

# stabletalk

A PUBLICATION OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LAKE CHARLES, INC.



# from the editor

TIFFANY HESTER



The 2021- 2022 League year started with lingering uncertainty as we held our first General Meeting virtually but come October, we were finally able to host our first in-person meeting in over 17 months. In true JLLC form, we overcame those initial challenges and turned it into a record-breaking year.

After two years of an ongoing pandemic, two major hurricanes, a severe winter weather event, and historic flooding, we were able to host all three of our major fundraisers: Casino Night (although rescheduled, it happened!), Mistletoe & Moss, and Touch-A-Truck! Each one of these brought about unprecedented success.

The JLLC's fundraising success translated into expanded community programs when we were originally concerned about needing to make budget cuts to account for over a year without income. Our members were once again able to build a better community.

It's refreshing that we will get to finish out this fantastic League year in celebration at our May Meeting! Celebrating all the women who have put in so much time SERVING OUR COMMUNITY!

As we close this league year, I hope each of you accepts the congratulations of a phenomenal year and take advantage of the summer break. Rest, relax, and get ready to do great things next year.



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## table of contents

- 03 Letter from the President
- 04 Community Advisory Board
- 06 Sustainer Update
- 07 Pirate's Pantry
- 08 Provisional Update
- 09 Diversity & Inclusion
- 09 This is Home Fest
- 10 Snack Sacks - Food Insecurity
- 10 CASA
- 11 Pause for a Cause
- 11 Grants & Scholarships
- 12 Literacy
- 13 Mistletoe & Moss
- 14 Casino Night
- 15 Touch-A-Truck
- 16 Donor Recognition
- 17 Around Town
- 18 2022-2023 Incoming Slate
- 19 May Meeting Invitation
- 19 Shop for a Cause

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The Junior League of Lake Charles, Inc., is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**LAKE CHARLES**

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# president's letter



“There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish.” – Michelle Obama

At the start of this League year, I honestly didn't know what to expect as we were and still are living in an ever-changing world. The women of JLLC were finally back together and ready to grow and strengthen alongside our community. We were in a holding pattern long enough, so it didn't take long for our members to hit the ground running. We truly embraced our “Homegrown” theme and set out to help better our community and meet the needs of its' people. We definitely met some challenges along the way, but in true Junior League fashion, we met those challenges head on and found a way to make it all happen. The drive and spirit of our members and leaders is truly what made this League year a success.

Due to the outstanding work by the Management Team, especially our Fund Development and Communications Teams, the League showcased a concrete model for fundraising with a novel Public Relations plan. And for the first time, we had a Title Sponsor for all three of our fundraiser events and a League Corporate Champion Circle sponsor along with numerous different levels of sponsorships and donations. Mistletoe & Moss, Casino Night, and Touch-A-Truck were true success stories! All three committees poured their hearts into making these events truly memorable. All of their hard work and fundraising efforts allowed us to greatly increase our community involvement. We were able to put our Fit Kids program back in Oak Park and College Oaks. Read for the Record was back in 39 local schools, and we started Read for the Record Live this year. We purchase 214 Christmas gifts for Salvation Army Angels and gave away over 3,000 books to children in the five-parish region. Our Program Development Chair teamed up with Partners in Parks to create a free STEM activity for local children along with creating “Pause for the Cause” where we collected socks for the homeless and dental hygiene products for our youth. We prepared foster care bags and donated diapers to ABC Pregnancy Center. The Literacy committee purchased 10 new American Girl Dolls for our AGD Read to Your Doll program in our public library and are once again offering Literacy Nights with our local Head Start Schools. We distributed over 1,500 Touch-A-Truck tickets to CPSB schools, The Boys and Girls Club, St. Nicholas Center, and Harbor House. We donated 50 car seats and hosted a Click It or Ticket Car Seat Check. Our biggest gain came through our Snack Sacks program where we increased our distribution from 700 local students to 1,960! We are sponsoring the Kids Corner at This is Home Fest and donated \$10,000.00 to the CASA Program at Family & Youth. The list of this year's achievements really goes on and on and the year isn't over yet.

As I begin to close out my year as President, I do it with a huge smile on my face and gratitude in my heart. Watching our members grow and develop as women and become more confident in what they are each capable of doing has truly been the best part of my JLLC career. I will forever be dedicated to our League and the women that inspire me every day.

#jllchomegrown

*Hillary Green*

Hillary Green

2021-2022 President

# community advisory board

## 2021-2022

### MEDIA – ERICA MCCREEDY

Erica is a native of Lake Charles and is passionate about the arts, culture, and history of Southwest Louisiana. Erica graduated from Louisiana State University with a Bachelor of Arts and then returned home where she graduated from McNeese State University with a Master of Arts and Master of Fine Arts. She was the Executive Director of the Arts Council of SWLA for three years before entering the marketing and public relations field.



