

CHARIIONS

SUMMER 2015

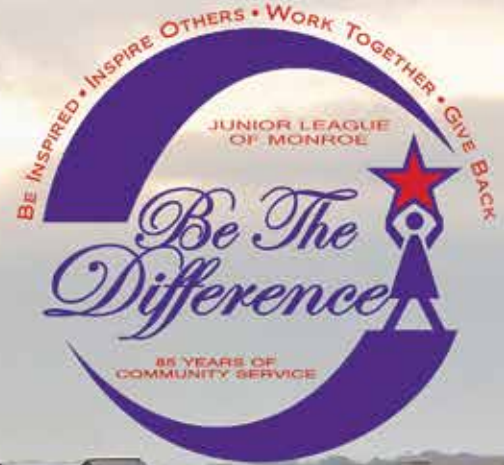
JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MONROE • WOMEN BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES

Kerri Wall

Louise Seymour Award Recipient

Cherry Coon

2015 Volunteer of the Year



*Endowment Grant
makes a difference for
three local organizations*

Super App

— WITH —

SUPER SAVINGS

IMPACT
CHECKING

Powered by BaZing

Open an account and download the free mobile app, that gives you huge discounts on shopping, entertainment, and more.



Community Trust
Member FDIC **Bank**

ctbonline.com - 888 292 4037



From an early age my family would tell you I wanted to “lead” and wanted to “be the boss.” I do not think like that anymore. Now I think about “how” I lead and how to bring out the best in others and empower them to be and do their best. It is important to lead from a place of positive energy. I have also learned it is important to create a team that works together while capitalizing on the differences of each team member.

Leadership comes from each of us. We support one another as we grow, learn, and find our voice. I love that the Junior League includes developing a leadership style that encourages collaboration. We rely on one another, we learn from our mistakes, and we improve communities. I hope that you have found your passion this year. We have focused on empowering our membership, providing leadership training and connecting internally through our service to the community. I am honored to be in this wonderful organization.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve as your 14-15 President of the Junior League of Monroe.

All My Best!

Jennifer Ables

JLM President, 2014-15



2015-16 Board of Directors

Welcome to the 2015-2016 Board
Ready to Make a Difference!



Jenny Pankey
President

Ashley West
President-Elect

Mandy Green
Communications Vice President

Melissa Kiper
Community Vice President

Tomi Tharp
Financial Vice President

Jan Mattingly
Asst. Financial Vice President

Heather Guillot
Membership Development Vice President

Faith Gremillion
Research & Development Vice President

Kara Devinney
Advisory Planning Chair

Loretta Lemoine
Nominating & Placement Chair

Ashley Joiner
Corresponding Secretary

Therese Nagem
Fund Development Vice President

Each of these ladies truly illustrates the spirit of volunteerism while having the fire to lead and the knowledge of JLM that will continue to support and improve our community. We look forward to the upcoming year and wish them luck in their positions.

2015-16 Charlons Committee

Joann Powell
Editor

Reporters:

Sarah Austin
Amy Lange
Jessica Louque
Alex Mancuso
Bethany Stinson
Shelva Thomas



THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MONROE

2811 Cameron Street • Monroe, LA 71201

Office 318-322-3236 (Terri Arthur)

Fax 318-322-3299

Office Hours: Mondays-Thursdays • 8:30 am-2:30 pm

Website: www.jlmonroe.org

League Year: June 1, 2015- May 31, 2016



This League year seems to have flown by and as we wrap up this year and this summer issue of *Charlons* we look back on the many amazing things that The Junior League of Monroe did to improve our community. This year could not have been as successful as it was without our wonderful President, Jennifer Ables, who set us all on fire at the beginning of the League year and encouraged each member to ignite their passion at our "Back to League Social".

The Tools and Literacy for Children Committee sponsored its first Ouachita Parish School, Lenwil Elementary. A Back to School Night, Teacher's Luncheon, Family Fun Night, spirit shirts for all the students and staff, and Kona Ice rewards for students were just some of the great events TLC hosted for this deserving school. Education Task Force awarded \$15,000 worth of mini grants to area teachers. Our provisional class was able to directly help 15 families through donations to Family Promise of Ouachita while cultivating lasting friendships. Done in a Day provided members great opportunities to volunteer around our community.

Cotton Bayou had a successful launch of our new eBook and Charity Shopping Pass got a makeover and had a wonderful year too. Spring Market was great fun as always and we had fun promoting our League with a new fun "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" video filmed while setting up for the big weekend. We even award THREE Endowment Grants this year, a first and something to truly be proud of. Clearly the Junior League of Monroe is making a lasting difference. Not everything was business; we managed to have great fun along the way with our many social events. The Mardi Gras Ball was a big hit this year and looks like it's here to stay, and the family Christmas party was a blast.

Looking forward to this summer, we hope that you take the time to relax and enjoy family and friends, hopefully even new friends that you made this past League year. We look forward to seeing you all again in the fall as we start a new year with President Elect, Jenny Pankey, and her theme of "Be the Difference".

Angela Spaur

about JLM

OUR VISION Through the power of our association, Junior Leagues strengthen communities by embracing diverse perspectives, building partnerships, and inspiring solutions.

OUR MISSION The Junior League of Monroe is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

OUR PURPOSE We reach out to women of all races, religions, and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and a commitment to volunteerism.

OUR HISTORY Since 1930, members of the Junior League of Monroe have devoted countless volunteer hours to meet the needs of the people and organizations of our community. Community leaders have always looked to the JLM for leadership in starting new community programs. As a result, the JLM has often been the catalyst that turned an idea into a success that benefitted many in our area. Here are a few examples of programs that we have started in recent years: Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Teen Screen, Shots for Tots, Teen Court, Operation Abstinence, and Project Child.

partnering for a better community

Red Cross • Salvation Army • YWCA • YMCA • Camp Fire Girls • March of Dimes • Crippled Children's Clinic • Masur Museum • Louisiana Training Institute • Open Door Home • Easter Seals • Med-Camps • Suzuki Forum • Ronald McDonald House • Go Care • United Way • Our House • Girl Scouts • Christian Community Ministries • New Horizon's Boy Scout Camp • Tri-District Boys' Club • Twin City Ballet • Strauss Theatre • Monroe Symphony • Northeast Louisiana Children's Museum • Susan G. Komen Foundation • Women's Wellness Coalition • West Monroe Community Center • Monroe Housing Authority • Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana • City of Monroe Beautification Board • Extra Mile • Friends of ULM Library • Friends of Monroe Civic Center • Little Theatre's Young Troupe • Louisiana Folk Life Festival • Monroe Chamber of Commerce • Ouachita Valley Historic Preservation Society • Partners in Education • West Monroe/West Ouachita Chamber of Commerce • Habitat for Humanity • The Center for Women & Children

**Junior League
of Monroe
Community
Projects**
*Education Task Force
Families Can't Wait®
Tools and Literacy for
Children (TLC)
Done-in-a-Day*

Association Prayer

*We pray that we will never be so blind
that our small world is all we ever see.
Or so supremely satisfied
that what we are is all we ever hope to be.
Grant us the joy of filling someone's need.
Make us gracious followers,
make gracious those who lead.
And more than all we pray,
that through the years, we will remember
there are always new frontiers.
Amen.*

contents

in every issue

A Note from the Outgoing President **3**
 Board of Directors
 Charlons Committee

Letter from the Editors **4**
 About JLM
 Association Prayer
 Community Projects

A Message from the Incoming President **6**

Bulletin Board **8**

Birthdays **33**

features

Mardi Gras Ball **7**

Annual Homecoming Dinner **10**

AJLI Los Angeles Conference **13**

Louise Seymour Community Impact Award Winner **18**

Volunteer of the Year Award Winner **19**

Endowment Fund Grant Winners **20**

AJLI ODI Conference **24**

Spring Market **25**

Thank You, Jennifer! **34**

for your information

Update on 2014 Endowment Grant Winners **22**

Who Needs Playgrounds? **23**

JLM Year in Review **29**

2015 Status Changes **30**

2015-2016 Placements **31**

committee news

Technology **12**

Education & Training Families Can't Wait **14**

Education Task Force **15**

Fund Development **16**

Admissions - 2015 JLM Actives **16**

Done in a Day House & Arrangements **26**

Admissions - New Provisionals **28**

Nominating & Placement Research & Development **30**

Tools & Literacy for Children **32**

advertisers

Community Trust Bank **2**

Moss Eyecare **12**

Younique Makeup
 Majure Physical Therapy

Albritton Photography **17**

Brent Metts, MD **27**

Delta Louisiana Community College **35**

St. Francis Medical Center **36**

The Charlons staff encourages you to thank our advertisers and patronize them.

2014-15 Charlons Committee

Angela Grubbs, Chair/Co-Editor
 Joann Powell, Asst. Chair/Co-Editor

Reporters:
 Jennifer Donald, Christina Elahi,
 Brittney Hayes, Amanda May,
 Rachel Niblett, Christy White

Advertise in Charlons

Support the League, grow your business, and advertise in *Charlons*! Effective and affordable advertising with the Junior League of Monroe.

Please address all advertising space and rate queries to the *Charlons* committee at JLM.Charlons@gmail.com.

Cover photograph by:
 Aerial Vid Photography

2015-16 Charlons Committee

Joann Powell, Editor

Reporters:
 Sarah Austin, Amy Lange,
 Jessica Louque, Alex Mancuso,
 Bethany Stinson, Shelva Thomas



a Message from the Incoming President



It is with great honor that I accept a role where so many wonderful women have come before me with one common goal- love of the Junior League. Our previous platforms that we have served by have been the *Power of One*, *Continuing the Legacy*, *Falling in Love with the League* and *Igniting Your Passion*.

With these platforms, we have graciously worked together, contributing our own signature strengths which have allowed us to achieve such amazing results making the **JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MONROE** more successful than we could have ever imagined. It all started with women who live in a world that needs help because it is broken. There are urgent problems that need solving. We as women have a noble purpose, but we can't do it alone.

