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Montgomery, AL 36111

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developing the potential of women and improving the ommunity through the effective action and leadership of

trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational

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of women committed to promoting voluntarism,

Recording Secretary

Nominating Chairman

**Dawn Stephens** 

President

## EDITOR'S Notes

"It takes a lot of courage to release the familiar and seemingly secure, to embrace the new. But there is no real security in what is no longer meaningful. There is more security in the adventurous and exciting, for in movement there is life, and in change there is power." –Alan Cohen

As I reflect upon the articles in this holiday issue, I am reminded of the progress of the Junior League of Montgomery, and the many changes and "firsts" that have taken place within our organization.

Most recently, our successful 24th annual Holiday Market, highlighted on page 29, was held at the Montgomery Multiplex at Cramton Bowl. Merchants and shoppers raved about the brand new facility and ample parking.

pantry of its kind in the state of Alabama.

sports for persons with disabilities.

An inspiring interview with Kathy Sawyer on page 46 will give you a the course of our League forever.

advertisers. Without you, this publication would not be possible, and because of your support, we are able to share with a broader audience our mission of helping families by spotlighting the many community agencies that we support.

I appreciate our staff photographer who attends our many events, as well as

Wishing you every blessing during this

Your heart will overflow with pride when you read on page 38 about our Junior League stocking a food pantry for Medical AIDS Outreach, the first

In the coming months, you will hear more about our inaugural spring fundraiser which will alternate years with Bloomingdeals. This 10K Run, described on page 18, will be held near St. Patrick's Day; hence, the name Shamrock Shuffle. This race will be the first in our city to include adaptive

glimpse of what it was like to be the first black member of the Junior League of Montgomery. It only took a simple lunch with friends to change

During this season of giving, I want to extend a special thank you to our

those League members who take time to write articles, most of whom are involved in other committees within the League, but choose to go "above and beyond."

holy season,

A COMMUNITY PUBLICATION OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MONTGOMERY, INC.

# League Cogs Holiday 2012 Edition

Volume 87 Number 1

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Promoting Voluntarism

Holiday Market

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NEW FOR 2013:

#### Shamrock Shuffle

This spring, your garage won't be receiving the annual spring cleaning for our rummage sale; get ready to dust off those running shoes! Story on Page 16

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**Riverview Camp for Girls** 

For 86 years, the Junior League of Montgomery has committed itself to developing the potential of women, promoting voluntarism, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.



## President's Message

Together, through fundraisers such as Holiday Market, The Junior League of Montgomery will donate a total of Taste of the River Region, and our newest fundraiser the Shamrock Shuffle, a 10k race that will also include direct monetary gifts. adaptive runners—we are able to raise funds, which are given back to the community through our grant process. Not only do we provide funding to organizations, we also provide volunteers to assist them in their efforts. How can you help? By joining our organization, making a contribution, or supporting one of our fundraisers.

Our focus, "strengthening families," allows us the opportunity to assist many different types of organizations in the River Region. For 2012–2013, Junior League volunteers are working with MANE, MACOA, Cancer Wellness Foundation of Central Alabama, Medical AIDS Outreach of Children's Brantwood Home, Montgomery Area Coalition for the Homeless, Mary Ellen's Hearth, and Clefworks.

\$500,000 to these agencies through volunteer hours and

I am honored to be the President of such a strong organization of women. And I am proud to follow in the footsteps of so many dynamic leaders. Many things have changed in the lives of women over the past 86 years. We all lead busy lives and struggle with the demands of work and family. But, despite these challenges the women of the Junior League of Montgomery are committed to making a difference in the lives of residents of the River Region.

Junior League of Montgomery

one mission. one membership. one league.

#### Looking Ahead...Upcoming JLM Activities and Events

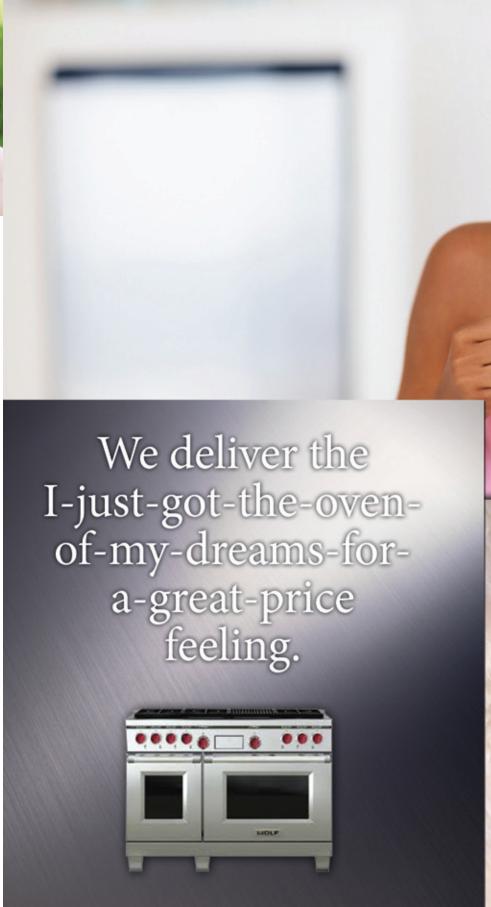
November 29 - Digital Cheetah for Dummies, 6pm, Wilson Elementary School (8900 New Park Drive)

December 13 - Holiday Open House, 5-7pm, Junior League office

January 15 - General Membership Meeting

March 12 - General Membership Meeting

March 16 - Shamrock Shuffle



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By Cindy DeLongchamp



The Junior League of Montgomery is proud to select Judy Kyser as our Sustainer of the Season.

The Junior League of Montgomery is pleased to select Judy Kyser as our Sustainer of the Season. Judy joined the Junior League of Montgomery shortly after marrying her husband, Kyle, and moving to Montgomery from her hometown of Birmingham, Alabama. Judy is a graduate of Auburn University and a former cheerleader on the plains! Judy has added many accomplishments to her résumé since her days on the sideline at Auburn, including raising three children and doting on seven grandchildren. She is also a local businesswoman who, along with friend and business partner Jean Anderson, has successfully operated "Designers Two" for over 30 years. Judy and Jean specialize in residential décor and interior consultation, but also work with commercial spaces as well. They love the challenge of staying current in the design industry, meeting new people and helping clients create warm spaces where they can share the gift of hospitality.

Joining the Junior League was a natural progression in Judy's life as a volunteer. Her parents, Dorothy and George Clark, served their community and set the civic example that Judy follows to this day. Judy also credits Mildred O'Brien, her Scout Leader from 2nd-10th grade, for instilling in her a love of volunteer service. True to its motto, an organization committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers, the Junior League of Montgomery allowed Judy to receive training in specific areas of voluntarism and provided many different opportunities for her to choose her areas of service. The League also gave Judy hands-on experience that strengthened her organizational skills, management skills and strategic planning. She served as Provisional Chair for two years, and in that capacity, she had the opportunity to work closely with the newest members whom she "loved getting to

know and train and passing the League legacy onto them." Judy also served on the Board of Directors as Secretary and Community Research Chair. Those positions enabled Judy to learn more about the various non-profit agencies, whose staff and volunteers work so hard to enrich the lives of our Montgomery citizens.

Judy fondly recalls one of her most rewarding placements. She and her committee were assigned the task of redecorating the children's area at Father Purcell Children's Center in the City of St. Jude. The ladies of the Junior League brought bright, cheerful colors into the lives of the children who lived at Father Purcell's and lifted the spirits of not only those living there, but also the spirits of the volunteers who witnessed the joy brought to the Center through simple items. Judy said, "Life in the Junior League has enriched my life in so many ways. I have built life-long friendships that began while serving with fellow League members." She commented that one of the best parts of the League was serving alongside so many wonderful women who were also committed to making Montgomery a better place for all residents.

Like so many proper southern ladies, Judy grew up attending church with her family each Sunday. But it wasn't until her long-time friend and fellow sustainer, Maria Hill, invited Judy to join a group of ladies in her home for Bible Study, that Judy truly began to read and study the Bible. As an adult, Judy fell in love with God's word. Through God's word, Judy feels convicted, instructed and encouraged. She uses Psalm 119:105 as her personal motto and quidebook for life: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." As Judy approached her 70th birthday last year, she reflected on these words and made the decision to streamline and focus her personal volunteer efforts on three main areas dear to her heart:



considers Trinity her church family and loves being involved church committees including the Missions Committee and the Finance Committee. She has served as President of the for the Church Circle. Through her voluntarism at Trinity, she has helped organize and participate in a mission trip to Desire Street Ministries in New Orleans, and has been part of a mission team to Rio Bravo, Mexico.

The Volunteer and Information Center (VIC) was founded in 1974 by the Junior League of Montgomery and the United Way Community Council and is an agency of the River Region United Way. VIC mobilizes volunteers and connects people, information and services to meet local needs and build a strong, caring community. Judy served on the original steering committee and later as the first Board President for VIC. She is proud to have witnessed, from inception, the growth of the agency into a multi-faceted volunteer agency that recruits and trains thousands of volunteers each year.

serve the educational needs of the children in inner city Montgomery. The goal of the school is to bring every student to spiritual maturity in Christ along with academic, social and

Judy actively serves in her church, Trinity Presbyterian. She emotional maturity, where he or she can effectively pursue God's purpose in his or her personal life, family, church and in several areas of church life. She has served on numerous city. The idea for the school was formed in 2005 by a group of volunteers tutoring at Paterson Court. They wanted to offer a non-profit private Christian school choice for families who Women in the Church and has been a Bible Moderator could not afford a traditional private school in Montgomery. The school began to take off slowly, by opening a K-5 kindergarten class in the Fall of 2007 and then added a first grade class in 2009. Each year, the school has added another grade and is thrilled at the opportunity to offer a fourth grade class this past August. Judy feels honored to chair the board of Montgomery Christian School and said, "I am currently involved in one of the most exciting volunteer jobs of my life. It is challenging, rewarding and has strengthened my faith in so many ways." MCS offers deserving children an option in the choice of their education. Every child at MCS receives a scholarship and yet every family pays a small portion of the cost of their education, based on family income. The school is supported by generous individuals, local businesses, churches, foundations and civic groups. Judy believes that by God's grace and the commitment of great volunteers, MCS is changing the lives of children and their Montgomery Christian School (MCS) was created to families in a positive way, and she is convinced that it has the potential of making a strong, positive impact on our community.