Currently she is the Public Relations Specialist for First Federal Bank of LA. Erica is an avid volunteer for arts organizations and nonprofits around the region and coordinates the annual Living History Cemetery Tour in Lake Charles on behalf of the Arts Council of SWLA. She serves on the boards of Lake Area Ballet Theatre, Calcasieu Historic Preservation Society, and Mae's Mission, is a member of the SWLA Public Relations Officers, and is the current Chair of the Women's Business Network.

### BUSINESS - MICHAEL HANKINS

Michael has spent most of his life in the Lake Charles area. As a Barbe High School graduate in 1999 and a Tulane University graduate in 2003, Michael returned permanently to Lake Charles in 2007. He founded and runs Hankins Development, a real estate development firm focusing on single tenant and multi-tenant net leased assets.



Community service has been important to Michael throughout his life beginning with the Tulane Association of Business Alumni Community Service Award while attending Tulane University. He is currently on the Alliance for Positive Growth Board on which he's served since 2017 and acted as president in 2019 and 2020. He is a board member and Treasurer for the Southwest Louisiana Youth Foundation and currently serves as Vice Chair for the Family & Youth, a board on which he's served since 2017 and will serve as Chairman for 2022. Michael is married to Kari Couch Hankins and they have three children, Caroline (13), Davis (11), and Everett (8). His family enjoys outdoor activities including bike riding and waterskiing.

### ART – DEVAN CORBELLO



Devan was born and raised in Iowa, Louisiana, and is a current resident of Lake Charles. For all of his career, Devan has worked in the nonprofit sector, starting at Family & Youth as outreach coordinator, then moving on to serving at the Regional Director for the American Heart Association until 2019 when accepted the role of Executive Director of the Arts & Humanities Council of SWLA.

He founded his men's clothing store, Corbello's Menswear in 2018. He serves as the development co-chair for the Fusion Five Board and is the Events Co-Chair for 2021, he is also the education and programming chair of the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts. Outside of those obligations, he spends his time attending the Lake Area's various fundraising events and activities.

### INDUSTRY - NATE JOHNSON



Nate, originally from Dunlap, TN, received his BS in Chemical Engineering from Tennessee Technological University and MBA from Mississippi State University. He began his career with Georgia Gulf Chemicals (ultimately acquired by Westlake Chemical) in Aberdeen, MS and relocated to Southwest Louisiana in early 2012.

He has held positions of increasing responsibility within the company's manufacturing and commercial organizations and currently serves as the Manufacturing Manager – North American Chloralkali & Derivatives. Nate has served on the Monroe County (MS) United Way Board of Directors, as the Vice-Chair of Axiall's Community Involvement organization, on the SWLA Chamber of Commerce Board, and completed the SWLA Leadership program. He resides in Carlyss with his wife Beth and children Kailee, Riggs, and Declan.

**THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD IS COMPRISED OF LEADERS IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE SWLA COMMUNITY. ITS PURPOSE IS TO ADVISE THE LEAGUE AS WE SEEK TO CARRY OUT OUR MISSION AND VISION. THE BOARD ALSO SELECTS THE RECIPIENT OF THE DELLA KRAUSE THIELEN VOLUNTEERISM AWARD.**

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE – TAREK POLITE**

Mr. Polite is a native of New Iberia, Louisiana where he attended elementary, middle, and high school. He is a graduate of McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana and Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas.



Mr. Polite is employed by the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury where he has worked for over 25 years.

He began his career with the Police Jury's Housing Department in 1993 serving as Section 8 Coordinator. He accepted a position with the Human Resources Department where he served as Training & Compliance Coordinator. In 2005, he was promoted to Coordinator of Federal Program Development. In 2011, he was promoted to Director of Human Services with overall responsible for all the Police Jury's federally funded grant programs. Mr. Polite is also a licensed real estate agent and actively serves on many non-profit and community-based organizations.

### **HEALTH – DR. MELISSA RASBERRY**

Melissa Rasberry, M.D., is a family medicine physician specializing in the primary care needs of adults and children. Dr. Rasberry, a Creole, Louisiana native, graduated from Louisiana State University in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science degree in kinesiology.



She earned a medical degree from the Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans in 2009 and completed the three-year Memorial/LSUHSC Family Medicine Residency Program in Lake Charles; focusing on internal medicine and its subspecialties, pediatrics, surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, emergency medicine, psychiatry and community medicine.

Dr. Rasberry is board certified and is a member of the American Association of Family Physicians, American College of Physicians and Calcasieu Parish Medical Society.

### **EDUCATION – DR. CHARLES STEWART**



Dr. Charles Stewart is the Dean of Arts and Sciences at SOWELA Technical Community College where he still occasionally teaches mathematics.

He is currently the Vice-President of the Southwest Louisiana Teachers of Mathematics (SWLTM) and of the Calcasieu Soccer Club (CSC).

He is also a board member of Junior Achievement of SWLA. He received a B.A. and M.A. in mathematics with a concentration in statistics from McNeese State University and a Ed.D. in educational leadership from Lamar University.

