GET INVOLVED in your community

ANNUAL REPORT

2019 - 2020
Greetings, Tallahassee!

While much of our community continues to navigate the new normal established by COVID-19, the Junior League of Tallahassee (JLT) continues to pivot and establish new standards. Our new standards stretch our Membership to meaningfully serve Leon County through innovative practices. Though, our success was not created in a vacuum. We owe a significant debt of gratitude to the dedicated sponsors, donors and partners that enable the JLT to meet the growing needs of our community. Our Leadership Team and Members, who have responded outstandingly well to change, continue to provide financial support and time that advance our mission, which is how we continue to thrive as a catalyst for change.

To recap, we celebrated 60-years of leadership and legacy projects that have forever changed the trajectory of Tallahassee and Leon County through our #60for60more campaign during the 2019-2020 League Year. This campaign not only celebrated our rich history, but raised much-needed funds to renovate our basement, increasing utilization and access. Furthermore, when the League established the date of our inaugural Mighty Meals event, we did not know that it would come on the brink of a global pandemic. Not only did we provide more than 15,800 meals to bridge the meal-gap over Spring Break, we spurred a movement! Thousands of funds were raised within the hours and days following Mighty Meals that expanded our community’s ability to meet the needs of our food-insecure neighbors.

The League also successfully engaged volunteers to support the missions of Second Harvest of the Big Bend and HOPE Community—two important organizations that help JLT serve on-mission and have a targeted impact. In June, we will on-board Capital City Youth Services as a signature community partner, further raising awareness for Tallahassee’s homeless and at-risk youth.

Lastly, as we turn our focus to the new year, the weight and responsibility of leading a large non-profit through an uncharted environment is not lost on me. I promise to harness the collective power of our community stakeholders to further JLT’s mission and empower our Members to create positive, lasting societal change. With your support, we will continue to diversify our funding portfolio and execute the biennial Sunshine State Ball in February 2021. This strategic initiative will help us expand Mighty Meals to multiple locations, increase the number of children we serve through Kids’ Boutique and train our Members to be effective advocates and volunteers.

Thank you again for supporting JLT’s mission. You are the reason we’re unstoppable.

Be the One,

Samantha Sexton
2020-2021 JLT President
Our Mission

The Junior League of Tallahassee is a nonprofit organization of women committed to improving the lives of children and families through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

We Are Guided by These Values:

**Community:** We believe a strong sense of community is essential to human well-being. Living the value of community provides a foundation for inclusion, which allows us to make a greater impact on the world around us.

**Empowerment:** We believe that the empowerment of women is a necessary requirement to create positive, lasting societal change. Living the value of empowerment fosters trust and confidence in each other.

**Leadership:** We believe in the unique power of women's leadership abilities to transform communities for the better. Living the value of leadership allows us to make a collective difference.

**Respect:** We believe respect is a fundamental human right. Living the value of respect instills in us an unconditional positive regard for others.

**Service:** We believe it is through service that we build core relationships with others. Service is the lens through which we decide how we will invest our time and resources. Living the value of service empowers us as catalysts for lasting community change.

Our Work Would Not Be Possible Without the Support of These Annual Sponsors

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**2019-2020 Management Team**

Director: Katie Britt-Williams
Communications Director: Candace Yeager
Community Director: Becca Piers
Finance Director: Kathy Godwin
Assistant Finance Director: Marcy Frick / Amanda Leighty
Funding Director: Samantha Ferrin
Membership Director: Ashley Jarvis
Assistant Membership Director: Alyssa Beaubien
Training Director: Amanda Leighty
Sustainer Rep.: Laura Rogers

**Committe Chairwomen**

Project Research & Development: Hilary Gaines
Way & Means: Nicole Sabol
Public Affairs: Ali Jones
President’s Assistant: Christi Billington
Management Team Assistant: Tiffany Green
Sunshine State Ball: Cora Merritt and Mackenzie Ligas Little
60 For 60 More: Samantha Blair
Grants: Liz Miller
Annual Fund / Little Black Dress: Caitlyn Moore and Hilary Crawford
Graphic Design: Angie Herron
Internal Communications: Mackenzie Ligas Little
Done In A Day: Shelby Cecil and Taryn Fenske
Kids’ Boutique: Achia Floyd and Shishandra Devlin
HOPE Community: Carla Juarez and Lauren Thompson
Second Harvest: Rebecca Frimmel and Heather Summers
Mighty Meals: Shannon Devine and Sarah Busey
Fundraising: Celia Moser and Nicole Okken
Golf Tournament: Katlyn Boswell and Kerin Clarke
Arrangements: Amanda Wiggins and Courtney Thomson
Transfers: Katherine Guthrie
Leadership Development & Training: Ellyn Hamm and Kelli Keech
Diversity & Inclusion: Marilyn Dwyer and Nicolle Leider
New Members: Stephanie Cuello
Teen Board: Emily Hetherington and Erika Williams
### JLT BY THE NUMBERS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual volunteer opportunities with Second Harvest of the Big Bend, HOPE Community and DIAD Partners</td>
<td>92</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meals distributed through the inaugural Mighty Meals program</td>
<td>15,120</td>
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<td>Students served through the Fall and Winter Kids' Boutique Events</td>
<td>160</td>
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<td>Cumulative hours served by members.</td>
<td>9,417</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total hours of training and leadership development offered to members and JLT Leadership.</td>
<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Active Members</td>
<td>166</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Members</td>
<td>33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustaining Members</td>
<td>175</td>
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Programs and Highlights

Mighty Meals

Long before 2020 arrived, the Mighty Meals program was conceived as a tool to assist in the fight against hunger and food insecurity in our area. No child should go hungry during school breaks, and no family should have to choose between food and other basic living expenses. In a direct response to basic needs within our impact area, the program was developed. Little did we know that as Spring Break approached in Leon County, the landscape of the world would change as we know it. And, rather than just delivering 180 families meals for spring break, JLT was able to provide 15,120 meals to local families as a global pandemic began to close schools and send our community into an unprecedented time of uncertainty.