6 + 2 = 8 <del>(\*\*)</del> 4 + 2 = 6



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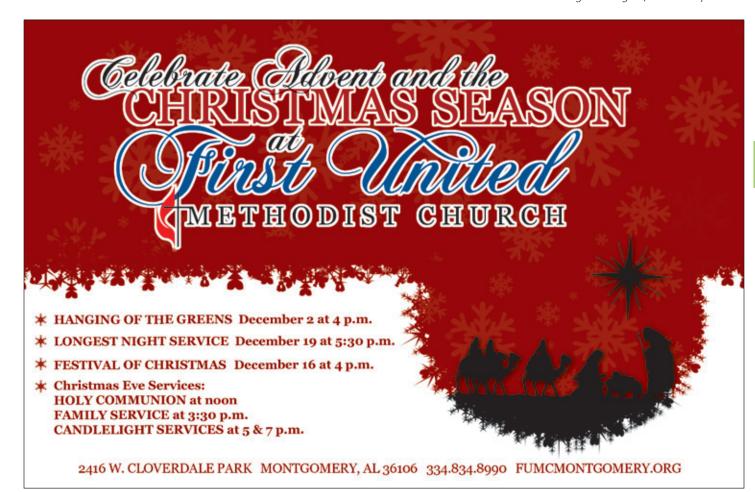
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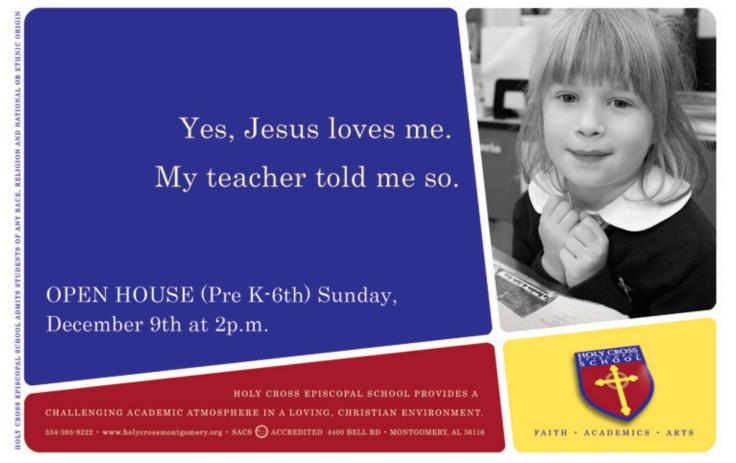












## Shuffle your feet!

By Elizabeth Mahaney

This spring, your garage won't be receiving the annual spring cleaning for our rummage sale; get ready to dust off those running shoes! The Junior League of Montgomery will be hosting its inaugural 10K race, the Shamrock Shuffle, along with a 2K fun run. (For you non-runners, that's 6.2 and 1.2 miles, respectively.)

The race will begin on Saturday morning, March 16, 2013, at Edward Thompson Park on Ray Thorington Road. We will run on the brand new connector for the New Park subdivision between Ray Thorington and Taylor Road.

"For several years, the League has been looking for an appropriate spring fundraiser to alternate with Bloomingdeals," President Suzanne Davidson said. "After much thought and research, we decided that incorporating a 10K run as our newest fundraiser would be the best option." The Spring 10K Committee is led by Chair Wynn Dee Allen, and I

serve on the committee along with other committee members: Allison Bonds, Cindy DeLongchamp, Julia Henig, Bernadette Hollinger, Tina Nixon and Sally Pitts. "One reason I decided to chair the committee is because I wanted to work with other women who understand the value of making healthy choices," said Wynn Dee Allen, Committee Chair. "With all of the stress in our day-to-day lives, it's important to remember to take care of ourselves. Running and walking are two of the simplest ways to make a difference."



One great component that makes JLM's Shamrock Shuffle different from other races is the inclusion of adaptive sports for persons with disabilities. Committee Chair Allen explains her motivation to be a part of the committee is to include all members of the community: "The Shamrock Shuffle will be the only 10K road race in the City with racing chairs, a wheelchair division. My hope is that world-class adaptive sports participants, as well as those new to adaptive sports, will come to the Capital City to compete in the Shamrock Shuffle 10K and/or 2K." This spring fundraiser will be a family friendly

event with many fun activities, whether you're running or not: "I hope that JLM members will not only participate, but encourage their friends and family to participate as well," said President Davidson. Even if you don't run, come out and enjoy the festivities planned to celebrate the Shamrock Shuffle and St. Patrick's Day! The JLM website, www.jlmontgomery.org, will have more information for registration, and you can register now on www.active.com.



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#### PLACEMENT: SPOTLIGHT ON



#### By Leslie Pitman



Brantwood Children's Home takes in and cares for children from Mobile to Huntsville and everywhere in between (including those itty bitty outlying towns)! Brantwood opens its arms and heart to kids who are in tough situations at home or who have no home, and provides them with much more than just a roof over their heads.

Someone certainly did a favor for me by assigning me to serve Brantwood Children's Home as my Junior League placement. I am thrilled to be associated with such a wonderful organization! The Director and Staff guide these children in mind and spirit; they and the children bring the family support to each other that we all innately need and desire.

The Junior League is volunteering with Brantwood to help give the kids a few more aspects of a "normal" home. We have been enlisted to bring home-baked goodies, hang out with the kids, and help plan or attend the following events:

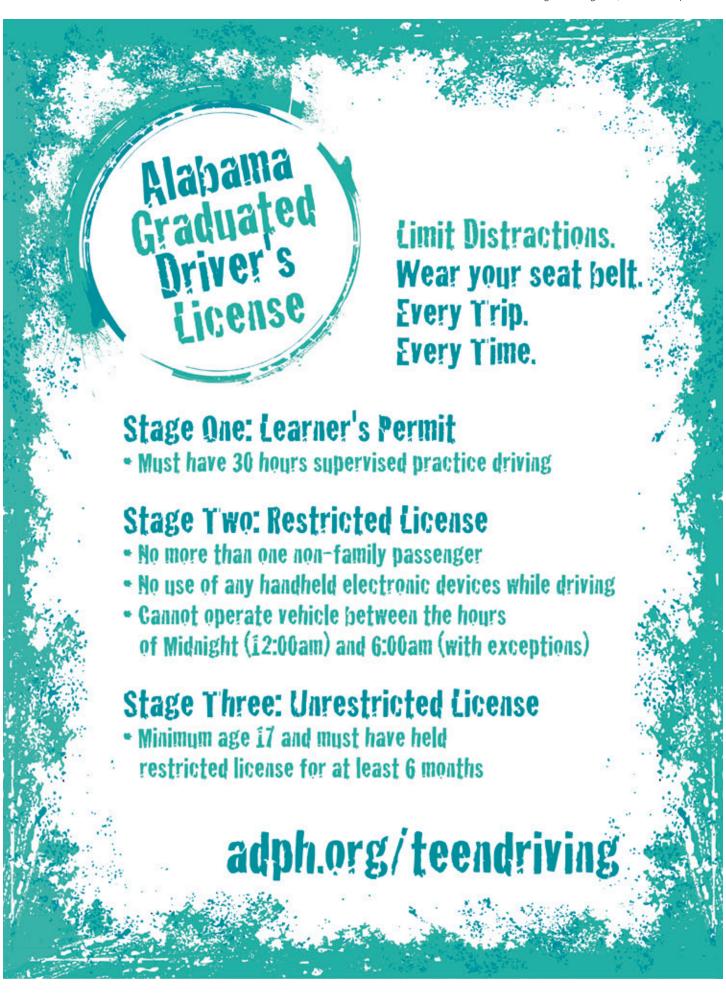
Our placement chairs Tandrea Elmore and April Wise have certainly made the most of this pairing. The first few months on this placement have been quite rewarding, and I look forward to future events with Brantwood Children's Home.



- Graduation & Birthday Parties: It is so nice to see these kids being celebrated and recognized for their successes!
- Back to School Shopping Trip: In July, each Junior League committee member was paired with one or more kids, and helped them select clothes and school supplies.
- Back to School Party: We had pizza, sandwiches donated by Subway, and ice cream sundaes. We also had a DJ; those kids can dance! The teens danced for about three hours straight, and seemed to have a lot of fun.
- School Expansion Ribbon Cutting: Brantwood has an on-campus school, and as of this year, is now able to offer school to children all the way through their high school years, and the children are responding so well to this setup!
- ◆ Reality Fair: A presentation and Q&A about various life situations
- ◆ "Brantwood's Got Talent": Coming up soon!
- ◆ Meal of Thanksgiving: Can't wait for this!
- Christmas Cookie Decorating & Shopping: Many
  of the children have never been able to give Christmas
  gifts—they are very excited to be able to do so this year!

L-R: Jessamyn Boyd, Tandrea Elmore, April Wise, Kynesha Brown, Nicole Lowe, Pamela Selmar, Nicci Jones, Michaeline Fuller, and Elizabeth Williford.

Other committee members: Victoria Belton, Morgan Cowling, Amber Dennis, Jeri Groce, Wendy Hobbie, Pamela King, Tiffany McCauley, Tiffany McCord, Leslie Meadows, Leslie Pitman, Jamie Ratliff, Christy Rials, Michelle Roark, Stefanie Sanders, and Tison Singleton.