We need to learn from the seasoned experts who've done it before us. We are part of an organization where women are trained to make their communities better. A legacy of good works that spans over 85 years. As we celebrate our 85th year as a League, I look around and see that the women here offer wisdom, leadership, grace, beauty and determination. Finding others like us that are agents of change, we advocate for the good who want to make a difference. We immerse ourselves in our community. Together developing solutions; we become leaders in our community because we solve complex problems. Our impact spreads far beyond our local community and into the world. It all started with women like you who want to help make the world a better place.

Our actions are planting trees under whose shade we'll never sit. It may not happen fully until after we are gone, but I know that the steps we are taking now are the right ones.

Let us be inspired

Let us inspire others

Let us work together

Let us give back

Let us as women of the Junior League of Monroe **Be the Difference** in Ouachita Parish!

Proud to serve alongside you,

Jenny Pankey
President 2015-16



Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler

Junior League of Monroe members and their spouses kicked off Mardi Gras weekend with a true New Orleans flair with our Mardi Gras Ball! The good times rolled at the Hamilton House in West Monroe on February 6. Fabulous Louisiana cuisine spiced up the evening, catered by Dan Blakeney. Drinks were provided by Marsala Beverage. Members danced the night away with music by Jack Rabbit Slims. A special thanks goes out to Melissa Kiper, Cydni Hanks, and Heather Guillot for all of their hard work at organizing this much enjoyed event. Merci Beaucoup!

By: Jennifer Morris, *Charlons*



BULLETIN

Babies in Bloom



Brock Miller Williams
Jared & Mallory Williams
March 11, 2015
Ashley Dickens Photography



Annabelle Rose Earl
Allison & Brandon Earl
November 12, 2014



Charlotte Mary Sharp
Reggie & Meghan Valentine Sharp
December 16, 2014



Jack Patterson Joiner
Billy & Ashley Joiner
January 3, 2015
Photographer: Kimberly McDaniel



Everette Gray Malta "Rett"
Sylver & Anthony Malta
February 5, 2015
Photo courtesy of Emily Green



Katherine Ryan Flowers "Kate"
Cruse & Katherine Flowers
February 3, 2015
Jennifer Lizenby Photography



Mary Michael Gray
Michael & Kelly Gray
February 4, 2015

The Bulletin Board is for you!
Please send us photos of noteworthy events along with a description of the event to be featured on the JLM Bulletin Board. See page 5 for information about submissions.

BOARD

Charlons is looking for new articles and ideas – if you have a skill or talent you would like to share with the readers of Charlons (fitness, online safety, professional development, etc. or an idea for a topic for an article) please email us at jlmonroe@gmail.com

See everyone at the Back to League Social this Fall!

Summer is the perfect time to update your contact information. You can do it online at jlmonroe.org



Find the Difference, Be a Star
One of these stars is not like the others! Email jlmonroe@gmail.com with the page number of the “different star” for a chance to win a prize at our first general meeting!



Congratulations to the 2014-2015 Provisional Class on their recognition from Family Promise.



JLM members attended the Generation to Generation Coffee and Cake Social hosted by the Ouachita Council on Aging.

Don't Forget: Provisional Retreat coming up this Summer.



JLM presented Family Promise of Ouachita \$1000 after their trailer was stolen this spring.



Provisional Tara Ambrose recently placed 3rd in the Monroe West Monroe photography contest.

Annual Homecoming Dinner

An all-time favorite event of the Junior League of Monroe is the Annual Homecoming Dinner. Affectionately dubbed "Spring Dinner" by members, the event is more than a dinner. It is an evening to celebrate a successful year, welcome new Actives and Provisionals, honor our President as she moves into new roles and introduce the incoming President and Board. The dinner is the capstone of the year, rounded out with a fashion show and awards ceremony.



Held at the classic location, Bayou DeSiard Country Club, on May 7, 2015, this year's dinner was everything League members have come to expect. Upon arrival members were given the opportunity to leave notes of thanks for outgoing President, Jennifer Ables before entering the ballroom. Ladies were greeted by Board members who mingled during social hour. As Myrrah Thompson and Jenna Ables, daughter of Jennifer, serenaded all with a lovely piano concerto, guests were able to enjoy drinks and reflect over the accomplishments of the Junior League during the 2014-2015 year. Members were ushered into the dining room near the 7 o'clock hour. After an invocation by Whit Bass, ladies and honored guests whet their appetite with a green salad while Jennifer's family and selected Junior League Members entertained with a fabulous fashion show. Clothing for the show was provided by Fleurty Ginger, If the Crown Fits, The Children's Shoppe, Bayou Gypsy, and Bayou Beaux. A favorite of the show, Jennifer's son, Jace, was as fun to watch as the clothes being modeled.

Once the fun fashion presentation was completed Junior League members were excited to learn that this year, for the first time in Junior League history, there were three well deserved Endowment Fund Grants awarded. \$15,000 total was awarded across three wonderful organizations, The Children's Coalition, The Greater Ouachita Lions Club, and The YMCA. Funds were excitedly received by each organization and will certainly be used for making a lasting difference in Ouachita Parish.

As the evening progressed members were served a main course of steak, twice baked potatoes and lightly steamed asparagus to enjoy during the awarding of the 2014-2015 Louise Seymour Award and Volunteer of the Year Award. An exceptional Sustaining Member and past president, Mrs. Kerri Wal, l graciously received the highest honor of the Junior League of Monroe, the Louise Seymour Award. The 2015 Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to JLM Technology Chairperson, Ms. Cherry Coon. Both ladies have been outstanding assets to the Junior League of Monroe and to the community at large.



2014 Louise Seymour Winner and Sustainer Mary Linda Higgins Clark along with active Therese Nagem and Sustainer and Past President Terri Arthur



Jenna Ables entertains dinner attendees



Getting ready for the Fashion Show!



Active Dana Tarver and Sustainer & Past President Denise Simpson enjoyed catching up with each other at Spring Dinner



Jennifer Ables recognized Terri Arthur for the integral role she plays in JLM day to day operations



Actives and Provisionals enjoyed getting to know each other during Spring Dinner



Aleta Eley, Joyce Powell and Jessica Louque



Faith Gremillion, Monica Pittman, Lindsey Swander, and Meghan Sellar had a grand time together at the Spring Dinner Social Hour



Jennifer Donald, Amanda May and Brittany Hayes visit while waiting for the fashion show to begin



The fashion show as a lot of fun once again this year



New Provisionals, New Actives and Actives enjoyed mingling during social hour at Bayou Desiard Country Club

As the evening came to a close, members enjoyed a scrumptious crème brûlée as well as the President's address. Jennifer Ables reflected on her year as President. Jennifer was joined for the dinner by her family including her husband Brandon, children Jenna, John Rome and Jace. She was also joined by her parents, Jimmy & Charlotte Goodwin, mother and father-in-law Robert and Cathy Ables, and Adam and Stephanie Ables. Jennifer began by graciously thanking her family and the board for their contribution to the successful year and support through it all. Jennifer also took the opportunity to give special thanks to Sustaining Member, and past President Terri Arthur who, in Jennifer's opinion, was an indispensable and often under-recognized essential piece of the JLM puzzle. The evening then proceeded to the introduction and acceptance of the New President, Jenny Pankey. Jenny briefly discussed her love of the Junior League and how our organization and each member can make a difference for our community. The evening came to a close with the introduction of the 2015-2016 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs. New Actives were presented to attendees and new Provisionals were recognized.

Congratulations to all the new Sustaining Members, Provisional Members, Preferred Actives, and Actives. Together we will work in the new year to inspire each other, to reach our community and work together to make a difference. Junior League of Monroe will Be the Difference!

Special thanks to the Dinner Committee who worked to bring us another successful Junior League of Monroe Homecoming Dinner. Chaired by Jenny Pankey, the committee consisted of Terri Arthur, Jodee Bruyninckx, Christy Flanigen, Mandy Green, Heather Guillot, Melissa Kiper, Alex Mancuso, Jan Mattingly, Miranda Moss, Mamie Nelson, Dawn Sager, JoEllen Showers, Kerri Wall, Ashley West and Cathy Whipple.

By: Joann E Haynes Powell, *Charlons*



Miranda Moss and Mary Francis Siggers



Past President Kathy Whipple and Sustainer Jan Daniels enjoyed socializing



President Elect Ashley West, Incoming President Jenny Pankey and Outgoing President Jennifer Ables visited during the Annual Homecoming Spring Dinner

Everything is Different, Even the Name!

Technology Committee (Formerly Webmaster)

The Technology Committee has made some major changes to the look of the JLM website by adding requirements, adding more social media sites and keeping up with them and setting up online payments. These were some much needed improvements but with the innovative technology we have outgrown our current website provider, Closerware. This spring the Technology Committee has been busy preparing the Digital Cheetah proposal for the Junior League of Monroe members. The proposal was presented at the March general meeting and approved at the April general meeting.

Digital Cheetah will be ready by the first general meeting in September. We will have the Board of Directors trained first and see if we can offer training to members in groups at the League house. We want everyone to be able to use Digital Cheetah to the fullest. We will have the scanner to record attendance for meetings and events. It will allow vendors/merchants to have their own page for paying online. It will provide a private area for council and committees so that information stays in that area. Also, once the scanner has

been used, the information is available which eliminates the need for making copies. Information is available immediately. We will have an add-on that is to set up for potential new members. Once they make contact, which is filling out the information online, they are then reviewed. Once approved and their fees are paid online, it will give them access to the website automatically. It cuts out the time of setting up a new member. Information is available as soon as they pay their dues. Another exciting improvement will be the mobile app. Currently we can login from our cell phone, but it is not formatted correctly and we have some limited use from it, but Digital Cheetah has the mobile app! There is so much more that we will be gaining from Digital Cheetah but this was just a brief description of things that have been issues with the use of Closerware.

The Technology Committee is making a difference for our members and the other committees. We seek to make the committees have more knowledge and access to what is happening with the League as a whole.

"I would like to thank all in this committee. So many things were added this year and this committee did an awesome job!!" ~Cherry Coon

Cherry Coon, Committee Chair

Moss
eyecare

Dr. Jody Moss, O.D.
Dr. Elvis Surlles, O.D.