## **DELLA KRAUSE THIELEN VOLUNTEERISM AWARD**

Since 1994, the Della Krause Thielen Voluntearism Award has been given to honor an individual's or organization's exceptional and sustained contributions through voluntarism. This award, established by Della K. Thielen's family and administered through the Junior League of Lake Charles, Inc., embodies Mrs. Thielen's own outstanding commitment to voluntarism.

### **Ex Officio Members:**

Accountant - Anne Collette  
Legal - Aubrey White

### **Honorary Member:**

City of Lake Charles - Mayor Nic Hunter

### **Not Pictured:**

Clergy - Pastor Christopher Trombatore  
Financial - Todd Blanchard



# sustaining our mission

AN UPDATE FROM OUR JLLC SUSTAINERS

**STEPHANIE KESTEL KARPOVS**  
*Sustainer Liaison Chair*

The Sustainer Liaison Committee serves as a bridge between Active members and those women who have moved into Sustainer status (eligible after eight years of League service). For some, that means serving as an advisor, mentoring League members, developing our leadership, and training volunteers. For others, that means supporting our League by attending fundraising events, sponsorships, donating items or time for workshifts, paying dues, and using their knowledge and skills to strengthen other areas of the community. For all Sustainers, that means sustaining our mission: promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community.

What has that looked like during a global pandemic and in the aftermath of historic weather events? We have had to adapt as we go and pause some beloved traditions. But, one thing is certain: we are better together! We are still building better communities, whether we have been physically together or socially distanced. We were grateful to gather at Mistletoe and Moss at a fall social and assist with working shifts at the cookbook table. Thanks to the generosity of our Sustainers, we were able to provide all of the cookies and icing for the Cookies with Santa events. That meant more money could go back to our community projects, supplying books and snack sacks to local children.



We will have our first traditional Sustainer social in two years at the end of April. Friendships and shared experiences are a way to keep connected to the League. One way we've done that is with our closed Facebook group for Sustainers. We have been able to share photos and cheer each other on as well as announce important League news. We will return to honoring a Sustainer who has gone above and beyond in League service and has been integral in branching out to grow our community. The Sustainer of the Year will be announced at our Annual Meeting in May! In the coming months, we will continue to find ways to make a meaningful impact in the lives of others. Congratulations to our newest Sustaining members!



# Pirate's Pantry

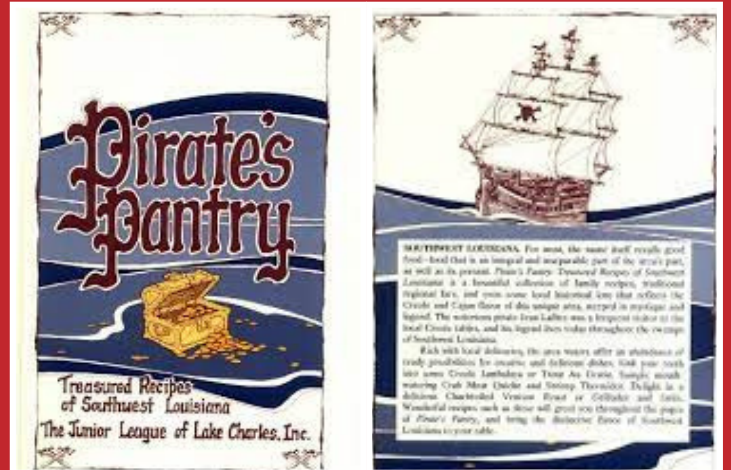
## 45th Anniversary

Forty-five years ago, a dedicated group of women published this classic cookbook, which has become a staple in many homes in Louisiana and across the United States. I wonder if these ladies knew the impact that they would have when they were working on this book. The production of Pirate's Pantry represents three years of determination and hard work. The acknowledgments page at the front of this cookbook explains how these ladies had a dream. They worked tirelessly to compile the recipes that make up this classic cookbook. Each recipe was tested and edited to assure excellence and quality. Recipes were excluded, some were refined, and in the end, the final product was a well-rounded variety of excellent recipes. After three years of hard work, the cookbook was published, sold, and processed, benefiting the Junior League of Lake Charles. Forty-five years later, this book is still one of the top-selling Junior League cookbooks. Pirate's Pantry is rated among the country's top ten Junior League cookbooks. This cookbook has sold more than 100,000 copies since its first printing in 1976. The cookbook, published by Pelican Publishing, continues to support our community with the royalties received through sales. Forty-five years later, these ladies' dream is still impacting our community with the sales of these cookbooks. In honor of the 45th anniversary of Pirate's Pantry, they were available for purchase at Mistletoe and Moss this past November and sold out of 75 cookbooks. The Junior League Centennial Cookbook, a collection of recipes from 200 Junior Leagues, recently featured recipes from Pirate's Pantry.

Copies of Pirates Pantry are available for purchase at Expressions or online from the publisher through Amazon.com.