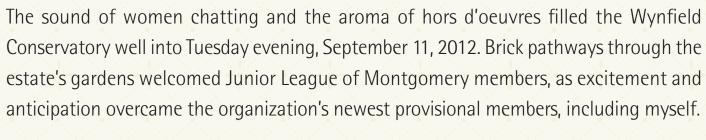
## Provisionals

CLASS UPDATE

By Nikki May Bagley







women, the Junior League of Montgomery's 2012-2013 provisional class is no different. From business owners to nonprofit organization founders to a mother-daughter team, this year's provisional class brings unique characteristics to the Montgomery area volunteer force.

"We have an outstanding group of women in this year's provisional class whose enthusiasm is exciting to see. They are already making their mark in the Junior League of Montgomery and will certainly be an asset to the future of our organization," said Melissa George Bowman, Provisional Chair.

The 2012-2013 provisional class meetings consist of a social time at the beginning, a few educational presentations about the League, a networking activity so the ladies in the class can get to know one another better, and announcements at the end to allow members to share news about what's going on in their lives (babies, promotions, etc.).

At the August meeting, our class enjoyed an ice-breaker entitled "Dream Jeopardy categories," where we each shared in groups our ideal categories to receive if we were to appear on the game show Jeopardy. From Pinterest to SEC Football, members were able to learn a little more about each other. Following the mixer, Melissa highlighted the powerful history of the Association of Junior Leagues International, and discussed the importance of thinking globally and acting locally. In addition, Dell Murdock and Becky Farace discussed our responsibilities for the 2012 Taste of the River Region, followed by the introduction of provisional committee advisors.

While each year brings in a new group of diverse and talented Our advisors are a wonderful group of ladies serving on the provisional committee this year who are excited about welcoming the provisionals to the Junior League. Every provisional committee member has been assigned three to four women who are her advisees. She is responsible for checking in with her advisees to see if they have any questions and to make sure everything is going well for them during their provisional year. Provisional committee advisors are also planning social events with their advisees. The advisor/advisee system has helped open lines of communication and also offers a great way for our newest members to meet others in the League.

> This year, our provisional class is taking part in an exciting mini-placement with the Hampstead Institute, an organization committed to promoting sustainable growth through education, agriculture, and sustainable design. During our September provisional class meeting, Melissa introduced Hampstead Institute's executive director, Edwin Marty, who discussed the organization's mission and upcoming volunteer opportunities. Our class members will volunteer to help the organization with a variety of projects, and we will be the first members of the Junior League to partner with the Hampstead Institute.

> After the Hampstead presentation, Dell Murdock and Becky Farace provided additional in-depth information concerning the 2012 Taste of the River Region, before Stacey Kimmel and Kelly McTear highlighted our obligations and expectations for the 24th Annual Holiday Market. To conclude the September meeting, Ashley Miller, Angela McCormick and Laury Morgan (commonly mistaken for country singer Lorrie Morgan) introduced "Show Me the Money," a JLM fundraising overview





which provided great detail surrounding the organization's fundraisers and dues. Needless to say, the provisional class members are well on their way to becoming fundraising experts!

Welcome, ladies, and congratulations on a successful 2012 Taste of the River Region! You did a fantastic job selling tickets and tables. Your tremendous dedication and commitment to serving others was also greatly appreciated at this year's 24th Annual Holiday Market and ongoing provisional placement at Hampstead Institute! Next up: The Shamrock Shuffle 10K Run, taking place on March 16!

With such a large group of unique and talented women, the Junior League of Montgomery is excited to continue supporting its surrounding community and individuals. Well done, ladies, and happy holidays!







#### PLACEMENT: SPOTLIGHT ON



MONTGOMERY AREA NONTRADITIONAL EQUESTRIANS



#### By Amy Sadler & Anna Kate Bowen



"When signing up for my MANE placement I did not know really what to expect. I just knew that I loved children and horses, so I thought together it would be fun. It was more than fun. It was such a rewarding experience to get to spend time with the students at MANE. Their eyes lit up each morning when they arrived at the barn and saw their horses." —Anna Kate Bowen, MANE committee member

#### History

The Montgomery Area Nontraditional Equestrians (MANE) program is a non-profit organization formed in 1994 by a group of individuals who recognized the need for therapeutic horseback riding opportunities for children and adults with disabilities. Their mission is to improve the lives of children and adults with disabilities through safe and effective therapeutic riding programs. MANE holds a 501 (c)(3) corporation status and is a premier center accredited by Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH). MANE has been operated by a Board of Directors under the guidelines of the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA) since its conception.

MANE strives to provide a therapeutic horseback riding program that safely and effectively meets the therapeutic needs of individuals in the Montgomery area who have physical, cognitive, and/or developmental disabilities.

#### Summary of Camp Activities

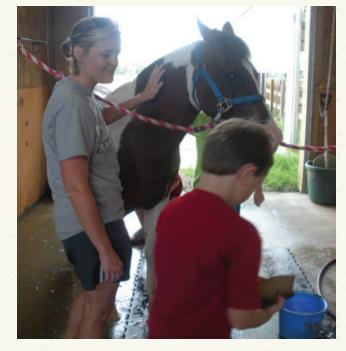
The Summer Unified Riding Camp is an annual camp that offers a setting where children (ages 4–14) with and without disabilities can work together towards a similar goal: independent horseback riding. Each week, the riders participate in horseback riding lessons, horsemanship lessons, general horse terminology, snack and craft time. Each Friday of camp the riders put on a horse show to demonstrate the skills they learned during the week. Family, friends and the general public are invited to join in!

The Junior League provided \$6,000 to fund scholarships for 24 students to attend MANE summer camp for one week. These scholarships were provided to low-income families who had made scholarship requests to MANE. Only 10% of MANE's program participants are able to pay full tuition.

The committee volunteers served as horse handlers and side-walkers. They assisted the children with the arts and crafts and snacks each day. The volunteers also assisted the children when learning their daily horsemanship functions, such as general grooming—brushing, combing, cleaning hooves, bathing, and tacking the horse. The riders learned general horse terms and tack such as: halter, hard brush, soft brush, reins, hoof pick, blanket, saddle, walk, trot, etc. The volunteers who weren't opposed to getting a little dirty were able to clean stalls and feed and water the horses each day.

"Starting the week off, each child was assigned a horse that was theirs for the week. We helped them learn the parts of the horse, the names of the horse tack, how to take care of the horse, and of course, how to ride the horse. Some of the children had special needs, but when they got on their horses they forgot about all that," said Anna Kate.

Each rider was able to learn and practice new riding techniques each day. They learned to make their horses "walk-on," stop by saying "whoa" and trot by squeezing their legs and feet around the horses. They also learned to turn around barrels, weave around poles and could even complete an "Around the World" on the horses by the end of the week.







Anna Kate said, "It was really cool to be a part of this experience. They not only learned a lot about horses, they also learned responsibility and caring for animals. The end of the week was sad and sweet as we did our final horse show where the kids showed their parents all they had learned. They had to say goodbye to their horses and we got to say goodbye, as well. All the children got to take home crafts and pictures we had taken during the week so they could remember the camp. I will definitely sign up to volunteer at MANE again. What they do for children is amazing, by giving the children an experience they will never forget."

#### MANE Committee Members

Anna Kate Bowen Mandy Dubina

Georgia Holmes Christle Jordan

Amy Sadler Crystal Smith





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## Holiday Market 2012



By Amy Godsoe



From a multitude of new merchants and a spacious new venue to old favorites and holiday classics, this year's Holiday Market had something for everyone.

The Holiday Market consisted of three shopping days which included special events, live entertainment and merchants from across the United States. Merchants offered unique gift ideas and holiday trends in a fun, family-friendly atmosphere at a great new location, the Montgomery Multiplex at Cramton Bowl.

"I am so excited that we were able to have the 24th annual Holiday Market at the new Montgomery Multiplex," said Stacey Kimmel, Holiday Market Chairwoman. "Both our merchants and shoppers were overjoyed with the new venue. There was something for everyone at this year's Holiday Market."

In its 24th year, the Market was anything but typical. Holiday cheer and a toast to kick off the holiday season were all revelers and shoppers needed to feel that the "most wonderful time of the year" had begun. It was hard not to find something for everyone on your holiday list, plus a few things for yourself!

As usual, Junior League of Montgomery members were excellent hostesses assisting, decorating, organizing and coordinating all of the merchants, activities and special events that have become past favorites. "We had an incredible Holiday Market Steering Committee," said Kimmel. "They worked tireless hours to make this event happen. These countless hours helped Junior League raise the funds that we need to continue our work in the community."

From traditions such as the Preview Party and Silent Auction, Girls' Night Out, as well as Santa's Workshop, and a Sustainers' brunch, it was hard to determine who was

having more fun: the League volunteers, merchants or patrons attending the events.

This year's merchants had everything to help fill our stockings. You could find something for your mother and your best friend, as well as your sister-in-law who has everything! As people walked up and down the rows and rows of over 120 merchants, finding enough space on their arms to carry all of the soon-to-be treasures they purchased became a real issue! Luckily, in the center of everything, the League operated its giftwrap and bag check to help ease the burden of each shopper's holiday load. Even the men in our lives were caught enjoying themselves, as grills and unique toys and gadgets danced like visions of sugarplums in their heads.

"We were excited to offer Mystery Money to our shoppers this year," said Kimmel. "Shoppers received two \$50 gift certificates for a cost of \$25. The mystery is that they didn't know which gift certificates they would receive from our great merchants. All proceeds of the Mystery Money are part of the funds that we raised at the Holiday Market."

Whether you are a child who whispered his or her deepest desire to Santa, or just a child at heart, this year's Holiday Market brought out the magic of the holidays.

In 2013, the League will be celebrating its 25th annual Holiday Market. Be sure to join us, as proceeds from the Market will continue to fund the various community projects that the League supports, which help to strengthen women and families in the tri-county area.







Thank you to our Grand Investor River Bank & Trust and our other generous sponsors, our merchants, Holiday Market steering committee, Junior League volunteers and all of our shoppers, for your continued support and dedication!