2209 Forsythe Ave. • Monroe, LA 71201
318-387-5657 • www.mosseyecare.com

Comprehensive Eye Exams
Medical Eyecare • Contact Lenses
Designer Optical



Melissa Kiper
INDEPENDENT PRESENTER
318-366-9173
<https://www.youuniqueproducts.com/MelissaKiper>
melissakiper@yahoo.com


MAJURE PHYSICAL THERAPY
— The Center for Pelvic Health —

Stacey Majure, D.P.T.
3408 Medical Park Drive • Monroe, LA
www.majurept.com • 318-331-6911

AJLI Annual Conference

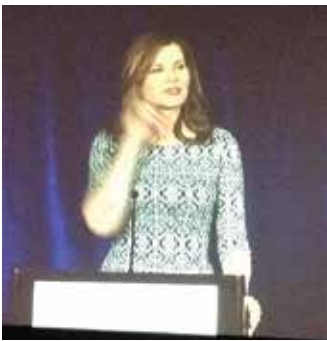
April 15-19, 2015, Los Angeles, CA

The Multiplier Effect



2014-15 President, Jennifer Ables and President-Elect Jenny Pankey, headed to the 93rd AJLI Annual Conference in Los Angeles, CA. Opening session started off with a bang! The procession of the delegates was the perfect way to get everyone excited

and ready to dive in to workshops and networking. The first day was filled with information on redefining Design Led Leadership and meeting other delegates from around the United States, Great Britain and Mexico. The climax of the afternoon was hearing Keynote Speaker- Academy and Golden Globe Winner-



GEENADAVIS. She discussed her research and data about Girls in Film. Her agency advocates for equal roles for males and females in TV/ Film industry. She challenged us to focus on what our children are watching on TV and to discuss the "TV/Film

world" vs the REAL world. Davis said it is important to have open conversations with our daughters and sons about how females and males can both play important roles with equal impact. She also brought to light the importance of empowering young girls by allowing them to see females in powerful tv and film roles.

Friday included workshops on leadership opportunities with AJLI, how to view our membership and membership engagement and rethinking our business model. We were able to discuss what works and what we are working on in terms of membership detainment, engagement ideas and learned what was working for other Leagues.



Saturday, Jennifer attended the Outgoing President's breakfast in which she was awarded her AJLI Certificate of Achievement for her commitment to JLM. Ann Rose, AJLI President, also spoke about transitioning into new non-profit and civic leadership roles in each of our communities. Jenny attended the Incoming President's breakfast where she wrote her goals and plans for the upcoming year. AJLI President-Elect, Carol Scott, spoke on the transition of the PE's in to President. Saturday also included an annual

business meeting and AJLI voting in a new Reaching Out Statement and amendments to the bylaws. Saturday night concluded with the AJLI Annual Awards dinner.



celebrity sightings! The girls even came up with their own hashtags for their trip- #latola #lainla #swinginandswakin #acla15

Wednesday's Adventures~



Beverly Hills, Rodeo Drive, Hollywood Walk of Fame, Chinese Theater/Star Feet & Handprints Dolby Theater (think..Oscar's), Hollywood Sign, Hard Rock Café, Roosevelt Hotel, Hollywood, West Hollywood

★Star Sightings- Gwen Stefani & Bret Michaels (in concert!!)

Thursday's Adventures~

Sur Restaurant & Lounge, West Hollywood, Beverly Hills shopping, Sunset Strip, Melrose Ave, Robertson Blvd.

★Star Sighting- Geena Davis-AJLI Keynote Speaker

Friday's Adventures~

Beverly Hills Sign, Sprinkles Cupcakes, Wilshire Blvd, Beverly Wilshire Hotel, saw a live fashion shoot in action, The Farmer's Market & The Grove, CBS Studios, Melrose Ave, Shopping @ DASH, Christian LouBoutin, PUMP Lounge



★Star Sightings- Lisa Vanderpump & Lady GaGa (actually conversed with both of them! Super nice!) & Debbie Forth-Celebrity Love Coach

Saturday's Adventures~

Santa Monica Pier & Beach, Pomegrante, Bubba Gumps, shopping in Santa Monica & Beverly Hills



Training Leaders of Tomorrow to Make a Difference Today

This year the Education and Training committee has done a tremendous job getting some encouraging and engaging speakers to come to the monthly meetings. Jennifer Ables' theme for this year was *"Ignite Your Passion."* Education and Training was "ablaze" with passion for the league. "Jen decided that this year we would have membership involved in education and training as often as possible. Her vision she created came to life and inspired us all," said Loretta Lemoine. This committee is also looking forward to next year's Junior League President, Jenny Pankey. Her theme for the upcoming year is *"Be the Difference."* This summer this committee will begin planning for the upcoming Junior League year and training new members that will join their committee. Lemoine is excited about the actions this committee will take to help members feel confident to reach out to the community to *"Be the Difference."*

Loretta Lemoine, Education and Training Chair



Victoria Krutzer, Angela Grubbs, and Ashton Mintz enjoying a sparkling sundae at April's General Meeting.

and support in our area for mothers and families. She is very passionate about helping families who have children with disabilities in our area. Her staff is made up of parents who also have special needs children. We are very sad to see her go but wish her well! Jamie Bryan said, "Alicia Banks has been a huge asset to the League by coordinating and helping to ensure services are continued to at risk families after initial contact is made by Families Can't Wait. We appreciate all of the hard work from Families Helping Families. Thank you Alicia for continuing the work of the League over the last several years. We will miss you." Alicia Banks started an AMAZING organization and her legacy will continue for many years to come.

Courtney Weston, Chair

Katharine Spires, Jennifer Lizenby, Jamie Bryan, Assistant Chairs

Making a Difference, One Family at a Time

The Families Can't Wait committee has had a very successful year by visiting first time mothers at our 3 local hospitals. They have helped many families by giving them items to aid in child care. This year, the committee has logged an impressive total of 495 volunteer hours for the year. They have visited 226 first time moms and given out 15 car seats and 15 pack-n-plays. They also gave 10 pack-n-plays to the Provisional project for Family Promise of Ouachita.

This year's chair of Families Can't Wait, Courtney Weston, would like to personally thank her committee for all of their hard work!

This year has a bittersweet end with the retirement of Alicia Banks. In 1992, she became the Executive Director of Families Helping Families, our partner organization. After having a special needs child, Liles, she realized the lack of resources



Alicia Banks and Joann Powell

This year has been wonderful and I am so thankful for the group of women that was part of our committee this year. The committee members are a group of compassionate women with a great love for their community. They are a life-line to mothers who have babies with disabilities who otherwise would have no one to turn to for help. In addition to kind words, emotional support, and community resources, Families Can't Wait provides car seats and pack-n-plays to mothers who are in need. Word of our program has spread as far as Shreveport. The nurses at the hospitals always have great things to say about our committee members. I feel that Families Can't Wait makes a real difference in these families' lives.

Thank you all,
Courtney Weston

Junior League of Monroe Assists Annual Scholar's Banquet



The 31st Annual Scholars Banquet was held on April 20, 2015 at the Monroe Civic Center. Approximately 240 students, along with family and friends, attended the event. Each student honored maintained a 3.5 GPA for seven semesters and had a score of at least 25 on the ACT. The Banquet consists of recognizing the honorees, dinner, and a keynote address from a guest speaker, which was Dr. Damien Cummings.

The Junior League of Monroe (JLM) is a charter member of Task Force for the Scholars Banquet. JLM's committee, Education Task Force, holds the office of Secretary for the Task Force and attends monthly meetings held to discuss preparations for the Scholars Banquet. The Education Task Force Committee also furnishes the decorations and assists with the set-up and clean up of the Banquet.

By: Angie Deal, Education Task Force

Completing my second year on Families Can't Wait has allowed me to see first-hand the difference we are making in our local community. We encountered grateful recipients who were very thankful for the tangible items that allowed them to safely transition their infant home. Without the league, these new moms would also not have information readily available to them that could potentially save their child's life. I feel that Families Can't Wait had a very successful year and impacted many lives in our community.

~ Jamie Cooper Bryan

I thoroughly enjoyed being on Families Can't Wait and seeing the smiles on the new moms face that were nervous, anxious and had no help! It's sad that today we have such young moms with no help and in need of a bed or car seat. I was thankful to have great chairs to help out while I had my baby as well! ~ Mallory Williams

I LOVED my committee this year. Everyone takes the task seriously, but we had fun too helping these mamas!

~ Katharine Spires

Working with Families Can't Wait puts you in direct contact with those in need. Being able to help a family with their specific and immediate needs is the number one reason I joined the League but meeting those people, looking them in the eye and making a personal connection is wonderful! It's been a blessing to me to see firsthand the impact the Junior League is making in our community. ~ Jennifer Lizenby

2015 Class of JLM Actives

The Junior League of Monroe is pleased to welcome into membership the 2015 class of JLM Actives. These ladies have worked tirelessly all year to complete a number of special projects and all membership requirements. The ladies were voted into membership at the April 14th general meeting. The 2015 New Actives include:

Katie Ambrose, Sarah Austin, Alexandra Barham, Besty Beard, Blanche Betz, Nikki Bolton, Allison Bowman, Sara Chauhan, Kelli Cole, Talitha Elliott, April Fontana, Liz Hammett, Amy Hendry, Ashlie Hennessy, Robynn Hodnett, Veronica Knight, Vitoria Krutzer, Jessica Louque, Alex Mancuso, Emily McGee, Alissa Russell, Colandra Smith, Charlene Sullivan, Suhan Wallace, Veronica Wood, Juanita Woods, and Kristin Wyble. Welcome ladies to active membership in the Junior League of Monroe!



