page 10).

TICKET AND SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

General Admission \$75

General admission individual tickets include two drink tickets and a mint julep ticket.

Rhinestone VIP \$125

VIP tickets include four drink tickets, two mint julep tickets, a ticket to a reserved trailer at the matched horse races on Saturday at 4 p.m., and much more!

Reserved VIP tables of 10 for \$1,200.

Visit westernheritageclassic.com or call 325-677-4376 to buy tickets!



ABILENE GIVES!

Abilene Gives! is a 24-hour online fundraising event hosted by the Community Foundation of Abilene. Established in 1985, the Foundation contributes to the community through grants and scholarships, helps nonprofits further and strengthen their missions, provides leadership for key community issues, and works with donors to make charitable gifts serving the community now and in years to come.

This giving event is designed to empower people to give back to the community by supporting local nonprofit organizations and causes they care about on one easy-to-use platform.

JLA will be focusing efforts to help fight childhood hunger through its Backpacks for Kids program. This year, Backpacks for Kids provided over 2,000 bags of food over the course of the school year to 59 children who wouldn't normally have food on the weekends. One filled "backpack" costs \$4.50, and spending only \$162 will sponsor a student for an entire school year!

MAKE AN ONLINE DONATION

Twenty-four hours of giving begins at 12:00 a.m. on May 2. Don't worry! We'll send you a reminder postcard as the event grows closer. Throughout the day, individuals may view the online profile for the Junior League of Abilene.

To make a gift, visit our Abilene Giving page online at abilenegives.org/designee/junior-league-of-abilene.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
ABILENE

774 Butternut St, Abilene, TX 79602

• SAVE THE DATE •



==== RHINESTONE ROUND UP ====

DERBY PARTY

WESTERN-HERITAGE-STYLE

— MAY — **12** — 2017 —

TAYLOR COUNTY EXPO CENTER

Abilene, Texas

TICKETS:

WWW.WESTERNHERITAGECLASSIC.COM/P/34

OR CALL 325-677-4376