**CASSADY HICKINGBOTTOM**  
BEST Publications Member





# provisional update

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEAGUE LEADERS

**JULIE ESTE-MCDONALD**  
*Provisionals Chair*

The annual Provisional Welcome Reception was held on March 20, 2022, at the home of Sustainer Chelsi Barfield. We had over 60 women express interest in joining the Junior League of Lake Charles. The Welcome Reception attendance resulted in a full house! Our President-Elect, Erika Doshier, Membership Director, Carrie LaFargue, and 2022-2023 Provisionals Chair Kari Casey educated our potential provisional members about the requirements and calendar for the upcoming provisional year. We were fortunate to host women from a variety of backgrounds, professions, age groups, and ethnicities. Our 2022-2023 Provisionals committee will be working diligently to make the next provisional year a fantastic year!

## 2022-2023 provisionals advisors



**KARI CASEY**  
*Assistant Chair*

Starting the 2021-2022 league year was full of uncertainty, but also full of hope. Challenges having to do with Covid, natural disasters, and a smaller than normal provisional class may have deterred some from stepping up, but not this group of outstanding women. Every curveball that was thrown their way was handled with determination and grace. I could not be prouder of this group of provisionals and provisional advisors. I know each and every one of them will move on to accomplish incredible things!



**HOPE BUFORD**  
*Advisor*

*This year was a year of easing back into some normalcy, and our Provisionals were ready and willing from the start! Every one in this group were eager to learn about our league and jump in wherever they were needed. I am honored to have been a part of this provisional year, and I can't wait to see the impact each one of these ladies makes in our league and our community.*



**MONICA FONTENOT**  
*Advisor*

This year I was honored to be a provisional advisor; this group of women are truly special. Initially, I had some reservations about being an advisor, but we were all able to grow together and learn from one another. This class of provisionals have stepped up to the plate to meet the challenges through out this 2021-2022 league year. These women will truly be great assets to the league and our community! I look forward to seeing them grow into the next League leaders.



**KATIE FOURNET**  
*Advisor*

*This past year for incoming provisionals was full of unknowns. Between the spikes of COVID and the ongoing recovery from natural disasters, the incoming ladies we are welcoming into our league this year rose to every occasion with new ideas and giving hearts. It was inspiring to work with these women and see their spark for volunteerism in our community strengthen throughout their provisional year. I look forward to witnessing the amazing contributions the Provisional Class of 2021-2022 will add to our League and SWLA!*





**ERIKA DOSHIER**  
*President Elect*

The Southwest Louisiana Martin Luther King Jr. Festival returned this year after a hiatus due to Covid-19. The MLK Festival honors the fearless effort of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This year's theme was "The road to freedom is a difficult road. It always makes for temporary setbacks."

The JLLC had the privilege of attending this year's MLK brunch that honors local community heroes. The recipient of the 2022 Faye Brown Blackwell Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Percival Kane.

We thank the festival committee for including the Junior League of Lake Charles at such a valuable event.

# diversity & inclusion

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND BELONGING



# this is home fest

**BUILDING COMMUNITY AND AWARENESS**

In fall 2021, a pop-up This is Home Fest began temporarily in place of Chuck Fest to have an outdoor opportunity to bring the community together. That "pop up" festival allowed them to donate over \$12,600 to the Arts and Humanities Council. JLLC members educated the community about membership, impact, events, and facilitate children's activities with The Children's Museum at the fall 2021 This is Home Fest. A vision was born to have an annual, large festival but move it to the spring to bring our hometown together.

Thanks to a successful Mistletoe and Moss Market, the League is participating on a larger scale at This is Home Fest on May 14, 2022 and is sponsoring the Kids Zone. GymFit Baton Rouge is providing circus arts and exercise activities for children. Our Literacy Committee is handing out 1,000 books to children. Each book chosen promotes emotional well-being, diversity, and increased self-esteem. Two activities will be offered to children that correspond with the theme of the books: drawing their emotions and color/painting their faces. We are also marketing the League's upcoming events, membership opportunities, and showcasing information on what the League does, signage, and awareness materials showcasing our projects. All members are encouraged to join us from 12 - 5 pm for a social opportunity near our League tent and Kids Zone. We hope to see you there!



**ELOISE PRUITT**  
*Executive Vice President*



# snack sacks

ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY DURING SCHOOL BREAKS

**JENNIFER PUGH**  
*Community Outreach Chair*

Across Louisiana, programs provide free snacks and meals to low-income households throughout the community during after-school hours to reach and feed more children facing hunger and food insecurity. In recent years, the Junior League of Lake Charles has become more aware of the ever-growing need for additional food sustenance during holiday breaks. Since many children in our community qualify for free or reduced breakfast and lunch during the school time, what happens to those students during holiday breaks when they no longer have access to those meals?

Through our "Snack Sack" program, the Junior League of Lake Charles helps to provide children with a snack bag full of nutritious, child-friendly items to help curb their hunger during those long periods until they can receive those meals from school.

During Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks, Community Outreach was able to service four schools by giving out a total of almost 1,000 bags. For Easter, we were able to expand and provide snack sacks to five schools: Brentwood, JD Clifton, Combre-Fondel, Ralph Wilson and the newly added Pearl Watson Elementary.

