

The Commentator

A PUBLICATION OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ABILENE



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
ABILENE



Farmhouse Christmas
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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.

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A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS:

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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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Welcome

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



2017 has been an exciting year for the Junior League of Abilene. We have taken on a new Community Impact Transformation, which means that Junior League is spending the year looking at the needs in the Abilene community and reevaluating our projects to make sure we are working hard to meet those needs. Our focus will always be on the children of Abilene—that is our vision—but we want to make sure that we are utilizing our resources in the best way possible. We are always looking for input in ways that we can better serve the children of Abilene. If you want to be a part of that conversation, feel free to reach out to us.

2018 is going to be another big year: the 70th anniversary of the creation of Junior

League in Abilene. In 1948, a group of civically minded women created the Abilene Junior Service League to help children. We are the proud legacy of those women and all the women who have come since.

It is a wonderful time to be a part of Junior League of Abilene. We are always looking for women to join. If you are interested in working to help the children in our community, visit our website jrleagueabilene.com and click on “Join.” Come be a part of this amazing legacy!

Kristina Campos Davis

President, Junior League of Abilene



EDITOR'S NOTE

Are you following @jlabilene on social media? We've had an explosion of activity this year thanks to the dedicated efforts of the public relations team. (Thank you to Amelia Carnagey and Ashley Scott!) To keep up with League's activities between issues of *The Commentator*, just find us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram!

Nell Tebbetts

Public Relations Chairman, Junior League of Abilene

JLA Projects

HIGHLIGHTING OUR COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



COMMUNITY PARTNERS Miracle on Vine Street

Through the Community Partners project, the Junior League of Abilene, in collaboration with Community Partners and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (CPS), assists abused and neglected children and their families.

Every November through early December, that assistance is granted through Miracle On Vine Street, a program that provides Christmas gifts to children in the CPS and foster care system in Abilene.

This year, 222 donors provided gifts to 385 children, a significant increase from the 296 children who received gifts in 2016.

Thirty of those donors belonged to the Junior League of Abilene. In all, JLA women made Christmas possible for 57 children.

In addition to the gifts, the Junior League provided 11 of Miracle on Vine Street's 33 volunteers.

PROVISIONAL PROJECT Rhinestone Round Up

The 2017-18 provisional class has taken on quite a project: none other than the storied Western Heritage Classic party, Rhinestone Round Up.



According to New Member Chair Tiffany Loftin: "Provisionals will work closely with the Rhinestone Round Up Board through subcommittees to organize decorations and activities for the guests, as well as recruiting table sponsors and attendees."

JLA began working with the Rhinestone Round Up Board in 2016. In exchange for its assistance, the League receives half of the proceeds from the event.

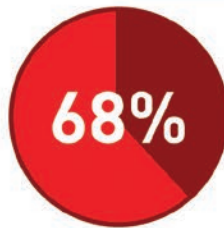
Rhinestone Round Up will take place at the Expo Center on May 11, 2018. Stay tuned for more details about Abilene's favorite party!

Above: Miracle on Vine Street donation drop-off

Center: Cade Browning, Rhinestone Round Up co-chair, speaks with the Junior League of Abilene provisional class

PROGRAM REVIEW:

Backpacks for Kids



of children in AISD receive free or reduced breakfast and/or lunch & likely receive little food outside of that.

One filled "backpack" costs

\$4.99

To feed one child every weekend for a year it costs

\$180

46 AISD children have been fed through this program in 2017

An additional

40 **59** CHILDREN

from surrounding 13 counties wait-lists are now being helped
THANKS TO ABILENE GIVES! ★

\$7,271 Raised May 2nd During ABILENE GIVES

★ 1,457 "backpacks" filled with meals
40 more kids with food on the table

46 + 40 = 86

AISD kids Abilene Gives 2017 TOTAL

The Team

LEAGUE LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Top, L-R:

Treasurer/Finance Director Elizabeth Miller
Diversity Director Miller Loudermilk
Communications Director
& Admissions Chairman Emerald Cassidy
Secretary Mandy Ott
Sustaining Director Sheryl Kendrick
Community Director Taylor Tomanka
Membership Development Director Elyse Lewis

Bottom, L-R:

President-Elect Amy Carnes
President Kristina Campos Davis
Immediate Past President Katie Browning
President Elect-Elect
& Fund Development Chairman Jana Moreno