Loree and Owen Aronov





## Thank you for a successful Holiday Market! We hope to see you all next year!

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#### Thanks to the Holiday Market Steering Committee for all their hard work in presenting another wonderful Market!

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Publicity Chair: Hannah Chadee Publicity Co-Chair: Melissa Johnson Set-up: Liz Quin

Decorations: Carrie Cauthen

Special Events Breakfast: Dawn Owens

Special Events Entertainment: Leslie Robertson

Girls Night Out: Carna Trifthouser Sustainer Art Booth: Tait Lachney

Signs & Nametags: Ashley Kemp

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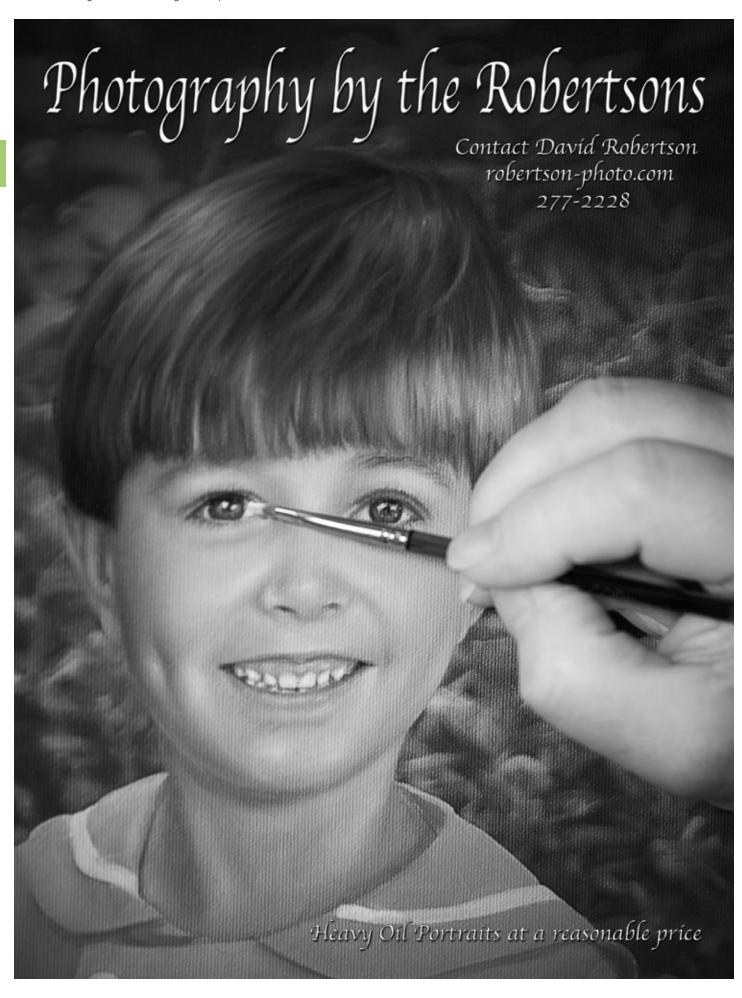
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#### JLM LAUNCHES

# MAO Food Pantry

## By Deborah Hayes Moore

Junior League of Montgomery volunteers spent a memorable evening in September launching a "Stock the Pantry" initiative, and kicking-off a new partnership with Medical AIDS Outreach of Alabama.

We gathered to "Stack the Racks, Pack the Sacks, and Tag the Bags" in the Junior League Food Pantry the first in the state of Alabama to be housed inside a clinic providing services for HIV/AIDS patients; and the first to provide every day onsite nourishment support as a key component to the full scope of care.

or below, the poverty level.

vision and generosity.

The General Membership agreed, and voted in the spring to

award the largest grant of the year for the implementation of

this project in Montgomery County, which has the highest per

capita rate of HIV/AIDS cases in the state. The scales were

tipped as we learned, of the more than 1200 clients that

receive compassionate, comprehensive and confidential HIV

medical treatment through the agency each year, 40% of

those affected are women, and 75% are individuals living at,

The statistics, though staggering, caused the League to

immediately recognize an opportunity to significantly impact

the community and to develop the potential of women

through our commitment to voluntarism and leadership. That

impact was applauded recently by the City of Montgomery

and MAO, as they jointly honored the Junior League for its



#### Strengthening Families

Realizing that proper nourishment is an important component of a successful treatment process, the Pantry was designed to help improve the health and quality of life of more than 200 clients who will receive free

distributions from the pantry during its first year of operation. implemented the process to strengthen families by simultaneously providing food on a monthly basis for every member of each client's household.

Hitting the ground running to bring a ray of hope to 600-800 very grateful recipients within the first quarter of its launch, the pantry is projected to lend a helping hand to 1850 people

Ending a client's visit to the complex at the pantry was important to the initiative's design. As a complement to a "one-stop" concept, departure from the pantry marks the conclusion to a time-saving experience for the client that



A year ago, the 2012 Sustainer of the Year, Dianne Teague, Taking things a step further, Junior League volunteers and I began our journey together to fulfill MAO's dream of implementing this project. We knew the need was great, and the impact to the community would be even greater.

during its second year of operation.

#### One-stop Shop

The gratitude is heartfelt every time a client rings the doorbell of the Food Pantry and is handed boxes of pantry staples, and insulated bags of refrigerated and frozen products. All are packed by committee members according to the specific needs of the recipient, as well as allergy alerts, and nourishment wishes.





begins with consultations in the physician's suite, and August. To support their household shopping experiences, I continues at sessions with social workers, counselors, education and medical assistance personnel, and other service them with personalized "Save the Date" cards during a providers—all taking place under one roof.

Food Pantry Committee members are inspired everyday as they perform the acts of kindness that result in a client proudly going home to feed his/her family. MAO's retention efforts are enriched by their incentive to return for scheduled appointments and subsequent food pantry pick-ups. Every time the process is repeated, it is a "win-win" for everyone.

#### A Suite in the Complex

Construction of the pantry took place during the summer, resulting in an inviting suite of three rooms that feature hardwood floors and relaxing accents in a client reception and waiting area, an office for volunteers and a nutritionist, and a storage and packing area for food products – all linked with secured access in a stand-alone area of the complex.

Junior League grant monies were used to purchase and install a commercial refrigerator and freezer, custom shelving and cabinetry, packing supplies, and grocery products that are being purchased through the support of the Montgomery Area Food Bank. From fresh produce to frozen meats, the pantry's inventory of available foods is quite impressive, and includes special "Kid's Corner" treats that are added to food boxes for families that include the young and young-at-heart.

#### A Nighttime Launch

During the process, committee members were inspired to think about and plan for their own proper nourishment, a component of the placement that was initiated in early designed "Stock the Pantry" market list pads and presented committee planning session to promote excitement about the launch of the food pantry.

The enthusiasm was infectious long before the night of the launch, and it built to a fever-pitch as committee members Sheena Allen, Jennifer Brown, Melissa Eubanks, Monica Gailes, Susan Hunt, LuAnn Knight, Tamaya Knox, Kristen Ryan and Julia Schneider arrived that evening to "stack the racks" and see the vision of a year ago become a reality.

All had been encouraged to use some portion of their time in the food pantry as "teaching moments" for children and exposure to other family members on this as a simple, yet meaningful way to help others. Committee member Yulanda Tyre arrived with her daughter, Breanna, and the two have already made plans to form a team to support the pantry in the spring.

Ashley Tarrant, a member of the 2012-2013 Provisional Class, was there to give start-up instructions and guidance on the process to committee members and special quest helpers, including Community Council VP Ashley White, and Dawn Stephens, the Junior League's President Elect.

It was "all hands on deck" as everyone pitched in to unpack the first grocery delivery, place items on the shelves, and turn a previously empty space into an impressive location where great things continue to happen every day.

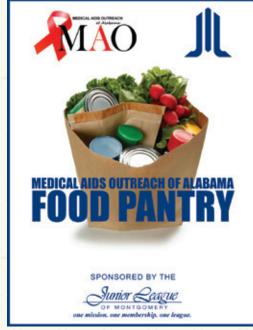
Each volunteer worked wearing an embroidered "Stock the Pantry" apron, and a lanyard-style badge designed to emphasize the partnership between the Junior League and











MAO. Replicated on a large display for the reception area, the design was a surprise for MAO, and has since been adopted for use on all the "printables" associated with the project, as well as on a custom rug created for the pantry's entrance by a vendor impressed by the mission.

#### Dinner as a Junior League Family

MAO's Medical Director Laurie Dill, Dr. Prashanth Bhat, and MAO CFO Benita Hollis enthusiastically cheered the group during its work in the pantry. They also enjoyed a break in the action with the Junior League family as the committee hosted a seated and catered dinner within the medical and service complex.

In the spirit of family dinner conversation, the medical professionals satisfied the volunteers' hunger for knowledge,

while allowing to take time together to evolve into everyone getting to know each other better.

Liger's Bakery owner, Lee Terrell, not only donated a special tray of treats as a sweet ending to the meal, he was so impressed by our project, he arrived to extend a personal "thank you" to the Junior League that became one of the highly inspirational moments of the night.

#### Packing the First Parcels

The evening concluded with volunteers packing the first parcels for client pick-up the next morning. Emotions ran high as the needs of a family of 10 were fulfilled, and as we learned that a family of two was in such dire need that we scurried to "pack the sacks" and "tag the bags" for delivery to them that evening. Admitting how touched they were by the







placement activity just in its initial hours, volunteers didn't I developed an online sign-in process for volunteers, as well as weekly and monthly pantry reports. Working with an IT

That night was only the beginning, and yet it was an exceptional example of the Junior League at its best. The next morning, an email from Monica Gailes said it all. "I wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed our event last night, and how excited I am to be a part of this committee. I am so thankful to be a part of an organization that is truly making a difference in the community."