***In 2021-2022, the Community Outreach Committee will distribute more than 2,100 bags to schools across Calcasieu Parish over Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter breaks.***



# \$10,000 program grant

**SUSTAINING TWO LEGACY PROGRAMS**

In 1970, the Junior League of Lake Charles established the Family & Youth Counseling Agency, whose mission is to provide affordable and professional support through programs and services dedicated to advocacy, counseling, and education for the people in Southwest Louisiana. In 1999, the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), a project of the League, became one of the divisions of Family & Youth. CASA's mission is to advocate for children a part of the foster care system. The mission of CASA is for children in foster care to be placed in a safe and loving home. The impact these legacy programs have made on our community has been profound. This year we presented a \$10,000 donation to our Legacy program CASA, A Division of Family & Youth. The Junior League of Lake Charles will continue to strive to improve our community through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

The grant was enabled through the interest from a \$100,000 endowment that the Junior League of Lake Charles, Inc. established with the Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana in 2019. Through this fund, which is administered by Community Foundation director/former JLLC president Sara Judson, the League can continue supporting its legacy programs without impacting cashflow or the operations of current JLLC projects.



Pictured: EVP, Eloise Pruitt, and President-Elect, Erika Doshier, presenting grant to Family & Youth President & CEO, Julio Galan.



# pause for a cause

IMPROVING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH EFFECTIVE ACTION

CAMEO GREEN  
Program Development



This year, we wanted to institute a few small projects that would coincide with the mission of JLLC by “improving the community through effective action”. **“Pause for a Cause” would take place at our General Meetings** and allow the ladies of the league to give something small that would make a huge difference in the community we all hold near and dear to our hearts. It was decided that we would make three opportunities available this year.

In October, “Socktober” was implemented. Socks are one of the most sought-after items at homeless shelters during the winter months. **We were able to collect over 250 pairs of socks.** A small act of love, such as donating a pair of socks, can make a big difference in the lives of our neighbors who are homeless.

February is **National Dental Hygiene Awareness** month. With many residents unable to afford dental visits, it is important to raise the importance of good oral health. We collected and were able to provide toothbrushes and toothpaste to those individuals. All the items collected in October & February were donated to the Calcasieu Multipurpose Center to assist with their efforts to help our growing homeless population.

Our last “Pause for a Cause” will take place during our May General Meeting. **Members will be encouraged to bring Menstrual Hygiene items (pads, tampons, & wipes) to help promote proper menstrual hygiene.** For many young girls and women, it is a struggle to afford essential items needed during their menstrual cycle. Some young girls and women miss school or work due to not having the items they need monthly. By providing free pads & tampons, we help to improve the lives of impoverished females.

**Let's continue to give small but make a BIG difference.**



# grants & scholarships

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND FACILITATING GROWTH IN SWLA LEARNING

MELISSA COX  
Grants & Scholarships Chair



The Junior League of Lake Charles awards the Branch Out and Grow Scholarship to high school female seniors each Spring across our five-parish area. Our goal is to recognize and assist young women who have demonstrated qualities of leadership, community engagement, and confidence in working towards a brighter future. The Branch Out and Grow Scholarship gives young female leaders a change to learn about community organizations such as the Junior League while at the same time giving them a platform to share their experiences with how they have made an impact on their community. An estimated \$10,000 will be awarded to these talented young women this Spring. Additional information on the application and this year's winners can be found on the JLLC website.



# literacy council

ENCOURAGING EARLY LITERACY

MARCELL GRAY  
Literacy Chair

## Literacy Family Night

We were so excited for our Literacy Family Night events this year. Annually, the Junior League of Lake Charles Inc. helps area pre-schools or Head starts with their Family Literacy event by providing refreshments, prizes, activities and volunteers to work the event! This year we were able to extend our reach to include JD Clifton Head start, Brenda Hunter Head start and College Oaks pre-kindergarten. Literacy Family Night event's not only work to promote literacy, but also allow the children to have the opportunity to share their newly developed literacy experiences. The family can interact together, enriching their relationship through reciprocal learning that takes place, enabling them to become true partners in education.



## American Girl Doll Project

American Girl books offer a wide range of books to entertain and educate children. The JLLC partnered with the Calcasieu Parish Library a few years ago to provide American Girls with their book for children to check-out. This year the JLLC donated ten new American Girl dolls to the library. This helps to promote literacy to the children in our community.

## Read for the Record

The Junior League of Lake Charles, Inc. was proud to participate again this year in the annual Read for the Record event. Read for the Record was started by Jumpstart, a national early education organization. The goal of Read for the Record is to have children from around the world reading the exact same book on the same day to promote early literacy. Early literacy focuses on children from ages birth to five, giving them access to early education programs in the hopes to better prepare them upon their entry into kindergarten.

This year's Read for the Record selection was, *Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon* by Kat Zhan. In this sweet and brightly illustrated picture book, Amy Wu must craft a dragon unlike any other to share with her class at school. Read for the Record was held on October 28, 2021.

