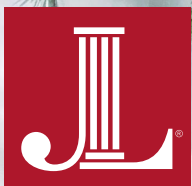


WINTER 2020

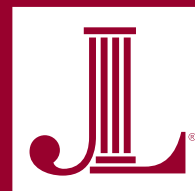
# The Commentator

A PUBLICATION OF THE 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 January 1, 2020

### ON COVER:

JLA Member Tiffany Smith captured this photo in the final hours of Christmas Carousel prep before the doors opened for the Preview Party on Thursday, October 31.

## Hours of Operation

### Hours of Operation


Monday and Wednesday  
11 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

Thank you to everyone who made Christmas Carousel 2019 a huge success! I am immensely proud of all the Christmas Carousel Chairs and Committee members, especially Jenna Hall, our 2019 Christmas Carousel Chair!

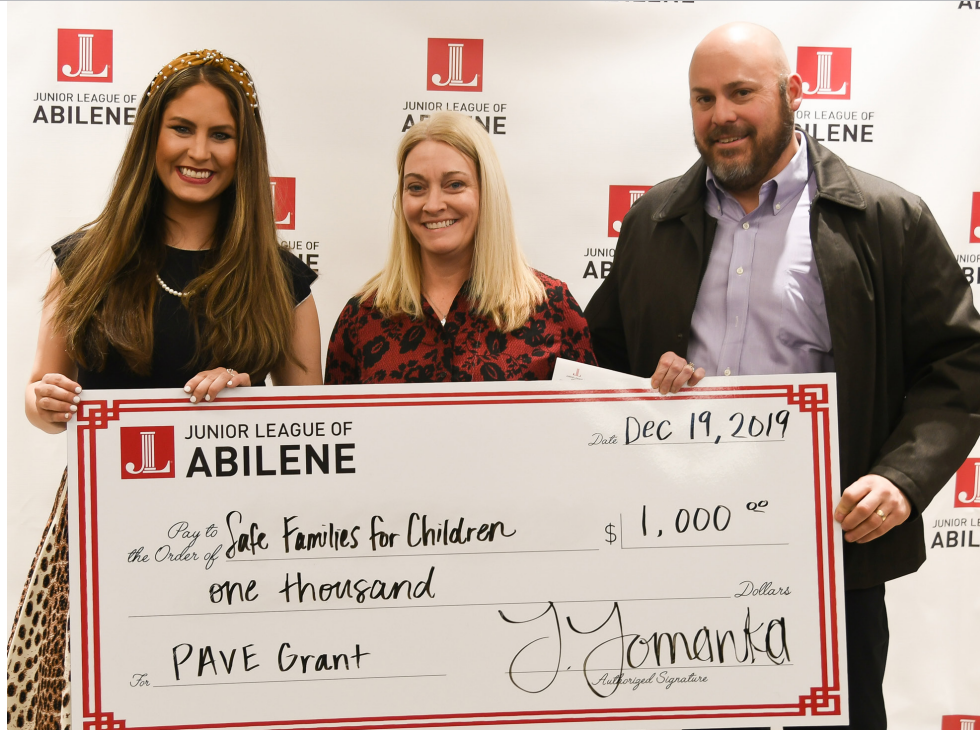
The fundraising event's success went well beyond just dollar signs and feet in the door. By the time the delivery ramp door closed on November 3rd, we had already signed up 19 vendors and made more than \$10,725 toward next year's Carousel income. Within the week after Carousel, we had six potential new members ask for more information about our spring recruitment socials and how to join the Junior League. Lastly, "Brunch with Santa" has gotten so popular that it has outgrown its current space! Of course, as we start to tally profits versus expenses, actual numbers do matter. Competing with Halloween this year, our Preview Party "Farewell to Fall" was the only ticketed event that didn't out sell last year's ticket sales. Market Hall on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday saw around 4,500 shoppers including almost 300 kids (12 and under) and 1,111 first responders and/or teachers.