#### Since Then

Since then, our volunteers have continued to manage the process of the Food Pantry, and prepare it for future sustainability. Computers and flat screen monitors have been mounted to support the transition to a paperless environment.

weekly and monthly pantry reports. Working with an IT professional, an inventory system was activated to log and track all incoming and outgoing food products, and to make statistics and "printables" available from the pantry to agency representatives anywhere on site.

The first team of volunteers is developing a "how-to" video to assist those that follow them in the pantry. With equipment already donated, barcode scanning is also among the enhancements scheduled for the next few months, as we make the Junior League's Food Pantry a state of the art operation.

Other JLM members have been inspired by the impact of this project including Jennifer Rogers, and 2012 Provisional Cathy Martin, who have volunteered on Mondays to help unpack





food deliveries, stack the shelves and set the pace for the Mentoring First Years week's activities.

#### Flexibility for Volunteers

Of those who signed up on Placement Days to support the project, 93% of the committee's members maintain careers outside of the home. The flexibility of the placement allowed each volunteer to select a day of service in the pantry each week, and to arrange her schedule to arrive before or after work to perform the tasks of readying parcels for pick-up the same, or next day. Sheena Allen leaves the courtroom, while LuAnn Knight makes the 45-minute drive to and from Troy, AL, to bond with other Junior Leaguers, and to help make a difference in the Pantry on Wednesday nights.

Though there were several ways to approach the "who and when" scheduling at the pantry, this committee formed 5-person teams, with each team supporting the effort for a 3-month period.

With great enthusiasm, Junior League President Suzanne Davidson signed on early as a member of this community placement in addition to her leadership duties. She will be joined by Amanda Seals Bersinger, Erica Strong and others as volunteers rotate at the end of November and February to take over the week-to-week responsibilities of ensuring the Food Pantry continues to run smoothly.

#### Environment Friendly

Members of the placement selected a day and time of service, via a shift sign-up component developed for the committee's Groupshare on Digital Cheetah, to make it just as easy to support this project as it is to select Holiday Market shifts.

This committee is also successfully using Groupshare as a repository for placement documents, agendas, meeting notes and photos; to post and collect questions, answers and action items; and to publish "news" and announcements pertinent to the project, as well as the League, and the community. Making it possible for all to get the same message, and to see the same thing, this paperless method of shared online resources also helps make this committee environment-friendly.

Recognizing that 50% of the committee is comprised of First Year Actives, this committee was also the first to establish formal mentor partnerships, setting the bar for the rest of the League. Providing a support system during their first community placement, they now have a "sister-friend" to help navigate the League in general.

With several duo and group activities planned for the organizational year, the relationships were kicked off with lunch dates, emails, and "thinking of you" snail mail and e-cards that were shared between the pairings, before the entire committee gathered to celebrate the passion of their League experiences during Bang-Bang-Shrimp Night at Bonefish Grill.

#### Involving Sustainers

Recognizing the achievements of this placement, Heather Coleman, the League's 2009-2010 President, remarked during the evening, "Our organization is lucky to have these women dedicating themselves to improving the lives of others. Their project is uplifting, enjoyable and worthy of our efforts; and is exactly what a Junior League placement is supposed to be all about."

As the committee's Sustaining Advisor, Heather helped spearhead "Helping for the Holidays." This project-within-aproject focused the spotlight on area Sustainers, who were invited to resume active duty for a few hours during the season of thanks and giving.

For one week in November, they supported this very important cause, and enjoyed the fellowship as they packed special grocery boxes for every family participating in the Food Pantry program. With others following suit for one week in December, those who have helped build the legacy of this League help make sure clients have an opportunity to enjoy dinner with turkey, ham, and all the trimmings. These assembly line-style days of service link Sustainers with committee Actives and Provisionals to ignite the power of "one mission, one membership, one League."



Plantation Shutters

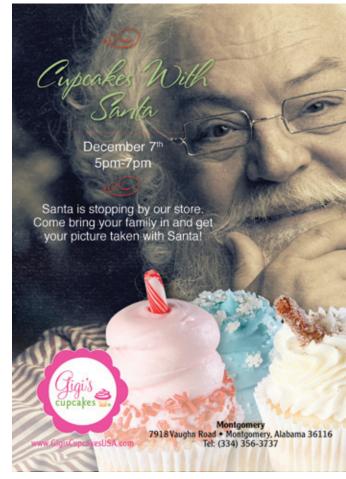
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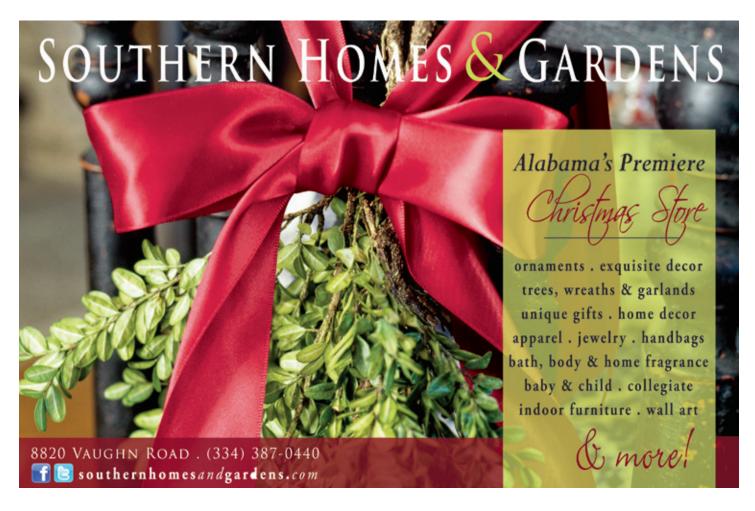
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# Celebrating Our History

#### AN INTERVIEW WITH KATHY SAWYER

By Victoria Belton

"It feels good to know that the League has evolved and that race is no longer an issue. It now reflects the community without sacrificing League values." —Kathy Sawyer

Butterfield, Carmen McCullough, Angela Foshee and I met when Kathy first attended her provisional meeting. with our VP, Jenny Thiessen, for a Communications Council lunch meeting in September. Jenny happened to mention the

monthly observances that were upcoming, one of which is Black History Month in February. Elizabeth chimed in that her mother was a provisional with the first black member of the Junior League of Montgomery: Kathy Sawyer. With Black History month approaching in February, our committee thought it would be intriguing to contact Kathy to get her observations of what it was like to be our first Black member. I recently had the amazing opportunity to sit down and converse with Kathy Sawyer face to face, and it was an experience I will never forget.

Who would have known that another

lunch invite, over 20 years ago, would change our Junior League forever? Kathy was invited to lunch by Lynn Beshear, Martha Bridges, Ellen Brooks, Barbara Larson and Caroline Novak. At this lunch, Kathy was asked to help integrate the League. While a bit hesitant at first, what helped her commit was the voluntarism of the League. She was impressed with how the League members volunteered and the numerous projects with which members were constantly involved. As a from the League. result of her service on community boards and participation in Leadership Montgomery Class III, Kathy already knew

It all started over lunch. Elizabeth Mahaney, Candice several members of the League. It was in the fall of 1990

Her provisional class was just like all the others, with meetings,

placements and more meetings! Overall, Kathy received a warm welcome and no overt disdain. She made friends with Denise Simmons, who was also a provisional class member. Kathy and Denise are still friends today and they attend Alabama football games whenever they get a chance!

As a member of the League, Kathy found her niche with several community service projects. She enjoyed working with the Rummage Sale (now known as Bloomingdeals), Camp Sunshine for Girls and Success by 6. Kathy realized her love for the League was truly centered on the volunteer hours of community service because the League's

impact involved much more than just donating money.

During her League tenure she served on the Board in numerous capacities. She has been named Sustainer of the Season and she also received the Women in Leadership Award. Kathy was recognized by the National Association of the Junior League with the 100 Outstanding League Members Award. Kathy remained a sustainer for a number of years before she "retired"

The League today is extremely open and diverse. "It feels good to know that the League has evolved and that race is no



**Right:** Kathy poses in a provisional photo for the May 1989 League Logs.



Seated (Lto R) Julia Wallace, Cindy Alverson. Standing (Lto R) Kathy Sawyer, Maribeth Lambert, Jennie Webster

longer an issue," Kathy said. "It now reflects the community." As our conversation came to a close she left me with this without sacrificing League values."

As we continued our conversation, we also discovered that not only are we League members, but we are also sorority sisters. Kathy and I are members of Alpha Kappa Alpha I am thankful to have met such an amazing person. Sorority, Inc. She was a charter member for Theta Sigma Chapter at the University of Alabama in 1974, and I became a member in the spring of 2002 (small world)! We discussed the similarities and differences of integrating and chartering. "It was a different era at UA because there were many black students and the timing was right," said Kathy. "Having a collective vision is what made the chapter chartering so successful." Same as within the League, "the time was right." People were ready for change; thus timing made it successful for the League, as well.

Kathy retired from the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation in 2005. Now she is currently an independent business consultant associated with Franklin Resources Group. She divides her time between Washington D.C. and Montgomery. Kathy has one child, a son named Corran.

Lastly, we discussed what books she was reading at the moment. On Kathy's nightstand are the following books: Being the Effective Leader by Michael Nicholas and To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee. She likes to read about people who do risky things and go against what's comfortable. It seems as though art imitates life with her book choices.

saying, "You are who you are; each experience builds on itself. Remain true to yourself." Kathy Sawyer is an integrationist because she comes in and opens doors for others.









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## Books on the Nightstand

## Compiled by Marcy L. Ingram



Looking for a great book to cozy up with by a fire for a little downtime? Or maybe you're looking for an action packed afternoon without leaving home. Three Junior League members have some great recommendations for you this season.