The Junior League of Lake Charles had 31 volunteers, including local celebrities- Robbie Austin, Coach Jason Oertling, District Attorney Steven Dwight, Dr. Shannon LaFargue, Cynthia Arceneaux, Mayor Nic Hunter, DeSean Smith, Bobbie Holmes. Due to continued COVID concerns, most volunteers completed a video reading the book to distribute to all CPSB schools. Promoting literacy in our area is an important part of the Junior League's mission and we hope to continue this amazing event in the future.





**JORDAN SMITH**  
*Mistletoe & Moss Chair*

# mistletoe & moss

BRINGING HOLIDAY JOY TO SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA



**KRISTI SATTERLA**  
*Mistletoe & Moss Chair*

After a cancelled market in 2020 due to two devastating hurricanes and a global pandemic, our goal in 2021 was to simply have a market. We did not know what to expect when it came to community involvement, donor interest and even shopper turnout. On the third weekend of November 2021 merchants filled every square inch of the Lake Charles Civic Center eager to usher in the holiday season in Lake Charles. We were truly blown away with the success of the Mistletoe & Moss Holiday Market 2021. Not only did we have an in-person market, but we held one of the most successful markets in Junior League of Lake Charles history. Throughout the weekend, we welcomed over 6,500 shoppers!

This year the Junior League of Lake Charles took on a new challenge: sharing recipes from around the country! SWLA showed their continued love of Pirate's Pantry and Marshes to Mansions, but this year shoppers were able to add other Junior League cookbooks to their shelves. Members of the Mistletoe & Moss committee worked diligently through the Summer to swap cookbooks with other leagues in the U.S. By the end of the market more than 260 cookbooks were sold! This brand new approach to our Junior League of Lake Charles market booth was incredibly exciting and successful. We cannot express enough gratitude to our sustainers who volunteered their time and efforts to visit with shoppers, educate them about the league and help sell cookbooks during the market this year.

In another brand new experience, the JLLC invited Mistletoe & Moss shoppers to take part in one of our community projects. The JLLC Community Outreach committee provided a Snack Sack assembly inside the JLLC booth where they offered shoppers the opportunity to donate and have hands-on experience tackling food insecurity in our own backyards. Market guests donated over \$1,000 to "Pack a Snack Sack" and help fund our community programs. These food bags were distributed to Ralph Wilson Elementary for children to have during the 2021 Christmas break.

We could not have been successful without the support from our community, each Junior League of Lake Charles active member and some rockstar sustainers. As you all know, this is very much a group effort! In 2008, Jordan watched her mom, Amy Churchman, chair Mistletoe & Moss and fell in love with the event. She made it a goal of to join the JLLC and the market. We are so proud of all that we were able to accomplish in the community this year.





**NIKI ZAVERI & MACY DULANEY**  
*Casino Night Co-Chairs*

# casino night

**ROLLING FOR A REASON**

Casino Night returned on March 18, 2022 at The Pioneer Club. Due to a Covid-19 surge during the fall, the committee was forced to plan this second "annual" event TWICE in a single League year. The Pioneer Club was a perfect host with their stunning views, delicious menu, and impeccable service.

Guests had fun "rolling for a reason" at the craps tables, playing poker, doubling down at blackjack, and taking a spin at roulette. In addition to gaming, guests were able to participate in a gift card pull that featured over 40 different Lake Area restaurants. The winner at the end of the night took home the top prize of a framed George Rodrigue "We Will Rise Again" Blue Dog print. This print originally contributed to rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Katrina. The JLLC felt the piece's history and symbolism also reflects the strength and resilience of SWLA after two years of unprecedented events. Despite all adversity, we will rise again.

Casino Night's success is largely because of our generous donors, especially our presenting sponsor Center for Orthopaedics. We were able to raise over \$47,000. This number exceeded income expectations and when paired with creative cost saving measures; due to the event's success we were able to reallocate funding to community outreach to donate 50 car seats and literacy initiatives for This is Home Fest.

Mark your calendars for the return of this traditionally fall event on September 30th, 2022 at The Pioneer Club. You won't want to miss this signature event!



# touch-a-truck

CREATING A FAMILY TRADITION

LIZ GOODWIN & ALISA BURKLOW  
Touch-A-Truck Chairs



The Junior League of Lake Charles hosted the Touch-A-Truck event, presented by Bolton Ford. This event, formerly known as Truckfest, was rebranded to AJLI's global Touch-A-Truck event. It had to be canceled the past two years, so the return of this affordable family-friendly event was highly anticipated and larger than ever! It was held on the first Saturday of April at The Burton Coliseum, 9:00am to 4:00pm. A silent hour was held between 9:00 and 10:00am for children sensitive to loud sounds. This one-day event gave everyone in our community the opportunity to get an up-close look and interact with their favorite trucks and vehicles.