Kids Boutique

The 23rd Annual Kids’ Boutique Event was held in partnership once again with Kohl’s Department Store in August 2019 with a total of 101 students being served during the annual event, up from 84 students in 2018.

With the help of generous sponsors, JLT was also able to host a Winter Kids’ Boutique event, serving nearly 60 students from the HOPE Community.

Done In A Day

JLT’s Done In A Day (DIAD) program partners with other local organizations to assist in execution of short-term events that have a significant impact in the Tallahassee Community. Through this program, JLT members assisted with 37 individual volunteer opportunities and donation drives.

Teen Board

In 2019-2020, 23 young women from home school and Chiles, Rickards, North Florida Christian, Florida High, Pope John Paul II, Maclay, Lincoln and Leon high schools participated throughout the school year. The young women who were currently juniors or seniors in high school learned more about the work of the JLT, attended monthly leadership and skills workshops and volunteered with the Hope Community, Second Harvest of the Big Bend, and DIAD partners while earning community service hours needed for college and scholarship applications.

Two students from the Teen Board were selected to receive the Teen Board Scholarship, based on their attendance of trainings and volunteer shifts as well as an essay about civic engagement. Hannah Diehl, a senior from Leon high School and Marianne Stephenson, a senior at Lincoln High School were each awarded $250 in recognition of their hard work and dedication to the community.
Adjusting to Global Pandemic

Although the extent of the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic remains to be seen, JLT ended the 2019-2020 year with declining membership and a reduced operating budget for 2020-2021. Yet, our members and leadership are more determined than ever to see our projects and initiatives through, serving more of our neighbors than ever.

Between March and May 2020, JLT extended deadlines for member dues, maintained safe volunteer opportunities with partners like Second Harvest of the Big Bend and hosted its very first Virtual Meeting and Virtual May Celebration. Our leadership team rapidly assembled a “Re-opening Task Force” focused on delivering regular reports and recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding JLT operations and safety protocols.

The Junior League of Tallahassee is setting the standard for community leaders who remain committed to our mission in the face of unprecedented and new challenges each day.

Celebrating 60 Years of JLT

The year 2020 marked the 60th year since the Junior League of Tallahassee was officially chartered with what is now known as the Association of Junior Leagues International, or AJLI. Throughout the year, JLT celebrated the successes of the women who came before us and the work that is yet to be done. In a theme of “JLT Through The Decades” each month General Membership Meeting featured a guest speaker who served JLT during each decade of its existence, offering insights on accomplishments during her service period and words of wisdom learned through the League.

JLT kicked off a #60for60More campaign, harnessing the contributions of our Sustainer Members to make some much needed repairs and updates to the JLT Headquarters in the heart of Midtown. This included providing an ADA accessible entrance to the building, replacing the ceiling in the HQ basement and making some much needed cosmetic updates.

To top it off members old and new gathered for a rooftop celebration at the start of 2020 at College Town’s Recess for an Anniversary Celebration like none other.

It’s safe to say the JLT is here to serve, and we are here to stay.

2020 Award Winners

Sharon Ewing Walker Award: Jennifer Stanford

Marsha Click Award: Amanda Leighty

Sustainer of the Year Award: Debbie Bergstrom Breeze

Community Partner of the Year: Second Harvest of the Big Bend

New Member of the Year: Fabiola Antoine

First Year Active of the Year: Heather Summers

Active of the Year: Becca Piers

Superstar Committee Member of the Year: Lana Steele

Committee of the Year: Mighty Meals Committee

Community Service Award: Carla Juarez

President’s Award: Kathy Godwin

Little Black Dress Initiative

The Little Black Dress Initiative (LBDI) is a week-long awareness and fundraising campaign harnessing the power of social media to illustrate the restrictions poverty places on choices, opportunities and access to resources.

From November 25 - November 30 JLT members participating in LBDI committed to wearing the same black outfit for five consecutive days, along with a button saying “Ask Me About My Dress/Outfit”, inviting colleagues, friends and strangers to a dialogue about food insecurity in our community.

This year the event also included an informative community panel discussion and lunch event that was open to members of the public and led by stakeholders working to combat hunger locally and across the state.

In total, members raised $21,752.15 through the online fundraising platform.
Total Income: $135,234.54

Total Expenses: $121,316.20

Allocation of Expenses
FOR EVERY $1 SPENT

52¢ went to Programming and Mission-Related
30¢ went to Management and Shared General
9¢ went to Fundraising
9¢ went to JLT HQ Projects