First, my panel of critics:



After earning her degree in May 2011 from Cumberland School of Law, Cody Colson accepted a position as a staff attorney with the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals. During law school, Cody had internships with both the Office of Governor and the Alabama Court of

Criminal Appeals, and, prior to law school, worked full-time for the Alabama Trucking Association. Cody received an accounting degree from Auburn University where she was a member of Phi Mu sorority. In her free time, Cody enjoys traveling, snow-skiing, and spending time with her dog, Beau. Cody and her husband, Mark, who works for the Business Council of Alabama, are members of First United Methodist Church and reside in Cloverdale.



Karen Herman is beginning her fifth year with the League. Through her membership, she has met some extraordinarily incredible women and gained many wonderful new friendships. Married thirty "wouldn't-trade-themfor-anything" years with David, they have

a daughter, Mallory, who recently moved to Chicago for her first job! At 4:30 p.m. on Monday, December 31, 2012, she plans to retire from her position as chief accountant with the State of Alabama, Office of the Attorney General.



Felicia Long, a native of Montgomery, is married to Bobby Long and they have a Yorkshire Terrier named Samson. Felicia is a civil litigation and insurance defense attorney at Haskell, Slaughter, Young & Gallion, LLC. She represents a diverse client base in state and federal courts throughout

Alabama, and enjoys helping both people and businesses alike resolve their differences if and when possible. Felicia is active in numerous legal and community organizations and serves on the Board of Directors for the Montgomery County Bar Association, Jimmy Hitchcock Memorial Award (President), Junior League of Montgomery, Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church, Metro YMCA, Britton YMCA (past chair), and is a member of the Hugh Maddox Inns of Court. Over the past several years, she has also enjoyed teaching the youth in our community about the judicial system by serving as a coach for the Alabama Youth Judicial program. Felicia also enjoys traveling and reading a good book when she has the opportunity. Several months ago, she traveled to the blue lagoon islands of Bora Bora and TaHaa, where she read an appropriately titled book for the setting called *The Island* by Elin Hilderbrand. More recently, she and Bobby returned to Peru where they have been working with a local missionary for several years. Felicia was inspired by a book titled *Heaven* is for Real that she read on her flight home. She shares her thoughts on these two books below.

#### Felicia's picks:

#### Heaven is for Real by Todd Burpo

Do you ever wonder what Heaven is like? Heaven is for Real is a book that explores this topic. The author Todd Burpo is a husband, father, and pastor of a small Wesleyan church, who child. His son, Colton, suffered from an illness at the age of three that almost killed him. After Colton recovered, he revealed to his parents that he had visited Heaven while he was in surgery. Colton tells about his conversations with Jesus, John the Baptist, and family members who had passed from this Earth and he had not met before he visited Heaven. Burpo references scripture from the Bible that correlates to what his son experienced.

The story of Colton's illness and his trip to Heaven is an incredible one. You will be moved and inspired as Burpo explains how his faith was tested when he almost lost a child to illness, and may be moved to pray as Colton provides insight into God's character and his unconditional and immense love for us. Colton had the same reaction after he had seen a glimpse of Heaven as did the author of 90 Minutes in Heaven-he can't wait to go back! It's one of those books you will not forget, and will want to read again.

#### The Island by Elin Hilderbrand

The Island by Elin Hilderbrand is an easy, beach read about four women, their secrets, dreams, and desires. Birdie Cousins initially planned to have one last girls' getaway with her oldest daughter Chess before she wed. However, when Chess unexpectedly calls off the wedding and guits her job, Birdie convinces her younger daughter Tate, and her sister India to join them for the month of July at their rustic, summer home on Tuckernuck Island, which is off the coast of Nantucket.

While the women attempt to console Chess and give her the space to heal, they have an opportunity to catch up with one another. Hilderbrand alternates the narrative in the four voices of the women, opening a window into each woman's point of view, in a manner that allows the reader to get to know each woman individually. Love is lost, found, and rekindled; sisterrivalry persists regardless of age; the mystery behind why Chess called off the wedding is revealed; and family bonds are strengthened after having spent a summer together. If one is camaraderie, The Island is a good spring/summer read.

#### Karen's picks:

#### Killing Lincoln by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard

Prompted by all the hype about this historical murder of one of America's most influential presidents, I had to read it for myself and I can honestly say that it is a thought-provoking and lived through an incredible experience with his now middle touching account of what conceivably may have transpired in the few weeks before and after President Lincoln was assassinated. The dialogue is realistic as it follows the detailed timetable of the closing days of the Civil War and holds the reader captive to the text, waiting for the next vividly described scene. Reading it was as if I was right there, experiencing every wrenching moment. Well written, this story is powerfully emotional, yet sadly memorable. (Made me want to read more historical novels.)

#### An Irish Country Christmas by Patrick Taylor

I am not sure if it was simply the title that caught my attention and made me bring it home, but I'm very glad I did. It is a story set in the mid-1960's in Northern Ireland, in December. There are two down-to-earth country doctors, one older and pleasantly curmudgeonly, and his younger protégé, naively innocent just out of medical school, both of whom deal with the day-to-day trivialities and alternating serious issues facing their joint practice. The characterizations of their patients and other locals who entwine themselves in each other's lives make for very entertaining reading. Complete with local flavor in speech, habits, and traditions, I found this story delightful, funny, and joyful. (I plan to read it again this winter.)

#### Claude and Camille by Stephanie Cowell

First of all, Monet is one of my favorite artists, an Impressionist genius who made the world a more beautiful canvas by producing his interpretive paintings of natural scenes. This novel chronicles his early years as he was first discovering his love of painting and developing the "new wave" of Impressionism which the French (and the world) did not readily accept. Camille Doncieux, whom he later married, was the source of much inspiration to him—he could be extraordinarily passionate toward her one day, and then turn and totally neglect her the next day. This book was written as if the writer were present right then, observing all the nuances and behaviors of 19<sup>th</sup> century France and transporting those relationships and settings directly to me, the reader. This looking for a novel filled with drama, romance, and female novel is very poignant, very inspiring, et ecrit avec du couleur. (Highly recommended reading!)

#### Cody's Picks:

#### This Side of Paradise by F. Scott Fitzgerald

A "coming of age" memoir, This Side of Paradise follows the life of Amory Blaine from adolescence to college. This Side describes with meticulous detail—relationships, loved and lost, to success coupled with disappointment in his studies—Amory's quest for self-knowledge. I found Fitzgerald's first novel to be an intelligent depiction of life and its realities.

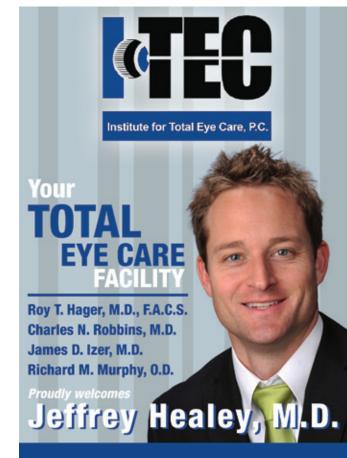
#### Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

Another "coming of age" novel, Jane Eyre focuses on the life of Jane, an orphaned child turned boarding-school student turned governess. Jane, a strong, independent woman, eventually falls for her employer who deceives her and sends her down a path of re-discovery. I found Jane Eyre to be a story of bravery and empowerment and one that any young woman should read.

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The Institute for Total Eye Care, P.C. is happy to announce that Jeffrey M. Healey, M.D. joined the practice in August 2012. Dr. Healey is a native of Starkville, MS. He graduated from Utah State University in Logan, Utah in 2002 and the University of Pittsburgh in 2007 where he received his medical degree. He is a 2011 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh Residency Program. He also did a Uveitis Fellowship at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, Oregon.

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## Thank You New Sustainers!

We would like to recognize the following women for their continued service and support of the Junior League of Montgomery. They have all moved into a new position of sustainer; however, we know they will continue in their dedication to the League!

Courtney Albrecht

Patty Franco

Katie Poundstone

Wendy Anzalone

Sharon Hubbert

Katie Steinwinder

Amy Brown

Jennifer Miller

Amy Strickland

Marnie Dillon

Mary Pool

Amanda Seals Bersinger
Amber Cameron
Mary Margaret Carroll
Margaret Cornwell
Morgan Cowling
Casey Earnest
Blake Eatman
Melissa Eubanks
Rebecca Farace

Monica Gailes

Sheena Allen

Megan Hughes
Pamela King
Tamaya Knox
Joyce Loyd-Davis
Elizabeth Mahaney
Tiffany McCord
Della Porter
Christy Rials
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Megan Robinson
Danita Rose

Sherilyn Rose
Kristen Ryan
Elizabeth Saliba
Kenya Sampson
Stefanie Sanders
Julia Schneider
Freddie Singleton
Crystal Smith
LeCretia Snow
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WELCOME

First Year Actives!

Congratulations to the following women who persevered through their provisional

year of membership and are now called Active members! We're so excited to see how

you help us continue the mission of the Junior League of Montgomery!

## College and Career Night

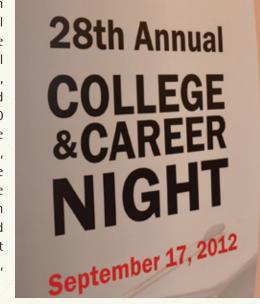
By Jewell J. Dickson



One of the most important decisions that a person can make is his or her career choice. Very often, higher education, organizations, and the armed forces can offer invaluable training, skills, and guidance in that process.

the importance of this choice and offered parents, teachers, and students from all over the River Region the opportunity about colleges that they would not have otherwise. The

to engage with representatives from colleges, universities, vocational schools, organizations, and the armed forces. This year's annual event was held on September 17, 2012, at the Renaissance Hotel and Spa from 6 to 8 p.m. with over 50 programs represented. There were over 2,200 people in attendance, many of whom would not have otherwise gained exposure and the opportunity to communicate with such a wide array of college and career representatives. Each student received a Scholarship Guide, bag, and souvenir.