In the spring, we have Rhinestone RoundUp and Abilene Gives, as well as plenty of volunteer hours and leadership training planned. We hope you will join us!

With Love,

*Taylor R. Tomanka*

2019-20 President, Junior League of Abilene



*Taylor Tomanka presenting a check to Safe Families for Children at the PAVE presentation ceremony in December. During this event, Junior League of Abilene presented \$10,000 to 11 organizations in Abilene.*

### EDITORS' NOTE

2019 was another year for the books as our volunteer efforts only continued to grow throughout the Abilene community. It's an honor to share the incredible stories of the Junior League of Abilene with you!

*Mollie Branch + Megan Longmire*

PR/Commentator Chairs, Junior League of Abilene





# JLA Projects

## 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.

In December, the Junior League of Abilene hosted a presentation ceremony where a total of \$10,000 was presented to the following organizations: BCFS Health and Human Services of Abilene, Big Country CASA, The Grace Museum, Ministry of Counseling and Enrichment, Pregnancy Resources of Abilene, Safe Families for Children of Abilene, Salvation Army, Upside Down Club of Abilene, West Texas Rehab Center (Pediatrics), Young Audiences of Abilene, and Day Nursery of Abilene.



📷: Tiffany Smith, Whimsy Smith Photography

### CAREPACK

CarePack for Kids is a new collaboration between the Junior League of Abilene and Love & Care Ministries in order to provide food to children in need during weekends and holidays for 42 weeks out of the school year. One filled "pack" for one week of food costs \$3.50. To feed a hungry child each weekend during the school year is only \$150.

Almost 73% of children within AISD receive free or reduced breakfast and lunch every single day of the school year. CarePack ensures these students don't go hungry on weekends and holiday breaks.



📷 **WHO'S WHO** FRONT, L-R: Eleanor Jara, Kenna Grace Brown, Jordan Smith, Jayden Smith; BACK, L-R: Sara McBeth, Tiffany Smith, Melynie Chavez, Erica Jara, Danaka Chavez, Brittany Brown, Sarah Thomas, Victoria Aguirre, Bria Varner, Jenna Hall, Rachael Hubbard

SAVE THE DATE

FOR

# Rhinestone Round Up

**when:**

FRIDAY, MAY 8

**where:**

TAYLOR COUNTY  
EXPO CENTER

**theme/attire:**

WESTERN GLAM

**contact:**

KASEY JOHNSON

FOR MORE INFO

MORE INFO WILL BE SHARED ON  
THE JLA SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES SOON!



# The Team

## LEAGUE LEADERSHIP

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Taylor Tomanka  
President



Belinda Southall  
President-Elect



Tiffany Loftin  
President-Elect-Elect



Amy Carnes  
Past President



Jessica Ambrose  
Secretary



Emerald Cassidy  
Communications  
Director



Amy Gonzales  
Community Director



Jenna Hall  
Christmas  
Carousel



Kenna Hogan  
Diversity Director



Chesley Martin  
Membership Development



Casilea Rodriguez  
Treasurer/Finance  
Director

NOT PICTURED: Kari Polk, Sustaining Director

### COMMITTEE & PROJECT CHAIRS

Admissions.....	Meghan Martin & Elizabeth McAnally
Arrangements.....	Cornelia Alvarez & Laura Gabso
CarePacks for Kids.....	Misti Hauger & Bria Varner
C.A.L.F.....	Brittany Brown
Community Partners.....	Nicole Eaves & Anna Peters
Headquarters.....	Mandy Ott
Homeless Youth.....	Estefania Hobson
New Members/Provisionals.....	Meghan Martin & Elizabeth McAnally
Junior Leaders.....	Ashley Jacques & Tiffany Smith
PAVE.....	E.J. Jessup & Katy McReynolds
PR & Commentator.....	Mollie Branch & Megan Longmire
Research & Development.....	Amber Coonrod
Rhinestone Round Up.....	Kasey Johnson
Suds Buds.....	Tiffany Davis