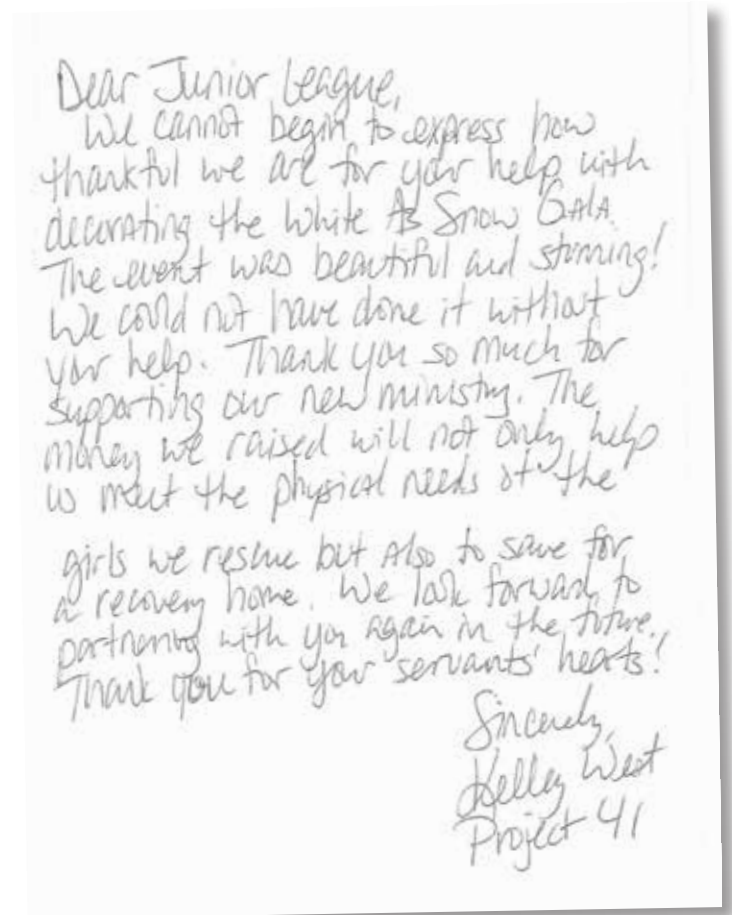
Making a Difference, One Contribution at a Time

Fund Development worked very hard this past year to solicit businesses and individuals for financial support. The committee's efforts are focused on raising money for Spring Market through commercial sponsorships and individual sponsorships called "Friends of Market" (FOM). For 2015, our committee secured 18 business sponsorships totaling \$31,000 in revenue. Of those 18 businesses, three were new sponsors. We also secured 50 pledges from Friends of the Market, which we surpassed our goals this year and almost doubled the number of FOM & the amount raised from last year. From the \$6,630 in revenue from FOM plus our business sponsors, our committee raised a total of \$37,630 this year.

Fundraising allows the JLM to continue supporting the community by helping fund the various service projects we operate. We are always fundraising for something whether it be our child's school, our church, or other charities we support. The Fund Development committee offers excellent training to the ladies of the League and gives women the knowledge and confidence necessary to run a successful campaign and be the difference in the community.

"I won't be saying farewell just yet, as it looks like I'm going to be the Fund Development chair again next year. But we definitely had a year of success and I'd like to thank my committee member, Aleta Eley for helping me out so much this year. She was an integral part of my team and supported me immensely."

Kelsey Laudeneimer, Fund Development Committee Chair





ALBRITTONPHOTOGRAPHY

406 North Sixth Street, West Monroe, LA 71291

318.324.9118 • staci@albrittonphoto.com • albrittonphoto.com

A Passion for People

The Junior League of Monroe is excited to announce the 2015 Louise Seymour Award winner, Kerri Wall.

The Louise Seymour Community Impact award is the highest recognition awarded by JLM. The award is presented annually to a JLM Sustainer who exemplifies the purpose of the Junior League. It is reserved for a sustaining member who has demonstrated a devotion to community service, dedication to others and who is an inspiration to all.

Kerri has a passion for people and for giving back. She always demonstrates love for others through her actions and selfless involvement in every aspect of her life. Her focus is always on others and their well being. She has a heart for children and education. She shows her passion by mentoring youth at her church, which she has been doing for over 25 years as a volunteer Youth Director. She supports the youth she mentors by taking care of not only their physical needs but their spiritual and emotional needs as well. She and her husband Doug take their youth group to youth camp every summer. They both know the impact youth camp will have on their youth. She has served on the LBA (local Board of Administration) and currently sings on the praise and worship team. Because of her love for children, she has taught Sunday school to all ages for 25 years. Kerri has also served as District Youth President and District Treasurer for the Delta District of the Wesleyan Church. In addition to her service with and through her church, Kerri chairs and is involved with multiple League placements. She also is involved with many non-profit boards and worthy causes. Kerri has been the President of the PTA at George Welch Elementary and volunteer cheerleader sponsor for 8 years at George Welch Elementary and Ouachita Christian School. She is currently on the Board of Directors for Life Choices and a member of Monroe Garden Club. She has also had the privilege to be the Sustainer Advisor for the Junior League for the past two years.

Kerri not only gives through community service, she helps develop others to take on the servant leader role. She has been a wonderful mentor to many people. Her motto is to treat others the way you want to be treated. It is Kerri's vision to lead by example, encourage, inspire and motivate others to do their best in every area of their lives. Kerri embodies servant leadership by working alongside others and valuing everyone's efforts.

Kerri strives to keep the "big picture" in mind, truly dedicating herself to the notion that in the end what matters the most is the positive impact we have on the people. Kerri believes that it is our obligation to help those that are less fortunate, mentoring those we can with love and compassion. By keeping these principles the world becomes a better place to live in, one person at a time.

Kerri learned during her time as a Junior League member and President that it is always important to be respectful of others, regardless of how they treat you. This perpetual respect is imperative to the success of the League as a whole. She stated that in those moments, she learned she would never talk down to anyone and always will get both sides to the story. Kerri believes it is so important to treat others the way you want to be treated. She believes it is a leader's job to be considerate and respectful to everyone. As a leader it was Kerri's job to encourage, inspire and motivate others to do their best and be their best. When others see you working hard and having a positive attitude, issues and obstacles are more easily resolved... individuals feel they can be open and honest with you. Everyone wants to be treated with dignity and respect. Kerri has said that servant leadership is the most effective way to earn a person's trust and respect. As a leader of any organization Kerri has strived to lead by example and keep the big picture in mind. In the end what matters the most is the



Kerri Wall, 2015 Louise Seymour Award Winner and 2014-15 JLM President Jennifer Ables

positive impact we, as a whole, have on the people we serve and making the world a better place to live in one person at a time. Kerri has continued to carry this attitude forward with all of her League placements and community participation.

Kerri's most significant contribution to the Junior League of Monroe was her 17+ years of volunteer service. She has caught the vision of the Junior League and shared her passion with others. She was always going the extra mile by being involved not only with the Board of Directors, but with individual committees. She served in several placements including: GUS (growing up strong) camp committee where she co-chaired 2 years; CASA (when it was formed); Operation Abstinence and Placement Advisor. Her service on the Board of Directors has included: Membership Development VP, Community VP, President-Elect & President. After she served as President, she was a member of Tools and Literacy for Children (TLC) committee and Chair of TLC.

Kerri's passion for people and volunteerism is contagious. She has an attitude that is humble, gracious and contagious! She once spoke at one of our general meetings about her love of the League. She shared examples of how being involved and serving others helps you grow as a person. The entire membership was inspired by her positive attitude. Her selfless mindset allowed others to see that volunteerism is not about just "checking a box" but about putting yourself out there to be vulnerable to your community. Kerri's bright smile and personal joy allow others to tap in to what's important in this life—Serve God and Serve Others. Kerri has made lasting contributions to her community and the individuals she touches through her selfless service, a flawless picture of the essence of the Louise Seymour Award.

A Happy Heart & Servant's Spirit

Congratulations to Cherry Coon, Junior League of Monroe's 2015 Volunteer of the Year!

In keeping with tradition, this year's Volunteer of the Year has exemplified the JLM mission to promote volunteerism, develop potential in women, and improve communities through effective action and leadership. This League member is always willing to serve the League by taking on additional duties and promoting positive working relationships with her committee members and with the board of directors. She leads by doing and through her leadership she empowers her committee to be active members of the League. She is an inspiration to everyone she interacts with.

Cherry has been a member of the Junior League of Monroe since 2011. In her time with JLM Cherry has enjoyed placements on *Charlons*, Webmaster/Yearbook, even becoming the chair for the Technology Committee. Cherry lives in Monroe. She works with Lakeway Development in Accounting. She has happily shared her expertise in the field of computers and technology along with her cheerful demeanor and team spirit.

Cherry is constantly looking for ways to improve her committee and its activities. She is open to suggestions and has researched AJLI as well as other Leagues across the US to find new ideas to bring to our League. Under her leadership, her committee has made vast improvements to the JLM web page, yearbook, and our social media presence. She has played an integral role in the research, proposal, and implementation of the Digital Cheetah upgrade that the website will undergo next year.

Cherry Coon is a wonderful representative of the Junior League of Monroe—hardworking, patient, committed, and empowered. She serves our community with a happy heart and gentle servant's spirit. Congratulations to Cherry Coon and **Thank You** for your outstanding example of how one person can make a difference.



Cherry Coon, 2015 Volunteer of the Year



Three Local Organizations Each Receive \$5000 Community Endowment Fund Grant

The Junior League of Monroe is happy to announce that for the first time in 85 years of service we were able to provide \$15,000 total in grants to THREE local organizations. Members were excited and surprised during the annual homecoming dinner when three winners were announced. The Children’s Coalition for Northeast Louisiana’s Ouachita Youth Summit, the YMCA of Northeast Louisiana, and The Greater Ouachita Lion’s Club all received grant awards this year.

The Greater Ouachita Lion’s Club was incorporated in 1948. The organization’s primary mission is to provide free vision screenings to pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children across Ouachita Parish. They aim to reduce the causes of preventable blindness in young children and secondarily to improve the intellectual, emotional and social well-being of all children. The group completed 521 vision screenings in 2014, volunteering a total of 194 hours for these assessments. The organization visited 11 schools in the fall of 2014, offering free screenings to a total of 1,366 children. This year the organization was requesting grant funds to purchase a new state – of – the – art digital camera to be used in the Cub Sight program. The camera would replace a camera which is broken and no longer able to be used. The piece of equipment being purchased with grant funds is a handheld screening instrument calibrated especially for ages 1-5, but can be



adjusted to measure sight in adults. The specially calibrated camera is especially helpful when screening young children who are not able to communicate vision problems and is completely non-invasive. The device is virtually maintenance free and provides an immediate pass/refer for additional screening result. With the purchase of the equipment the Lions anticipate they will be able to reach a total of 2,000 children. The Junior League of Monroe is excited to be able to fund this request and provide grant funds to purchase the equipment needed. Amblyopia is the leading cause of monocular blindness in North America; early detection prevents delays in treatment which can lead to learning delays and lifelong challenges.