Touch-A-Truck included construction trucks, emergency response vehicles, community vehicles, and other fun novelty vehicles. This event also offered a variety of carnival games, community groups providing hands-on experiences, and entertainment from local groups and schools. This unique opportunity gave children and their families a chance to interact with these vehicles we so frequently see, but are unable to have access to. This day of fun and exploration gave participants a festival feel, creating lasting memories that SWLA has been craving.

A new addition to Touch-A-Truck was hosting a car seat check site. The Louisiana State Police Troop D, along with local CPST (Certified Passenger Safety Technician) volunteers were able to help 17 SWLA families with correctly installing car seats. JLLC also partnered with Healthy Blue to give away car seats to those requiring them.



Along with regular ticket presales, The Junior League of Lake Charles offered patrons the opportunity to "sponsor a classroom" ensuring that funds went directly to support classrooms in Title 1 schools.

With over 4,000 children and adults in attendance, Touch-A-Truck raised more than \$50,000, included 43 sponsors, over 70 vehicles, and 17 community groups.

Truck Fest planted the seeds for this event several years ago, this year Touch-A-Truck grew into an event that exceeded all of our expectations and goals. Liz and I would like to thank our committee members, Holly Harris, Lauren Westmorland, SaraMargaret Groves, Dominique Nicholson, Jennifer Downs, Megan Fabian, Nancy Tower, and Melissa Easton, for their dedication and tireless effort in executing this event. We would also like to thank Lauren Olsen and Eloise Pruitt for their resources and support throughout the planning of Touch-A-Truck.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LAKE CHARLES

# THANK YOU

TO THESE COMPANIES FOR HELPING TO BUILD A BETTER SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA FOR THE 2021-2022 LEAGUE YEAR

## CORPORATE CHAMPION CIRCLE PLATINUM

Mr. & Mrs. Adam & Hannah Grogan



## BRONZE



## CASINO NIGHT DIAMOND



## RUBY



## SAPPHIRE

Betsy and Devon Hyde  
Dr. and Mrs. Justin Rudd

Morgan Stanley Wealth Management | Frank Wood Sr. and Frank Wood Jr.



Sponsored by:

Eric Stevens & James Guilbeau, Jr.  
Senior Financial Advisors  
Stevens & Guilbeau Financial Consulting Group

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## TOUCH-A-TRUCK DIAMOND



## RUBY



## SAPPHIRE



## MISTLETOE & MOSS HOLIDAY MARKET DIAMOND



## EMERALD



## RUBY



Treasures of Marilyn



## SAPPHIRE

Calla  
Beauxdine's  
Fat Boyz  
Izzo's Illegal Burrito  
Mazen's  
Reeves Uptown Catering  
Steamboat Bill's  
Villa Harlequin



WANDS & WHIMSY  
ONCE UPON A TIME CAN BE ANYTIME





# around town

LEAGUE MEMBERS LEADING SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA



**RYAN ANDERSON** graduated from Lamar University with a Master's in Education in Counseling & Development, Specializing in Marriage, Couple & Family Counseling.



**KARI CASEY** appointed as The Children's Museum's Director of Community Outreach and Programming.



**JACQUELINE CLARK** named the new Director of Student Organizations and Fraternity/Sorority Life at McNeese State University



**ERIKA DOSHIER** appointed as Assistant to the Director for CPPJ Human Services Department



**NICOLE GASPARD** received her white coat for MSU College of Nursing and Allied Professions



**MADISON HARLOW** named the TrustCare Management Therapist of the Year



**TIFFANY HESTER** graduated 2021 Leadership Southwest



**CASSADY HICKINGBOTTOM** named 2021-2022 Louisiana Assistant Principal of the Year



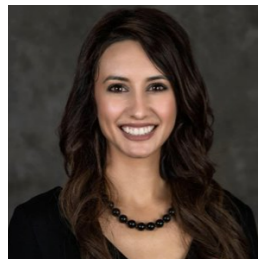
**MEGAN LANDRY** promoted to Unit Manager at Sasol



**ELOISE PRUITT** participated as a celebrity dancer in LC Got Talent Fundraiser



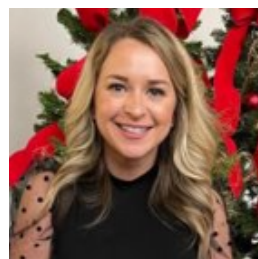
**MARIEL SANCHEZ** recipient of The Baptist Way Award for her work as a nurse



**CALLIE THOMAS** approved by the state as Executive Administrator of At Home Compassionate Care



**HOPE WYATT BUFORD** named Section Chief of the newly formed Special Victims Unit at the Calcasieu Parish District Attorney's Office.