# Say Cheese

## AROUND THE COMMUNITY



### 📷 WHO'S WHO

1. Reindeer Run 5K awarded the top runners. This event was chaired by Elizabeth McAnally and the 2019-2020 Provisional Class.
2. Walmart of Abilene on Southwest Drive donated \$1,000 to the Junior League of Abilene.
3. Jenna Hall, 2019 Christmas Carousel Chairman, and Emerald Cassidy, Christmas Carousel Assistant Chairman, celebrated a successful Christmas Carousel with the rest of the committee in December. Britt Willis will chair the 2020 Christmas Carousel.
4. The 2019-2020 Provisional Class hosted a successful Reindeer Run 5K December 7 in downtown Abilene.
5. Every other week, members come together to pack CarePacks for Kids, which are delivered to area schools every Thursday.
6. + 7. Junior Leaders also lend a helping hand with packing the CarePacks for Kids.
8. Members of the 2019-2020 Provisional Class thanking one of the many sponsors of the Reindeer Run 5K, Blaise Regan from Six Brothers Brewery located in downtown Abilene.





## WHO'S WHO

**FRONT, L-R:** Haley Tabor, Decorations Co-Chair; Mary Klein, Decorations Co-Chair; Chephra McKee, Decorations Co-Chair; Carly Etter, Merchants Co-Chair; Christin McClain, Merchants Co-Chair; Jyl Schoen, Concessions Co-Chair; Kendall Harrison, Tickets Co-Chair; Jenna Dozier, Auction/Raffle Chair; **BACK, L-R:** Erica Jara, Treasurer; Rachael Hubbard, Marketing Co-Chair; Charity Shaver, Events Co-Chair; Kristi Allgood, Merchants Co-Chair; Kendra Chowning, Hospitality Co-Chair; Emily Jacques, Style Show Co-Chair; Emerald Cassidy, Assistant Chair; Jenna Hall, Chair; Britt Willis, Assistant Chair; Mattie DeVries, Style Show Co-Chair; Alicia English, Tickets Co-Chair; Precilla Camacho, Events Co-Chair; Geraldine Wills, Events Co-Chair; Kacey Stanfield, Marketing Co-Chair; Sara McBeth, Concessions Co-Chair  
Not pictured: Crystal Cox, Hospitality Co-Chair; and Amanda Biles, Tickets Co-Chair



The 39th Junior League of Abilene's Annual Christmas Carousel came and went too quickly. And, while the trees, snow, woodland creatures, lights and garland are all stored away, the feeling of support from the community still lingers heavily among our organization. Waltzing in a Winter Wonderland's kick-off had a fierce competitor in ghouls, ghosts & goblins, but bidding "A Farewell to Fall" made for a fitting addition to Halloween traditions. It included live music from Kirk House, tasty, rustic fare from ACU Catering, and of course, shopping. Friday kicked off with a great line up of Abilene's finest "Strutting in the Snow", donning stylish Dillard's attire.

"Brunch with Santa in the Storybook Capital of America" on Saturday morning helped ease the whole family into the Christmas Spirit with an appearance from Santa Claus, a narration of *An Otis Christmas* by Loren Long (2020 C.A.L.F. featured artist), face paintings and a petting zoo on the lawn. Market Hall, "The Enchanted Forest", welcomed more than 50 merchants who provided the ultimate shopping experience for almost 5,000 people over the course of the weekend. Thank you to the 2019 Christmas Carousel Committee who outdid themselves in every aspect of making this event spectacular. This would not be possible without the support from the great Abilene community. Thank you for your support in helping us fulfill our mission!

*Jenna Hall*

2019 Christmas Carousel Chairman



774 Butternut St, Abilene, TX 79602

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★

— ABILENE —  
**GIVES** ★  
— MAY 5, 2020 —

Abilene Gives is a 24-hour online giving event to support non-profit organizations in Abilene and the surrounding areas.



**Check for upcoming news on how you can provide continued support for the Junior League of Abilene through a gift in May!**