COMMITTEE & PROJECT CHAIRS

Arrangements, Headquarters, & New Members Tiffany Loftin
Backpacks for Kids Casilea Rodriguez
Children's Art & Literacy Festival (C.A.L.F.) Chephra McKeel
Christmas Carousel Belinda Southall
Community Partners Katy McReynolds
Historian Tifani Smith
Junior Leaders E.J. Jessup & Monica Reid
PAVE Trista Bailey & Erin Poindexter
Public Relations & Commentator Nell Tebbetts
Suds Buds Ashley Hall

Say Cheese

AROUND THE COMMUNITY



WHO'S WHO

1. Kristie McBrayer, Michelle Rainwater, Mandy Ott, Mona Lara, Jenna Dozier, and Amelia Carnagey at Bunco for Breast Cancer 2. Taylor Tomanka, Amy Carnes, Elyse Lewis, Mandy Ott, Emerald Cassidy, Elizabeth Miller, and Sheryl Kendrick at the Celebrate the Arts in Abilene Luncheon 3. Mandy Ott and Kristina Campos Davis at the Grace Gala 4. Courtney Ramsey and Jenna Dozier backstage at Fashions for the Cure Style Show 5. Amy Gonzales, Rachael Hubbard, Katy McReynolds, Elizabeth McAnally, Kristina Campos Davis, Tabitha Coffman, and Kelsey Newman volunteering at Child Protective Services 6. Miller Loudermilk and Amy Carnes volunteering at the Cattle Baron's Ball 7. Emerald Cassidy and Geraldine Wills volunteering for the Day Nursery of Abilene 8. Cynthia Corrae, Carly Etter, Anna Vail, Laura Mason, and Christin McClain at Rhinestone Round Up



CHRISTMAS CAROUSEL

Farmhouse

CHRISTMAS



NOVEMBER 2-5, 2017
ABILENE CONVENTION CENTER



WHO'S WHO

(L-R) Nell Tebbetts, *Marketing*; Melissa Strain, *Merchants*; Haley Tabor, *Events*; Casilea Rodriguez, *Treasurer*; Kendall Harrison, *Tickets/Reservations*; Jessica Ambrose, *Decorations*; Rachel Harred, *Hospitality*; Raechel Walton, *Assistant Chairman*; Belinda Southall, *Chairman*; Jennifer Harrison, *Style Show*; Tiffany Davis, *Café*; Anna Vail, *Style Show*; Cynthia Corrae, *Decorations*; Geraldine Wills, *Style Show*; Jenna Hall, *Tickets/Reservations*; Michelle Rainwater, *Events*; Britt Willis, *Merchants* (**Not Pictured**) Jamie Belz, *Sustaining Advisor*; Paula Fiel, *Sustaining Advisor*; Liz Henderson, *Café*; Chesley Martin, *Sustaining Advisor*; Meghan Martin, *Events*; Cassie Ohlhausen, *Sustaining Advisor*; Mandy Ott, *Marketing*; Cindy Ramsey, *Sustaining Advisor*; Courtney Ramsey, *Decorations*

Christmas at the Farmhouse

During the first weekend of November, thousands of shoppers enjoyed the comfort and coziness of a rustic Texas farmhouse at the Junior League of Abilene's 37th annual Christmas Carousel, Farmhouse Christmas.

Events this year included Evening at the Silos and Silo-bration (a night of preview shopping with an all-new after party), All Fixed Up (style show and luncheon), Running Ship-Laps (5K and 1-mile fun run), Fresh Off the Farm (brunch with Santa), and, of course, Farmhouse Market Hall.

Christmas Carousel is the Junior League of Abilene's main fundraiser. Every dollar raised through ticket sales and donations directly funds both JLA's community projects and other local non-profits through JLA's PAVE program.

Final numbers are still being calculated for Farmhouse Christmas. Last year's Christmas Carousel, A Frozen Affair, raised gross proceeds of \$118,000.



Silo-bration



All Fixed Up



Running Ship-Laps



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
ABILENE

774 Butternut St, Abilene, TX 79602

Save the Date

JUNE 7-9, 2018

CHILDREN'S ART & LITERACY FESTIVAL



Celebrating Illustrator

OLIVER JEFFERS



Downtown Abilene • www.abilenecalf.com

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The Storybook Capital of Texas will celebrate all things illustrated by Oliver Jeffers 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** will be participating in this community-wide event!