One of the most highly anticipated aspects of this event is the financial aid seminar presented by Ms. Betty Edwards from Trenholm State Technical College. Ms. Edwards has graciously Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form as well as applications for various grants and loans. Every year, this part of College and Career night garners amazing feedback, and this year was no exception.

The value of this opportunity can best be expressed from those in attendance. Ms. Kellie Newell, school counselor at Hooper Academy in Hope Hull, has been attending for five years with juniors and seniors from her school. This year, 101

The Junior League of Montgomery, for 28 years, has recognized students attended from Hooper Academy. Ms. Newell states, "This is a tremendous resource for me. Some students find out

> booklet is a huge tool. I keep it in my office for parents. Make sure the Junior League knows how much I appreciate it as a counselor."

> A primary focus of this event is parental involvement. Amanda Stout, a twelfth grader at Prattville High School, attended for the first time with her father, Tom Stout. Both were surprised with the number of colleges and universities represented at the event and felt it was good to have the opportunity to dialogue with representatives from each program. For the Stout family, the most enjoyable aspect

was the number of out of state schools represented, and they recommend this event to friends and other parents. The attendees were not the only group that was pleased with donated her time, knowledge, and informational material for Junior League of Montgomery's College and Career Night. The the past four years. One of the highlights of this seminar is recruiters were very impressed with the caliber of students the essential information regarding the completion of the that attended the event. All were looking forward to the opportunity to attend next year on September 16, 2013.

> Shalisa Gooden Magee served as the chair of the 28th Annual College and Career Night. Magee and her committee are most proud of having the opportunity to be a part of a tradition that provides such a unique service for the River Region. A special thanks to WSFA for their coverage and support, MC-2 for providing bags, and Subway (Coliseum Blvd location) for making this year's event a great success.



College & Career Night Committee Shalisa Gooden Magee, Chair Kavanah Brooks, Co-Chair Jennifer Ardis Carla Gieske Vernessa Harris Articia Johnson Joy Kaplan Deirdre Kennerson Arica Smith Sandra Washington





















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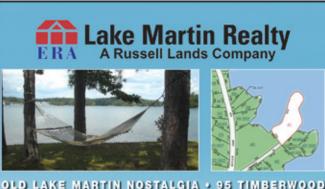
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Talladega College Texas Christian University **Troy University** Tuskegee University **Union University United States Naval Academy** The University of Alabama The University of Alabama at Birmingham The University of Alabama in Huntsville The University of Memphis The University of Mississippi University of Mobile University of Montevallo University of North Alabama University of South Alabama The University of West Alabama Vanderbilt University William Carey University Wofford College







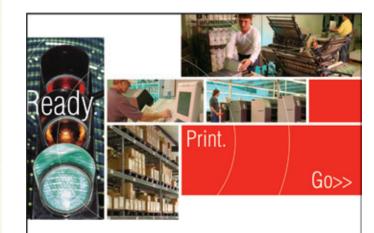


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## Taste of the River Region

By Katy Sulhoff

The River Region Chapter of the Alabama Restaurant Association hosted its annual Taste of the River Region event on Sunday, October 7.

It was a flavorful affair that drew a hungry crowd of hundreds to the Renaissance Convention Center. The Junior League of Montgomery and Alabama Restaurant Association's 4th Annual Taste of the River Region (TRR) served up a heaping helping of delicious food and fresh funds (\$16,600) to benefit numerous community projects.

As the doors opened, a crowd that filled the convention center lobby filed in and Junior League Provisional volunteers quickly worked the line, collecting tickets from more than 650 diners. Kimberly Baker, TRR co-chair, said, "I was so proud of this provisional class. Their enthusiasm during Taste of the River Region was so wonderful. I enjoyed seeing everyone having fun and working so hard for our community. I also want to thank Dell and the ladies of our committee for all their hard work. A good time was had by all!"

With plates and forks in hand, diners worked their way through the ballroom, stopping at as many restaurant booths as possible. They had more to tempt their taste buds this year. Thirty-four vendors participated—the most in the event's history, and the cuisine variety ran the gamut.

"This year's event was a great success. The attendees, as well as the restaurants who participated, really seemed to enjoy themselves while giving back to the community. This provisional class did an exceptional job serving as volunteers and hostesses for the night. The Junior League of Montgomery is very fortunate to have a great partnership over the past four years with the Alabama Restaurant Association to put on the event," said Dell Murdock, Taste of the River Region Committee Chair.

League Member Stefanie Hicks emceed the event along with Doug Amos. The evening's entertainment was provided by popular Montgomery singer/guitarist Kip Traylor. CBS 8's Jessica Gertler and Jeff Sanders judged the "Best Of" categories:



Best Beef Entrée: Ox Yoke Steakhouse (beef kabobs)

Best Chicken Entrée: Chicken Salad Chick (Variety of chicken salads including Classic Carol, Fruity Fran, Fancy Nancy, and Buffalo Barclay)

Best Pork Entrée: Varsity BBQ (Boston Butt, chopped at the venue)

Best Seafood Entrée: Aw Shucks Oyster Bar and Grill (seafood gumbo)

Best Soup/Chowder: Baumhower's (yard bird gumbo)

Best Southern Fixin's: Martha's Place (collard greens, black-eyed peas, cornbread)

Best Dessert: Gigi's Cupcakes (Wedding, Midnight Magic, Peppermint Patty, Pumpkin, White Midnight Magic, Strawberry Shortcake, and Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough)

Best Decorated Booth: Carver High School Culinary Arts Program

The evening wrapped up about 9:00 pm, with a few lingering diners enjoying the event down to the last bite.





















#### Featured Restaurants & Vendors

AlleyBar Allstate Beverage

Aw Shucks Oyster Bar & Grill Bama Budweiser Baumhower's Carver High School Culinary Casa Napoli Chicken Salad Chick Crux Imports Cupcakes by Tish The Deli @ Alley Station Dreamland BBQ **Eastside Grille** Gigi's Cupcakes **Goodwin Brothers** Jim N Nick's Liger's Bakery Longhorn Steakhouse Luke Lea Beverage Martha's Place Nancy's Italian Ice Railyard Brewing Co. Renaissance - The Exchange Renaissance - The House Republic National Rock Bottom American Pub S & D Coffee Salsarita's Fresh Cantina Super Suppers Tenda Chick Varsity BBQ Wintzell's Oyster House Wishbone Café





Special thanks to our sponsors as well as our Taste of the River Region Committee:

Dell Murdock, Chair

Kimberly Baker, Co-Chair

Victoria Belton, Publicity

Mitzi Cole, Social Media

Adrian Cooper, Vendors

Carolyn East, Vendors

Becky Farace, Provisionals

Leslie Hughes, Tickets

Felicia Tyus, Venue





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#### PLACEMENT: SPOTLIGHT ON MACOA

# By Katie Womack

The Montgomery Area Council on Aging (MACOA), established in 1972, has organized many programs to aid senior citizens throughout the region. "Meals on Wheels" is their most well-known program, providing hot lunches, milk, and newspapers five times a week to over 300 homebound seniors.

own meals, the program provides a much needed source of nutrition, and ensures they are getting a healthy meal as well as keeping informed of the local news.

The 2012-2013 Junior League Meals on Wheels Committee is responsible for delivering weekly meals to the Harbins neighborhood of Montgomery. Each committee member is assigned a day of the week to deliver meals to ten seniors, many of whom do not have any other personal interactions that day. It is such a rewarding experience to see how talking with a senior for just a minute can brighten his or her entire day.

"One of the most powerful things we can say about ourselves is that we are making a difference," says Rebekah Stewart, co-chair of the placement. "As a transfer sustaining member of the Junior League from Richmond, Va., being a part of the MACOA placement allowed me to easily and instantly make a difference and learn more about the Montgomery area while living out the AJLI vision of being '...a catalyst for lasting community change'."

Penni McClammy said, "I deliver Meals on Wheels with my 90 year-old grandfather each week. It has truly been a blessing and pleasure meeting and interacting with our new friends in the Harbins and King Hill communities. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with MACOA and the Resurrection Community Center in their diligent service to seniors in our community."

For more information about being involved in the Meals on Wheels program, please go to the MACOA website and contact Kathleen Bradford if you are interested in being a driver.

Since the recipients of Meals on Wheels cannot prepare their Stewart adds, "The ladies on the MACOA Meals on Wheels Committee are a part of the lasting community change by providing not just a hot meal, time for conversation or a smile, but they are a part of the lasting community change because each of those actions collectively allows for the promotion of independent living and enhanced quality of life for our senior community in Montgomery....and that is a powerful and positive difference being made in our region."

#### MACOA Committee members:

Chair: Theresa Patterson Callis Cogle Casey Earnest LaTonya Penn Rebekah Stewart Sherry White

Amber Cameron Margaret Cornwell Penni McClammy Amanda Stanford Viola Toles Katie Womack



Amber Cameron and Amanda Stanford always enjoy their visits with Mary Anderson, Meals on Wheels recipient, during their weekly delivery route.

#### WELCOME TO THE LEAGUE!

## Provisional Class

2012-2013

Compiled by Cindy DeLongchamp

In each issue of League Logs, we will feature a group of our Provisional members so everyone can get to know our newest League ladies a little better! Please greet these new members when you see them at our next event!



Nikki Bagley, from Pensacola, FL, enjoys anything related to the outdoors. In addition to serving as Raycom Media's Mobile Marketing Specialist, she is co-founder and P.R. Director for the Kalos Foundation, which coordinates vacations for individuals who have suffered from unexpected and life-changing injuries, in an effort to restore hope during recovery. She hopes to bring nonprofit experience and passion for giving back to the community, in hopes of helping as many in need as possible.



Jodie Battison, from Macon, GA, is a Gift of Life Foundation social worker and a huge Georgia Bulldog fan! Jodie owns seven dogs and two cats. She pursues her passion for animals by volunteering for the Montgomery Humane Society and rescuing homeless cats and dogs. She hopes to contribute insight to the Junior League regarding the needs of vulnerable populations when making decisions about which programs and/or agencies to support.