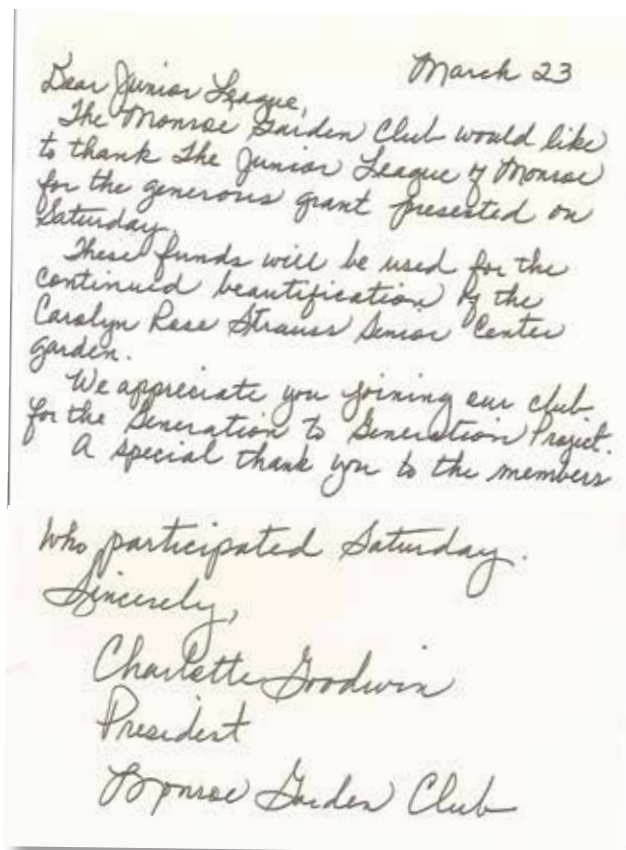
The YMCA of Northeast Louisiana began serving Northeast Louisiana in 1960. Since that time the group has focused on opportunities to improve the health and wellness of children and youth in our community. The Y fosters collaborative relationships and partners with other organizations to address needs, and offer opportunities for youth to engage in positive behavior, responsible leadership and to develop a lifelong focus on health. The YMCA puts Christian principles into practice through programs which emphasize youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. During the 2015 year the organization will hold their annual Summer Academy, a nine week project which is expected to reach 125 children. The academy will incorporate weekly field trips, academics, arts & crafts as well as sports and games. Free meals will be served to children daily along with two healthy snacks. Funding will assist with the cost of the academy this year.





The final 2015 grant recipient, Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana, was founded in 1998. The group is dedicated to creating communities where children and families thrive. The Coalition works collaboratively with other organizations to problem solve gaps in service and needs for children ages 0-18 in four primary areas: early care and education, health care, parent education, and youth development. The Coalition sought JLM grant funding for the inception of their Ouachita Youth Summit: Make A Difference. This summit will be held in October, volunteer awareness month, and will be an opportunity for youth from all around Ouachita Parish to come together on the campus of ULM and be "part of the solution—not part of the problem." The summit will host experts who will present on issues which matter to youth. One such expert, nationally known motivational speaker, Craig Hiller, will present on volunteerism and work with youth in two breakout sessions. Participants will develop leadership skills and receive tools to create action plans to improve their communities by choosing two of six available concurrent workshops to attend. Workshops will include "Don't Post That! (cyber-awareness/bullying); How to Save a Life (Suicide Awareness); Reset/Restart (substance abuse); and others. Participants will be included from all middle and high schools in the area, as well as faith-based groups and out-of-school programs. Over 200 young people expect to be included in the summit which the Coalition hopes will inspire volunteerism and service learning. The group additionally plans to share knowledge on key issues such as health relationships, suicide prevention, substance abuse, as well as health and nutrition.

Junior League of Monroe is excited to be able to support three worthy causes. The League has been making a difference for 85 years, and these grants will effect change and make a difference for generations to come.



Grant Gives Chennault Education Programs Wings

Due to the generous grant of \$5000 given to the Chennault Aviation and Military Museum by the Junior League of Monroe in 2014, the Museum has been able to expand student education programs.

The 2014 Chennault Summer Fun Boot Camp was a great success and allowed 30 students the opportunity to engage in exciting STEM activities and experiments free of charge.

The Museum began Drop-In Activity Days which take place the third Saturday of every month September – April from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. The students participate in a variety of activities including: arts and crafts, space exploration, navigation, spy kits, and victory gardening. Twenty children have participated since September 2014.



The Museum has also expanded exploration stations and given visiting children the opportunity to interact with artifacts. Currently there are two exploration stations; one station is filled with military gear and the other is a space exploration center complete with a NASA flight suit. The Museum is in the process of adding another exploration station and making improvements to current stations.

The Museum is still seeking participants for the upcoming Drop-In Activities and Summer Day Camps. This summer the day camps are being expanded to include 4 week sessions. Other summer camp offerings will include a STEM camp from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm and a Mandarin camp from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Students can take one section or register for both at a reduced cost. Please visit the website at www.chennaultmuseum.org for more information.

Consider becoming a member of the Chennault Aviation and Military Museum. In light of even further budget cuts, the Museum is looking for community help to support its mission.

Continued Progress on Interactive Playground by The Civitan's Club

The Junior League of Monroe awarded the Civitan's Club the \$10,000 endowment grant in 2014 to design and build an inclusive playground at Kiroli Park in West Monroe.

The project is being designed by Shane's Inspiration and is making progress. This past year the park began some of the preliminary construction. This fall the group also announced the final plans for the project, which will include several themed areas such as a big top carnival area, carousel play structure, sensory animal circle, high energy play area, sand and water areas, etc. Each play zone will be inclusive and is designed for the integrated play of



all children. Junior League of Monroe is proud to have been a part of this amazing playground project and looks forward to its fruition and the impact it will have in our community.



Who needs playgrounds? (Everyone!)

By AJLI Editorial Staff

How important is play?

Well, according to the American Heart Association, lack of physical activity is a major risk factor for developing coronary artery disease even for children and adolescents. (The AHA recommends kids participate in at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity every day.) And recent research by the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana indicated a link between physical fitness and the actual shape and function of children's brains.

With that in mind, consider a major community initiative taken on by a number of Junior Leagues over the years – playground construction. Children's physical activity at school is being chipped away, in many cases, by budget cuts and more test-focused curricula. And at home, digital entertainment increasingly keeps kids inside, often on their own.

That's why playgrounds are important – because that's where kids, particularly in the primary grades, go to play. And nowhere is that more important than playgrounds accessible to everyone – a concept called Universally Accessible Playgrounds, or UAP. The key to the concept is simple – don't just build a play area, build one that can be used by everyone of any ability!

Reacting to the lack of play space in Wood County, WV for the many children in the community with disabilities, the Junior League of Parkersburg designed and built a UAP playground in City Park with specialized equipment that can be used by disabled children as well as their siblings and peers. Called JuleP Pathways (after Junior League of Parkersburg), the playground is available and accessible to all children in the community.

After three years of fundraising efforts and planning, the Junior League of Reno this year opened the region's first UAP at the city's Dick Taylor Park, with generous support by the Harrah's Foundation and local businesses. The playground, built with donations of \$250,000, satisfies American Disabilities Act (ADA) standards and features special equipment that allows all children and family members to play together.

Some Junior Leagues have been ahead of the handicapped-accessible trend.

In 2009, the Junior League of Greenwich, with the support of the United Way of Greenwich, the town's Parks and Recreation Department and private donors, opened the Boundless Playground in Bruce Park, incorporating a hedge maze, sensory garden, Native American "camp" and "Enchanted Forest" along with more traditional playground attractions. The playground was built with help from Boundless Playgrounds, a national nonprofit developer of playgrounds for all ages and abilities.

And Junior Leagues are still involved in building playgrounds that meet a variety of needs.

In 2011, the Junior League of Long Island completed its fourth signature Project Playground, a safe, appropriate area for infants and toddlers between the ages of six months to two years old, at Long Island Head Start in Patchogue. Previous JLLI Playgrounds have been built at The Hagedorn Little Village School in Seaford, the EOC/Head Start School in Manhasset and the Family Service League in Bay Shore.

The Junior League of New Orleans, working with national nonprofit KaBOOM! and community partners Lakeview Presbyterian Church and Phoenix of New Orleans, designed and built a playground in the Katrina-ravaged Lakeview neighborhood, filling an important community need.

The Junior League of Seattle donated an "Air, Land and Sea" playground to the children of Seattle to commemorate its 75th anniversary. The playground was designed partly by children and built entirely by volunteers at the site of the former Naval Air Station, Seattle Control Tower. The design of the playground includes several features that commemorate the site's past use as an airfield.

For more than 20 years, the Junior League of the City of New York's Playground Improvement Project (PIP) has brought League volunteers to work on revitalizing playgrounds throughout Manhattan in partnership with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.

And speaking of New York, many of its parks and playgrounds, including Mary Harriman Rumsey playfield in Central Park, were established by none other than Mary Harriman, founder of The Junior League and an early advocate for safe play spaces for children.