**ANN BARILLEAUX, ARYCA BUSSELL, AND ASHLEY WILLIAMS** appointed to serve on the Arts & Humanities Council of SWLA 2022 Board of Directors

# 2022-2023 slate

NEXT YEAR'S LEAGUE LEADERS

**RACHEL GARNER**  
*Nominating Director*



Every year in late Fall/early Spring, the Nominating Committee has a special meeting to slate leadership for the upcoming Junior League year. The Nominating Director sends out nominating forms to our membership to cast their votes on nominees. Then the real fun starts. The nominating committee sets aside an entire day to review the applications and discuss potential leaders to fill each role. The chosen member is then called and asked if they would accept this leadership position. Once this meeting is complete and the slate has been contacted, the Nominating Director prepares a presentation to announce the leaders at one of our general membership meetings. This year the theme was "Super Bowl," and each slated member was announced by running through a banner with their upcoming position on it (similar to what you would see a team run through at a football game). It was a very fun experience and a great way to welcome the League leaders for the 2022-2023 year. The Nominating Director presents a motion to approve the names announced. This motion is reviewed for education for a month and voting is held during the subsequent General Meeting. Now after all business aside, I am excited to announce your 2022-2023 Junior League of Lake Charles leaders:

*We are excited to see these leaders take action for our 89th year as the Junior League of Lake Charles.*



**ERIKA DOSHIER**  
President



**ELAINE ACORD**  
EVP/Managing Director



**CARRIE LAFARGUE**  
President Elect



**MARGARET HIGGINS**  
Planning and Bylaws



**JULIE ESTE MCDONALD**  
Nominating Director



**ASHLEY CHISHOLM**  
Secretary



**MARLISE MCCARTHY-CEZAIR**  
Treasurer



**MARCELA JONES**  
Assistant Treasurer



**KRISTI MADDEN**  
Communications Director



**JENNIFER PUGH**  
Community Director



**MICHELLE HEMPHILL**  
Fund Development Director



**EMILY LARCHE**  
Membership Director



**CAMEO GREEN**  
Program Development

# annual may meeting

REVIEW AND CELEBRATION OF A FANTASTIC YEAR

EMILY LARCHE

Membership Hospitality & Enrichment Chair



After nearly a year and a half of restrictions, we are exciting to be completing and celebrating this year's success! Our members have spent this year developing themselves as women and have put in countless hours pouring that growth and knowledge into our community. We have worked hard to make all of our fundraisers a huge success. Especially after not being able to have any last year. Most importantly, we have been striving to make this year's League impact felt and seen stronger than ever in the community.

*Annual May Meeting*

May 3rd, 2022

Treasures of Marilyn

3510 Fifth Avenue  
Lake Charles Louisiana 70607

6:00 p.m.

Member Social @ 5:30 PM

Now comes the time for these hard-working ladies to be CELEBRATED! We cannot wait to see who the recipients are for the Della Krause Thielen Voluntarism Award, (chosen by our Community Advisory Board) which is given to a community member or organization for exceptional and sustained contributions through voluntarism. Our Outstanding Active Award (selected by our nominating committee from nominations within our membership) to acknowledge an active member who continually strives to serve and excel in the League.

Our Sustainer of the Year Award (selected by past sustainer award recipients) to acknowledge a sustainer who has shown outstanding volunteer service both supporting the JLLC and within other

community service organizations over a significant number of years. Finally, our President's Awards (chosen by the outgoing president) to acknowledge members in the league who have gone above and beyond this year to help out our members!

We are also excited to announce the inaugural Provisional of the Year Award (chosen by the provisional advisors from nominations given by other provisional and active members) to acknowledge an up and coming provisional who already understands and shows our mission in their first year!

**amazon**smile

**1 Get the app**

Download or update to the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app on your phone.

**2 Join AmazonSmile**

Sign up at smile.amazon.com and select JLLC to start generating donations, at no cost to you.

**3 Turn on AmazonSmile**

Open the app and find 'Settings' in the main menu (☰). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

**4 Keep it on!**

Renewals are required twice a year to keep generating donations when you shop in the app.

**minted.**

**1** Shop at [www.minted.com](http://www.minted.com).

**2** You get 20% off card and gift orders when you use promo code: **FUNDRAISEJLLAKECHARLES**.

Minted donates 15% of each order amount back to JLLC.

**Kroger**

**1** Go to [www.kroger.com/account/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/account/communityrewards)

**2** Sign-in to your Kroger Account. Search "Junior League of Lake Charles" or **NN544** to register your Kroger card.

**3** Enroll your Kroger Card to begin fundraising for JLLC!

Kroger donates annually to participating organizations based on your percentage of spending as it relates to the total spending associated with all participating Kroger Community Rewards organizations.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF

**LAKE CHARLES**

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Lake Charles, LA 70601

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# donor spotlight

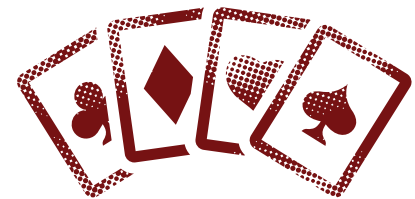
2021-2022 DIAMOND SPONSORS

*mistletoe & moss*  
**HOLIDAY MARKET**



**HANNAH & ADAM GROGAN**  
Corporate Champion Platinum Sponsor

 **LAKE CHARLES**



CASINO NIGHT