Meredith Bishop, from Montgomery, loves Auburn football, aerobics, crafts, the beach and shopping! She volunteers with Footprints Ministry, and her favorite movie is *Pretty Woman*. Meredith looks forward to extending her circle of friends through voluntarism.



Rebecca Boykins, from Mobile, AL, enjoys painting, the piano, and Jane Austen books, especially *Pride & Prejudice*. One of Rebecca's favorite traditions is listening to the old Christmas classics during the holidays. Rebecca is looking forward to lots of volunteer opportunities and new friends.



Kimberly Campbell, from Montgomery, enjoys watching *The Polar Express* with her children and visiting Callaway Gardens during the holidays. Her favorite movies are *Forrest Gump, Cast Away*, and *The Family Stone*. Kimberly enjoys meeting new people and volunteering.



Amanda Collins, from Selma, AL, enjoys sewing, smocking, cooking, crocheting and gardening. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). Amanda's favorite holiday memories are Christmas meals. She looks forward to meeting new people in Montgomery, developing new friendships and getting connected in the community.



Loree Fulton, from Millbrook, AL, likes crafting, the arts (music and visual), gardening, and taking care of her dogs. She enjoys self-help books and her favorite movie is *Steel Magnolias*. Loree's family decorates their Christmas tree each year by listening to Christmas music, drinking hot chocolate and eating popcorn! Loree has volunteered with the Montgomery Zoo, and looks forward to meeting new people through the Junior League.



Brittney Hanvey, from Hope Hull, AL, volunteers at Pintlala Baptist Church, and loves Crossfit, running, movies and shopping. She really enjoys Nicholas Sparks' books and movies and her favorite plays are *A Christmas Carol* and *Wicked*. Brittney's fondest memories are of her grandmother, a tremendous role model in her life.



Melody Kitchen, from from Waxahachie, IX, enjoys traveling, photography, live music, and writing. Her favorite movie is The Great Gatsby. Melody volunteers with the American Cancer Society through their Junior Executive Board and Relay for Life. She looks forward to increasing her community service through the Junior League and meeting new people.



Carla Martin, from Cincinnati, OH, enjoys dancing, photography and cooking. Carla enjoys spending time with her children and family, and has participated in several community service projects through Maxwell Air Force Base. She looks forward to giving back to the local community through networking.



Quenita Mitchell, from Georgiana, AL, enjoys crafting and scrapbooking. Her favorite Christmas memory is going to her grandparents' home on Christmas Eve and, at the stroke of midnight, watching as everyone opened one gift. The tradition still continues with the help of Skype, cell phones or whatever form of communication the family can use to "get together" at midnight on Christmas Eve to open their one gift with the whole family.



Michelle Patterson, from Childersburg, AL, enjoys reading, shopping and tax preparation. Her favorite book is A Confident Heart by Renee Swope and her favorite movie is Coming to America. Her favorite traditions include attending Alabama games and spending time with her family at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Through the League, Michelle wants to learn ways to be a blessing to others.



Cassie Plunkett, from Montgomery, enjoys caving, rock climbing, kayaking, snorkeling, biking, reading, cooking, camping and crafts. Cassie is active in her church's youth department and is a member of the Montgomery Caving Grotto. Cassie looks forward to meeting new people through the League and participating in community service projects. Her favorite movie is *Star Wars.* "May the force be with you, Cassie!"



Deise Russell is originally from Curitiba, Brazil. Her favorite pastime is learning about holistic nutrition. Her many interests include belly dancing, Zumba, crocheting, reading, and raw food. She is an ambassador for the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce and is involved in Women in Business of Montgomery. She is excited about knowing the community better and having an impact through the League.



Cheri Sides is originally from Mobile, AL. She enjoys yoga, cooking, and Auburn football. Her favorite movie is *The Count of Monte Cristo*, and her favorite tradition is spending time at the lake. Cheri is interested in becoming more involved in the community and meeting new people.



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**ROMANS 15:7** 

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## Thank You JLM!

Dear Junior League Friends, Words cannot express the depth of our gratitude for all that you all continue to do for us! your Support touches us and continues to motivate us to

Fight the good fight every day.

What a true blessing that gorgeous changing toble was, too! Thank you all so much — for this special gift, for your warm hearts full of love, and for always thinking of us with such kindness.

With Gratitude, One Place Family Tustice Ctr.

Wellness CANCER

May 30, 2012

Ms. Dawn Stephens Community Council Chair The Junior League of Montgon 3570 Carter Hill Road Montgomery, AL 36111

Dear Dawn and JLM Members

The Cancer Wellness Foundation of Central Alabama wishes to express our sincerest thanks for your grant award of \$10,500 this year.

because of your financial support, we are able to continue our mission of helping local cancer patients in need. With the support of Junior League volunteers, we look forward to being able to help local seniors, especially those with cancer, to find the most appropriate Medicare Part D coverage during the 2012 open enrollment period.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff and most of all, our patients, we thank

Crust Tubbs, President Nigel Cumflerp, Vice President Nigel Cumflerp, Vice President Samh Sores, Tassaurer Raudelt Turner, Grant Turner, Grant Turner, Grant Turner, Grant March Capacita Duran Follows (C. Saucher Cusalto Buddiam Aucris Capacita Duran Fenderson Kyle McKimm (Parch Maller Walter), Aller McKimm (Parch Maller Walter), Aller Maller Walter, Grant Miller Walter, Grant Walter,

14 Wellness



Montgomery, AL 36104 (334)262-7378

**Board of Directors** 

Ellen Brooks Tootsie Emme

Ashley Lough

Monica Jordan

Katherine Jackson Shirley Lee

Donnie Mims Sonva Molina Angelo Trimble

July 10, 2012

Junior League of Montg c/o Lisa Stevens, Chair Community Outreach Co 3570 Carter Hill Road gomery, AL 36111

k you for your contribution of a changing table received on July 3, 2012.

One Place Family Justice Center is a tax exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and our federal tax identification number is 27-1413416. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Please keep this

One Place Family Justice Center makes existing services more accessible, more efficient and more effective for victims of domestic violence, child abuse, elder exploitation and sexual assault. Thank you for your support in helping us save lives and reduce victimization in our community.



offering hope, help and healing to homeless women and chill

June 28, 2012

Junior League of Montgomery, Inc. 3570 Carter Hill Road

Dear Junior League Members

On behalf of Mary Ellen's Hearth at Nellie Burge Community Center, I would like to let you know how much we appreciate your recent grant to us in the amount of \$30,000.00. Your contribution will enable homeless women and their children to live a healthier, self-sufficient life. We also appreciate that members will volunteer their time

Since Nellie Burge Community Center's inception in 1904, the Nellie Burge Community Center has served thousands of at-risk families. This has been made possible because of generous contributions such as yours.

On August 1, 2012 we plan to open Mary Ellen's Hearth, a residential program for homeless women and their children. This program will provide housing (for up to two years) for the women and their children along with life skills, budgeting and parenting skills training. The goal will be for the women to become self-sufficient and to learn to live on their own. This program is being named after Mary Ellen Bullard who worked tirelessly for the Nellie Burge Community Center. **Guy Davis** 

Again, we thank you for your generous gift and hope for your continued support in the future. If you would like to have someone speak to you about our upcoming plans, please contact me at debbie@nellieburge.org or (334) 264-4108.

Deletie Doleman

Debbie Dobbins, LGSW Executive Director

We aggreciate your grant and hope thatmery of you will be able to visit us at some time.



Casandra Crosby-McCalough

Kendal Dunion

tyndofeaga

Scott McClion Cally Wol

Keith Korst Michelle Leadingham 9353, Peny Street Montgomery, AL 36104 334-262-1220 FAX: 334-262-2252

October 9, 2012

The Junior League of Montgomery, Inc. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

3570 Carter Hill Road Montgomery, AL 36111

Dear Friends:

Thank you so much for your donation of \$1,000 to our agency.

Last year our agency served over 600 children in our community who were victims of abuse and we could not continue to fulfill the mission of Child Protect without your continued support. We are

Thank you for leaving a handprint on the heart of a child.

It will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lined in, or the kind of car I drawe, but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a CHILD...

For the children,

Jannah Bailey **Executive Director** 

kwych Morgan Balle Executive Director

100% of your donation is tax deductible by law.

Serving the counties of Mortgamery, Autauga, Brane and Chillon
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Mrs. Dawn Stephens Community Council Vice President Junior League of Montgo 3570 Carter Hill Road Montgomery, AL 36111

On behalf of The Salvation Army in Montgomery, thank you for your organization's recent gift of \$500.00 on May 14, 2012 to provide laundry detergent and supplies for the women and children in the Center of Hope—our homeless shelter. We are thrilled to partner with the Junior League of Montgomery to improve the lives of the less fortunate women and children in our Montgomery community. Although you may never meet the people you have helped so much, you can rest assured that your support has given hope to many lives.

The Salvation Army has been serving the needy in Montgomery, Elmore and Autauga counties since 1899. We are committed to providing the best and most effective programs and services to our community members in need. It is because of our dedicated and compassionate friends, such as your organization, that we are able to carry out our programs and further our mission of meeting human needs.

Thank you again for your support. God bless you!

Carla Daniel Sunner

Carla Daniel Turner Regional Resource Development Director The Salvation Army 900 Maxwell Blvd. Montgomery, AL 36104 carla\_daniel\_turner@uss.salvationarmy.org

The Salvation Army-



Westside Restoration Corporation

July 12, 2012

On behalf of the staff and children of Reading Readiness XII, I wanted to thank you again for the monetary donation. It was so incredibly generous of you to consider our efforts and support our program.

Your docation will help to fund trips we have planned for the summer program as we continue to expose our youth of tomorrow. Once again, thank you so much for the generous gift and we are truly grateful.

Reading Readiness XII

## THANK YOU Sunior League

for your commitment to our community and local families.

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