This article was originally published in *The Civic Lede*, an official publication of The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc., and has been reprinted with permission. *The Civic Lede* spotlights notable developments in philanthropy, not-for-profits, women's interests, voluntarism and leadership, and offers commentary on the issues on which The Junior League has been active for many years. In addition to posts from contributors including Association Executive Director Susan Danish and a host of esteemed guest bloggers from a variety of sectors, *The Civic Lede* features commentary written or edited by AJLI Editor Suzanne Gannon

Junior League AJLI ODI Conference Grapevine, TX

In February, several current and 2015-16 board members had an opportunity for training with AJLI at one of their ODI's (Organizational Development Institute) in Grapevine, TX. Members present were: Jenny Pankey, President-Elect; Jan Mattingly, Advisory Planning; Faith Gremillion, Research and Development VP (2015-16); Cydni Hanks, Nominating and Placement; Ashley West, Financial VP; Tomi Tharp, Assistant Financial VP; Melissa Kiper, Communications VP; and Loretta Lemoine, Nominating and Placement (2015-16). We were all excited because this was one of the first leadership conferences a majority of us had ever been to! With the long drive from Monroe to Grapevine, we learned new things about one another both personally and as League members. We were eager to learn more about the "big picture" that current members, past Presidents and Sustainers have shared with us.

As we started with the opening session, we were overwhelmed by the number of women from different Leagues that were represented. During an ice breaker game, we were able to meet delegates from all over the nation. The session began with delegates taking a Change Style Indicator test to see how we react to change. It was interesting to see where we fell in that spectrum of change. Delegates were told to use this information to help improve as a leader and team member. When we are self-aware, we can be more flexible and effective in our response to change, while also understanding the reaction of others.

Over the course of the weekend, we broke into our designated concentration courses. Depending on our future roles in the League, we attended the following sessions: Achieving Community Impact, Building Internal Capacity through Operating Infrastructure, Governing for Excellence, and Membership Development. We all brought back something to share with membership. Tomi Tharp said, "I definitely think we need to work on determining a community impact area. I know that is not a fast process but think it will be beneficial and help continue our strategic plan. I'd like to see more educational opportunities for our members; possibly have some planned meeting times to view the webinars available on AJLI website. We could adopt member educational obligations. We need to focus more on the training of women in the league as leaders and offer more opportunities for members to attend ODI trainings." Loretta Lemoine attended the Membership Development



sessions and said, "I was struck by the fact that the Education and Training Committee should really be doing a lot more to get our ladies trained to be good volunteers. I was also surprised that there was an expectation for the Sustainers to have a larger role in League activities." I attended the Issue-Based Community Impact session and was reminded to focus, grow and learn from our mission statement. The mission states, "The Junior League is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers." We should recruit members for the mission, not our own issues we think are important. We should promote volunteerism as it promotes women. The presenter told us that in order for us to continue to make a difference in the community, we must change and evolve with the issues. We should find a focus and start grouping projects by issue. Many Leagues have already adopted this roll-out program. I'm anxious to learn more about issue-based community impact and how we can begin to implement it with the Junior League of Monroe.

The mid-session presentation focused on "Taking Action: Moving toward Diversity and Inclusion." Presenter, Vicki Clark, said that we should embrace who we are and embrace the differences in others. Leagues must create open and inclusive environments for all. The end-session focused on "Communication is Key: Bringing it all Back Home." We received many new ideas to continue to develop better communication among members and within the community. We could have news days and email members, have small Sustainer meetings to involve them in day to day matters, add additional tabs to our website for people to visit links associated with our community projects, issue press releases about different issues we are focusing on and most importantly, celebrate volunteerism.

During the conference, we were able to visit with current League Advisor, Karen Henning. We also met our upcoming League Advisor, Vicki Clark, and were able to chat with her for a while one evening. We look forward to working with her next year! Altogether it was an amazing weekend filled with laughter, shopping, dining and education. This conference only made us love the League more and we can't wait to tackle a new year.

By Melissa Kiper, Communications VP



Spring Market

Making a Difference by Working Together

The Spring Market Committee has worked hard planning and organizing this year's Spring Market and it was another amazing year. Everyone came together from the early planning through the week of Market to pull off this hallmark event. This year we were able to continue the wildly popular Louis Vuitton purse raffle. This year's winner of the coveted Louis Vuitton purse was Sarah Cox! Congratulations to her for winning this beautiful bag. We also raffled off a Coasta Rica Vacation this year and the Get Away winner was Margee King.

Spring Market is one of the League's biggest fundraisers. This event helps fund our community projects such as Families Can't Wait, Done in a Day, TLC, teacher mini-grants and much more. Spring Market is a year round commitment. The committee begins working as soon as the previous year's market is over. In the very early planning stages, they have a very detailed time line that maps out the entire year to ensure that everything gets done! There are monthly meetings, but the majority of work falls between December and April. The main goal of the Spring Market Committee is to raise as much money as possible to help fund all the wonderful things Junior League does throughout the year. If Spring Market did not exist, it would be very hard to sponsor everything the League does.

This year's chair was Kerri James. She would personally like to thank all of the committee for their commitment throughout the year. She says, "This committee rocks!!! I have had so much fun working with all of these ladies and have missed them immensely since market has been over. Chairing an event like Spring Market teaches you *MANY* things! I will miss working on this amazing event next year, but I know that I am leaving it in great hands. Have fun!!!!" She also has some helpful advice for those leading this committee next year!

1. Communicating with lots of different people can be tricky, but is definitely key.
2. Make a schedule, but be flexible. Things happen that are completely out of your control!
3. The graphic designer is your best friend.
4. The Civic Center staff is your best friend!

Kerri James (Chair), Melinda Rigsby, Mary Francis Siggers, and JJ Wyatt (Co-Chairs)



Volunteers Make all the Difference

This spring the Done In A Day (DIAD) Committee has been a part of many events, such as, helping plant flowers at the Council on Aging, assisted teens with getting ready for prom, set up for ballet under the stars for the Twin City Ballet, helped get the zoo ready for summer, and set up for the American Heart Association GO RED event. The league members have enjoyed being able to help in the community and see the community improve with every event.

This year the DIAD Committee has been dedicated to volunteering in different events that will affect a variety of organizations in our community. We made it our mission to keep members involved in things that maybe they didn't know how to become involved in or volunteer opportunities that they didn't know our community needed.

We like to think that the DIAD committee thinks outside of the box when coming up with volunteer opportunities for our members. We want our members to be well rounded volunteers so that they may be the difference in a variety of organizations.

"Being on the DIAD has been a great way for me to volunteer in several different areas of our community and has allowed me to see other members ignite their passion by feeling that they truly felt that their volunteer services were meaningful" ~ Sarah Cox

Heather Guillot, DIAD Chair



Summer Ready

House & Arrangements spent time this spring getting the League house ready for summer. You might have noticed the new monogrammed mats at each entryway at the League house, but have you seen the beautiful new flowers?

Jennifer shared some of her favorite floral arrangement ideas, and she chose an adorably festive summery bouquet that mimics fireworks in the sky on the Fourth of July. This arrangement has silver echinops and spiky, steel-blue eryngium mingled with feathery white flowering astilbe. According to an article on MarthaStewart.com, they are easy to grow and easy to use for arrangements. You just need to cut the stems at an angle, and anchor them in a vase using a flower frog. Finish with astilbe foliage and sparkler like Queen Anne's lace to set off those big, booming blossoms for a fun and festive centerpiece.

Brent Metts, M.D. Ph.D.
Providing Adult & Pediatric
Ear, Nose, & Throat Services.



Dr. Metts is Board Certified
in General Otolaryngology.

He specializes in:

- Tonsillitis
- Ear infections
- Sleep apnea
- Dizziness and equilibrium issues
- Dysphagia (difficulty swallowing)

To schedule an appointment
or for information call,
318-329-8458.

Accepts most insurance.



a member of
GLENWOOD MEDICAL GROUP

102 Thomas Road, Suite 202 West Monroe, LA • **877-726-WELL** • **www.grmc.com**
Phone: 329-8458 • Fax: 329-8460 • Mon- Thur: 8 AM - 5 PM • Fri: 8 AM - 12 PM

New Provisionals Welcomed with Reception

The Admissions Committee had a very fulfilling year receiving new members into the Junior League. After going through many packets this winter, Junior League of Monroe joyfully extended thirty-six invitations to women who are all very eager to share their talents throughout the Junior League. These new Provisionals were able to accept their invitation at the New Provisional Reception held in their honor at the home of Mrs. Olive Sartor. We are all excited to see how these ladies serve in our community.



Provisionals enjoyed a reception in their honor this spring. New Provisionals for the 2015-2016 year are: Holly Allen, Tara Ambrose, Missy Amy, Carol Ann Barnes, Kimberly Benton, Jessica Brady, Abby Comeaux, Allison Comeaux, Megan Council, Kelsi Dickerson, Jacquiela Dorsey, Mollie Fields, Kelly Gauthier, Jessie Gray, Lisa Hammett, Amanda Heikkila, Dannah Holtzclaw, Stephanie Howell, Kandice Hunter, Morgan Johnston, Anna Kalil, Leslie Kennedy, Keely Kennedy, Jessica Kepper, Kourtney Lewis, Allison Lowe, Roxi Mackes, Jennifer Martin, Christine Michener, Melinda Minniefield, Tiffany Rials, Rachel Rodgers, Charlotte Shaw, Alyson Telano and Landyn Young.

JLM Past President's Report – May 5, 2015

Total League Volunteer Hours- 8661.75

Communications Council	1436.5 volunteer hours	Membership Development Council	1192.75 volunteer hours
Community Council	1568 volunteer hours	Research and Planning Council	1966.5 volunteer hours
Fund Development Council	2498 volunteer hours		

Communications Council

Charlons

- 514.75 Total volunteer hours

Webmaster/Yearbook

- Approved upgrade to Digital Cheetah for the 2015-16 League Year.
- Set up BOD/Committee virtual meeting with Digital Cheetah and Closureware.
- 496.25 Total volunteer hours

Secretary

-170 Total volunteer hours

Marketing/PR

- Raised awareness and polished perception of JLM in the community through advertising/marketing/public relations.
- 170.5 Total volunteer hours

Communications Council VP

- Coordinated JLM's first Spring Market promotional video - Girls Just Want to Have Fun!
- Attended 2 AJLI conferences which allowed an understanding the AJLI "the bigger picture."
- 235 Total volunteer hours

Community Council

Done in a Day DIAD

- A total of \$6500 was given in DIAD mini-grants.
- 323 Total Volunteer hours

Education Task Force ETF

- Awarded 30 mini-grants to local educators totaling \$13,602.79.
- 245 Total Volunteer Hours

Families Can't Wait FCW

- Visited 238 "first time" moms at 3 local hospitals- St. Francis, Glenwood and University Health.
- Distributed 17 car seats, 38 pack n plays, & 200 "This Side Up" onesies.
- 491 Total Volunteer hours

Tools and Literacy for Children TLC

- Lenwil Elementary was chosen this year as our TLC school. This is the first "parish school" partnership.
- Established a PTO with an elected President and Treasurer.
- Helped develop a Student Council.
- 315 Total Volunteer Hours

Community Council VP

-194 Total volunteer hours

Fund Development Council

Fund Development Committee

- Doubled financial support from business and individual donors by 50%.
- Doubled Friends of Market support from 31 to 50 donors.
- 131 Total volunteer hours

Charity Shopping Pass

- New Charity Shopping Pass Logo & New marketing materials
- 363 Total volunteer hours

Cotton Bayou Publications

- launched first E-Book- Cooking in High Cotton.
- 309.5 Total volunteers hours

Spring Market

- Generated Spring Market revenue.
- Updated marketing materials- posters, fliers, billboards and website.
- New Spring Market Girls Just Want to Have Fun! Promotional video posted on social media.
- 831 Total volunteer hours

Financial & Assistant Financial VP

- Completion of informal audit of all financial procedures within the League.
- Redefined & implemented League financial policies and procedures.
- 645 Total volunteer hours

Fund Development VP

-218.5 Total volunteer hours

Membership Development Council

Admissions

- Accepted 36 new Provisionals for 2015-16.
- 133 Total volunteer hours

Education and Training

- Provided education for each general meeting focusing on the Ignite Your Passion theme; secured guest speakers such as former JLM President, Janet Breard, JLM Consultant Karen Henning, and others as well as coordinating leadership roundtable.
- Sent 4 members to AJLI Regional Fund Development Meeting in Shreveport, LA.
- Sent 8 members to AJLI ODI in Grapevine, TX.
- 87 Total volunteer hours

Housing and Arrangements

-166 Total volunteer hours

Nominating/Placement

-417.75 Total volunteer hours

Provisionals

- Initiated League mentor program.
- Trained 30 new members.
- Successful Provisional Project with Family Promise.
- Received Family Promise Service Award for outstanding service.
- Decorated children's play room for Family Promise.
- Delivered 10 pack n plays for Family's Can't Wait.
- Successfully completed Provisional Project for Spring Market-Breakfast with the Bunnies.
- 253 Total volunteer hours

Membership Development VP

-136 Total volunteer hours

Research/Planning Council

President, President-Elect, Research & Planning VP, Advisory Planning Chair, Research & Planning Committee

- Strategic Plan was drafted, finalized and presented to the membership.
- Suggestion Box was purchased to be on display at all General Membership meetings.
- Implementation of JLM University
- AJLI Fall Conference, Nashville, TN (President, President-Elect).
- AJLI Winter Conference, Orlando, FL (President-Elect, President-Elect-Elect).
- AJLI National Conference, Los Angeles, CA (President, President-Elect).
- Implementation of Leadership Reconnect.

Total Volunteer Hours

President - 1080 hours
President-Elect - 429 hours
Council VP - 149 hours
Advisory Planning Chair - 238 hours
Research/Planning Committee - 70.5 hours

Change is in the Air

Nominating and Placement roll out different placements for the coming year

The Nomination and Placement Committee has been working with all of the active membership to place everyone for next League year. New placements are always an exciting part of the League year as everyone was excited to see what new placements / changes will drive the next year. The Nominating and Placement Committee conducted straw ballots and held voting over several meetings to put in place the amazing Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and finalizing general membership placements for the 2015-2016 League year. Cydni Hanks is extremely grateful for her committee that has worked tirelessly all year. She said, "It's been a fast paced, super fun year! I am always amazed that with each year in the League I come to know new members and have newfound friendships that would not have been possible without being involved with the League. I would like to thank my committee for their hard work and dedication to the league as well as extending to farewell to the 2014-2015 Board of Directors that I served alongside this year. I cannot say enough of how highly I think of these women. They are each beautiful, strong leaders and I am lucky enough to consider them friends." This year this committee has worked extremely hard to keep membership connection and satisfaction in mind!

Cydni Hanks, Committee Chair

New Directions

Research and Development has been busy this spring preparing their online cottage meeting survey and compiling a summary of the results. They have gathered lots of ideas from membership to work toward next year. The results of the survey are helping the R&D committee provide guidance for the more beneficial allocation of League time efforts and assets. The majority of our membership believes that we should be spending more time toward Done in a Day Projects that directly benefit our community such as Food Bank, Grace Place, Mercy Ministries, Cinderella Project, and Boo at the Zoo. Another salient point of the survey was the desire to ease the transition for provisional members to active membership. Many suggested that a veteran active be assigned as a mentor to a first year active. One League member suggested, "The veteran would be responsible for finding the first year active at meetings, to answer any questions she might have, to call and do things outside the League house..." Another suggestion was to hold a committee fair day where new actives could be provided with more detailed information about each committee. Another important topic of the survey results was a question regarding the direction and the scope of the publication *Charlons*. Most members are pleased with the current direction and publications of *Charlons*. Some feel that it is not the best financial investment and could be done away with. Others would like to see some new direction such as more information about League activities and fewer individual spotlights. Some would like to see more articles about general things that League members might enjoy such as health, fitness, and gardening.

Ashley Joiner, Research & Development



Sustainers

Jennifer Ables	Carrie Furguson	Dana Mullins
Amy Cheveallier	Kristina Kight	Jennifer Price
Andree Eddleman	Amanda Martin	Meredith Smith

The League is never short on outstanding active or sustaining members, but I would like to recognize two ladies who have been influential to me over the last few years. Kristina Kight and Andre Eddleman will be going sustainer this year. With a combined 13 active years in the League, these ladies have helped mold and shape many facets of the League like fund development, spring market, charity shopping pass, and even provisional guidance. I wish you ladies all the best of luck in your next endeavors, and know that you will continue to be assets to the League in your sustaining years.

Submitted by: Meghan Sharp

2015-2016

Junior League of Monroe Placements

Activities

Cyndi Hanks – Chair
Meghan Sharp
Meghan Plummer
Stacy Majure
Ashlie Hennessy
Nikki Bolton
Sarah Cox

Admissions

Katherine Flowers – Chair
Dana Tarver
Sarah Raymond

Charlons

JoAnn Powell – Chair
Amy Lange
Bethany Stinson
Jessica Louque
Alex Mancuso
Sarah Austin

Charity Shopping Pass

Aleta Eley – Chair
Leigh Liles
Mary Kathryn Barham
Ashley Yeldell
Victoria Krutzer
Suhan Wallace
Alexandra Barham

Cotton Bayou Publications

Cynthia Rodriguez – Chair
Shannon Pittard – Co-Chair
Angela Grubbs
Chelsie Summerville
Sarah Katherine Ewing
Megan Smith
Sadye Richert
Ashton Mintz
Betsy Beard
LaWanda Marshall

Done in a Day

Kathryn Bagley – Chair
Christina Elahi – Co-chair
Courtney Weston
Cassie Livingston
Allison Bowman
Kelli Cole
Juanita Woods
Brandy Jones

Education and Training

Lindsey Ingram – Chair
Stephanie Ryan – Co-chair
Joyce Powell

Education Task Force

Angie Baldwin – Chair
Ashley Kilpatrick – Co-chair
Charlene Sullivan
Ashanti Jones
Jennifer Guerriero
Carmen Wright
Lauren Traweek
Anna Redding
Lindsey Roberts
Stephanie Arvie

Families Can't Wait

Katherine Spires – Chair
Jennifer Lizenby – Co-chair
Jamie Bryan – Co-chair
Mallory Williams – Co-chair
Dana Stephenson
Simran Emaus
Rebecca Johnson
Christy White
Ilana Wahlder
Robynn Hodnett
Veronica Knight
Alissa Russell
Kristin Wyble
Emily Martin
Sara Chauhan

Fund Development

Kelsey Laudenheimer – Chair
Liz Hammett

House and Arrangements

Anya Fulco – Chair
Sherri Mowad
Andria Hall-Oby
Terri Bursey
Shelva Thomas
Ashley Norred

JLM Technology

Cherry Coon – Chair
Sarah Morse
Blanche Betz
Amy Hendry
Colondra Smith
Richardra Winder

Marketing and PR

Jessica Metts – Chair
Katie Ambrose
April Fontana

Nominating (Board Placement)

Loretta Lemoine – Chair
Ashley West – President Elect
Dana Tarver
Meghan Plummer
Sarah Raymond
Anna Redding
Anya Fulco

Placement

Loretta Lemoine – Chair
Arabella Moore
Stephanie Bryant
Arie Milner
Sabrina Racer
Sherrie McCraw
Kerri James

Provisionals

Angie Nicholson – Chair
Allison Earl – Co-chair
Brittany Hayes
Jennifer Morris
Robin Beatty

Research and Development

Veronica Wood – Chair
Rachel Niblett

Spring Market

Melinda Rigsby – Chair
Jessica Wyatt – Chair
Julie Hanson – Chair
Mary Francis Siggers – Chair
Samantha Combs – Co-Chair
Stephanie Durham – Co-Chair
Hollyn Breen – Co-Chair
Joyce Priest
Laura Gibbs
Emily McGee
Julie Morris
Emily Eberts
Lindsey Swander
Kathryn Raymond

TLC

Monica Pittman – Chair
Sylver Malta
Leslie Hughes
Mary Ann McElroy
Sarah Nerren
Kanzadia Brothers
Becky Flemister
Talitha Elliott
Krista Nelson
Adrian Washington
Jayme Garvin

TIGER PRIDE is roaring at Lenwil Elementary School!

The Tools and Literacy for Children Committee and Lenwil Elementary School have been SUPER-CHARGED with fun for an UNBELIEVEABLY AWESOME school year! We have had more fun with this school! With many hands on deck, we have sponsored the Back to School Bash, Math/Literacy Nights, Celebrity Talent Show, school supplies drive, spirit wear for all students, field trips for the Student Council and our champion readers. Each six weeks pizza parties honoring the Honor Roll students were held in the gym. We also treated the teachers to a special teacher luncheon and hosted the first ever Lenwil MAY DAY CELEBRATION! May Day was a day of fun and friends. The students were on a rotation of scheduled events for the day. The campus was set up for fun as waterslides, jumpers, obstacle courses, sack races and picnics were scattered on the premises. The festivities ended with a jamming concert from Big Al Cherry and FM 92.7.

The TLC Committee has worked tirelessly to create one of the best years for the Lenwil students and faculty. Each event was incredibly successful and loaded with parent participation. The Junior League of Monroe is thankful for all of the other arms of service throughout the area that joined our effort in creating a memorable year for these students and for us. Thank you to Ouachita Parish Fire Department, Healthy Minds, National Guard, Project Help, Big Al Cherry and 92.7 FM, JP's Jumpers, Charlotte Goodwin, KNOE, LAMBDA, New Chapel Hill Church, KONA ICE, Johnny's Pizza, Mayor Norris, OCS ART CLUB, Raising Cane's, Bayou Bowl, FUMC WM, Provisional Class 2014-2015 and the entire JL membership for being a part of this PERFECT PARTNERSHIP!

A special hug goes to my TLC Committee and Terri Arthur for their kind spirits, creative energy and the willingness to lend a helping hand to this HUGE project! It's been a GREAT year!

Faith Gremillion, TLC Chair

TLC Committee Members: Monica Pittman, Leslie Hughes, Sarah Nerron, Sylvester Malta, Mary McElroy, Ashanti Jones, Krista Nelson



2015 Summer Birthdays

JULY

- 5 Kelly Gray
Cassie Livingston
- 6 Megan Smith Perry
- 9 Kara Devinney
Veronica Wood
- 10 Jami-Lynn Crosby
- 12 Julie Hansen
Sherri Mowad
Ashley Fisher
- 13 Lindsey Roberts
Ashanti Jones
- 18 Kanzadia Brothers
- 26 Ashley West
- 29 Julie Morris

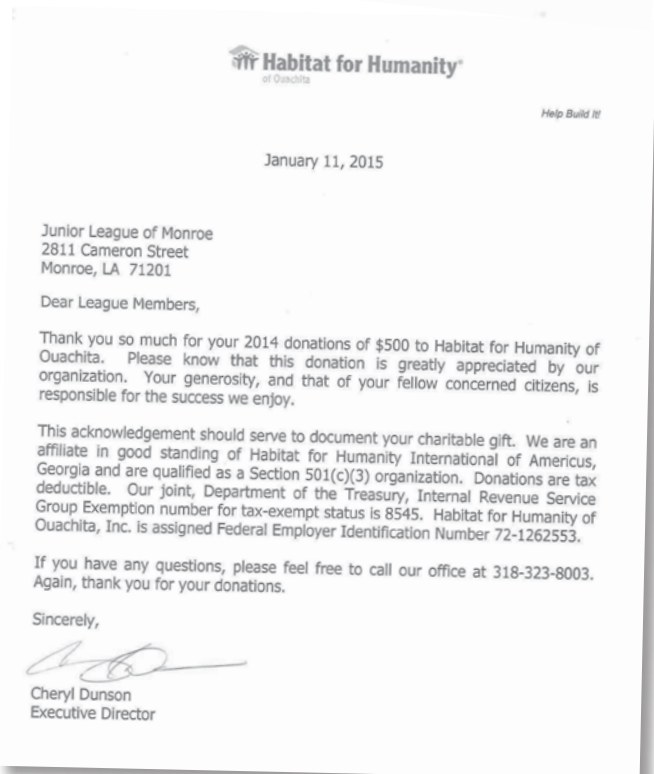
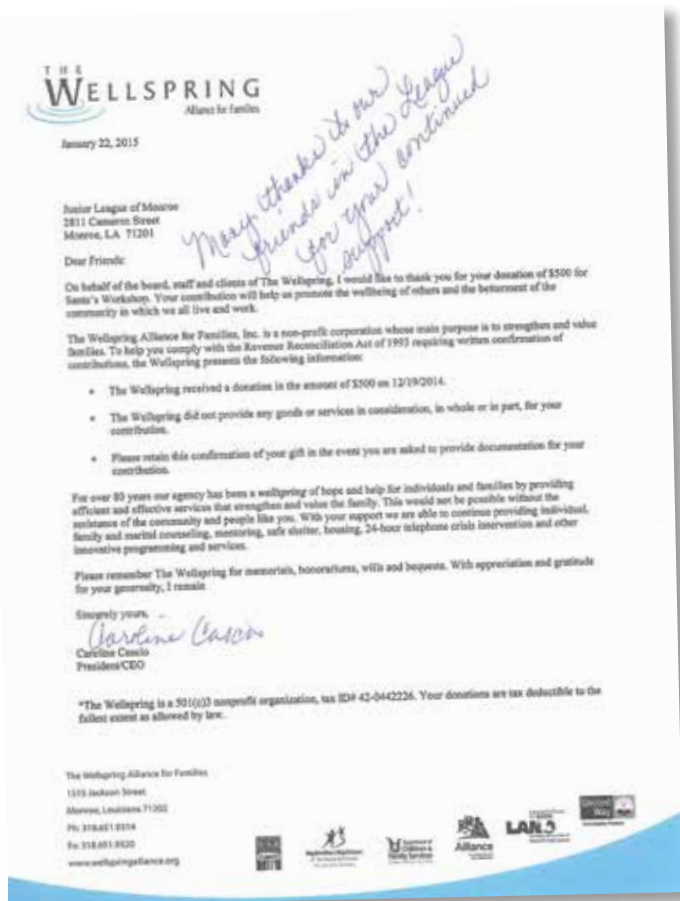
AUGUST

- 2 Ashley Yeldell
- 4 Katherine Spires
- 6 Amanda May
- 13 Loretta Lemoine

- 19 Gretchen Tiser
Stephanie Arvie
Stephanie Durham
- 20 Ashley Joiner
Stephanie Ryan
- 27 Chelsie Ferraci
Simran Emaus
- 29 JoAnn Powell

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Lauren Traweek
- 4 Jennifer Ables
Erinn Niblett
- 8 Allison Earl
- 9 Mary Ann McElroy
- 14 Victoria Krutzer
- 18 Kristin Wyble
- 20 Juanita Woods
- 23 Joyce Priest
- 24 Ashlie Porter
- 26 Liz Hammett
- 27 Sadye Richert



THANK YOU JENNIFER ABLES

JLM YEAR IN REVIEW



Girl On Fire

I want to thank Jennifer for her wisdom, laughter and leadership! She is one classy lady and will be a friend for life! Proud to serve alongside her as she guided me with a graceful hand and heart! ~ Jenny Pankey



Thank you Jennifer for igniting passion for League this year, knowing it will endure for years to come! ~ Torii Tharp

You were an awesome President. I truly loved your spirit and passion you had for the League! Farewell! ~ Richard A. Winder



Jennifer, Thank you so much for "Igniting Our Passion" for the League! This has been a great year and we've accomplished so much due to your time and commitment. I've had a great time getting to know you better this year. You have a huge heart devoted to volunteerism and have truly led us by your example! We will miss you next year! ~ Ashley Joiner

Beginning the year with the retreat/training with Karen Hanning was a great start! It helped throughout the year and will continue to help going forward into the future. This year really brought out a "passion" for the League in me and it started with seeing your passion for the League! Thank you! ~ Cherry Coon

Jennifer has been a leader through a year of planning and change. We worked hard over the summer and all through the year to develop an updated Vision for our Junior League and then we put wheels to the road and really got things moving. I am thankful we have had a leader this year who didn't lose sight of the bigger vision. Last summer I recall hearing you say this was OUR LEAGUE and OUR YEAR and that has resonated with me in so many ways this year. ~ Joahn Powell

Your enthusiasm for the Junior League of Monroe and it's members will be greatly missed. Thank you for all of your hard work, dedication and service, and investing time in each one of us ~ Ashley Mintz



What I've learned during my first active year in JLM with you as President is invaluable. You not only encouraged me to "ignite [My] Passion" for the League, but in my career and personal life as well. You were a very big part of making my first active year an amazing experience and I can't say thank you enough. Your drive for and commitment to this League is truly an inspiration and your example is one I will be proud to follow in my future years with the League. You are an absolutely marvelous person and JLM is very blessed to have you as part of our family! ~ Stephanie Ryan



Thank you for being an inspirational example of a wonderful leader ~ Emily Eberts



IT'S YOUR WORLD

HOW WILL YOU MAKE YOUR MARK?

Medical Coder

Automotive Service
Technician

Electrician

EMT

Teacher

Business Manager

Carpenter

Process Technician

Welder

Barber Stylist

Computer Technician

Forensic Science Technician

Accountant

Air & Refrigeration
Technician

Even Transfer to 4-year university:

- LA Transfer of Science
- Registered Nursing
- LA Transfer of Arts
- General Studies
- Business Technology

Instrument Technician

Early Childhood
Professional

Drafting & Design
Technician

Patient Care
Technician

IT STARTS HERE

Louisiana Delta Community College

318-345-9000 • www.ladelta.edu

More
Than Just a Place...



Junior League of Monroe, Inc.

2811 Cameron Street
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
MONROE, LA 71203
PERMIT NO. 301

Healthcare Centered on You



Conveniently located at 2600 Tower Drive in Monroe, St. Francis Community Health Center provides a wide range of outpatient services that are more cost-effective and easier to access than similar services within a hospital setting.

Outpatient services include:

- Cardiac Rehabilitation
- Diabetes & Nutrition Center
- Drive-Through Pharmacy
- Imaging Services
- Laboratory Services
- Occupational Medicine
- Physician Offices
- Rehabilitation
- St. Francis Walk-In Clinic

For excellence in quality outpatient care that your family can trust, visit St. Francis Community Health Center... healthcare centered on you.



**ST. FRANCIS
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**

Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System

The Next Generation of Healthcare.

(318) 966-6200
stfran.com

