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VOLUME 1  
NUMBER 6

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## COBBLESTONES

*Cobblestones* is a member-driven, mission-focused publication that highlights the Junior League of Charleston—both its members and its community partners—through engaging stories using quality design and photography.

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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**CHARLESTON**

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## FROM THE EDITOR



***"We have the responsibility to act and the opportunity to conscientiously act to affect the environment around us."*** – Mary Harriman Rumsey, Founder of the Junior League

Recently, I was blessed by the opportunity to attend Organizational Development Institute, also known as ODI, in Grapevine, Texas, with a fellow league member. As we sat in the opening plenary, the key speaker encouraged us to embrace a weekend of learning, stretching and growing as members of the community and as members of the Junior League. She shared many stories, quotes and experiences but the one quote above stuck out in my mind for the remainder of the weekend. How could I use this as an opportunity to better myself so that I could, in turn, better the community around me? How could we as a League conscientiously act to affect the environment around us?

Our League has been around for almost 100 years in the Charleston community and through those years, we have made a great and lasting impact in our community. We have made a conscious effort to affect the community that we love and cherish. We have seen the needs, partnered with local community groups and stepped in to fill the gap. Cobblestones is an excellent opportunity to showcase our efforts, our vision, our dreams and our hopes for the years to come. It is our way to connect with you and share our story. We hope that as you flip through the pages of this magazine, you are inspired by our work. We hope that the stories and images shared pull at your heartstrings, make you smile, and make you want to wake up each day saying, "How can I conscientiously choose to make a difference?"

Faithfully,

**CASEY VIGRASS**  
**COBBLESTONES CHAIR**

## MISSION



**The Junior League of Charleston, Inc., is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. The JLC reaches out to women of all races, religions and national origin who demonstrate an interest in and a commitment to voluntarism.**

**The JLC serves community members in need in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester Counties by collaborating with fellow nonprofit organizations and through our signature project, the Junior League of Charleston National Diaper Bank.**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Passionate. Hard-working. Unstoppable.

These words, spoken about the Junior League of Charleston, have described our organization and its members for almost a century. As the oldest women's leadership training organization in the Lowcountry, the women of the Junior League of Charleston are fully committed, driven individuals, who collaborate to create a force for enacting good to address community issues affecting real lives, preparing our members to be strong leaders, and making a true impact.

In this issue of Cobblestones, we highlight our impact with stories of how members are making sustainable change. Junior League of Charleston strives on a daily basis to combat hunger and solve immediate and long-standing issues by infusing our trained volunteers into the community we serve. The Junior League of Charleston's signature project, the JLC Diaper Bank, is a catalyst for change by providing for the immediate needs of our community members affected by economic and societal hardships. We highlight the Junior League's Little Black Dress initiative, an international awareness and fundraising campaign that harnesses the power of social media to illustrate the restrictions generational poverty places on choices, opportunities, and access to resources. This issue also celebrates women leaders from the past and present- from an article about Junior League founder Mary Harriman, who was a trailblazer for women to develop their leadership in service to our community, to our own unstoppable members who continue this work today. These are stories of how the Junior League's legacy of leadership has enhanced civic organizations, businesses, and families.

For almost a century, the Junior League of Charleston's mission and values have led the way through times of trial and celebration. Leagues throughout the world are channeling their efforts to do what Leagues do best: build better communities together. This edition is a small sample of the impact we are striving to make.

Community now, maybe more than ever, means so much to so many, and I am truly thankful to be a part of this community.

Faithfully,

**BETH BAILEY**  
**2018-2020 PRESIDENT**

# The Power of Words

## REFLECTING ON A JLC TRAINING

By Liz Morris

In today's society where we are constantly communicating with one another, our language – and more specifically our words – hold great power. From the board room to our own home, what we say and how we say it illustrates our perception, our insight and our command of a given situation. Women, in particular, keenly understand the value of communication and yet can struggle with allowing language to work for us.

To help shape our command of words, 2019-2020 VP of Training Jenn Moyer, the founder of JSMoyer Consulting, led a Leadership Institute workshop focusing on selecting our words with intention and using them with positivity. During her time as both a business owner and a Junior League leader, Jenn has observed the way we all use words and how they impact interpersonal situations. So, as part of the JLC's signature training event, her workshop inspired me to consider how I – someone who communicates perhaps too much – can better use my words.

- 1. Maintaining a positive outlook goes a long way towards speaking positive words.** Our words originate from the situation we find ourselves in. When we come from a negative place or outlook, our words are tinged with that sentiment. While it won't happen overnight, inviting a positive outlook into your own everyday life can help shape our words for the better.
- 2. Using definite, concrete language isn't a sign of intimidation.** It is possible to be strong without seeming rude. Many times as women, we temper our language to seem softer, when in actuality it comes across as weaker. Using "I'm confident" or "I expect" – rather than "I think" or "I believe" – not only shows certainty in our chosen thoughts but encourages others to take note. Choosing more direct, more specific language reflects a bolder mindset, which can be helpful in a variety of contexts.

- 3. Save your apologies for when it is right.** There is no denying that apologies matter – they diffuse situations, promote forgiveness and foster relational well-being. But saying "I'm sorry" when someone bumps into you waters down the influence of apologies. Save your apologies for when it counts, when it is heartfelt and when the situation needs it. By doing this, you increase the meaningfulness of your apologies.

Throughout my time as a JLC member, Leadership Institute's workshops have greatly influenced me as a leader and as a volunteer. They are invaluable exercises, providing actionable takeaways applicable across both personal and professional spheres. Training truly sets the Junior League apart from other volunteer organizations, and it is something that will keep me connected to the League for years to come.

Workshops like Jenn Moyer's The Power of Word Choice are just one of the ways the Junior League is developing the potential of women. Training is a major component of our mission, and we strive to provide relevant training our members can use in real-world settings.

Junior League's Training Council, of which I am proud to serve on, provides ongoing education programming throughout the League year, and by the very nature of being involved, JLC members are trained through environment, exposure and experience opportunities. Check out the very latest in JLC training, and mark your calendars for both member-exclusive and community-wide training opportunities.



## JLC TRAINING FRAMEWORK DEFINED

### THE 3 PILLARS OF OUR TRAINING FRAMEWORK

#### THE LEAGUE

should provide programming and processes to support training and development as an organization

#### OUR MEMBERS

the individual member volunteers who take deliberate action to learn, develop and grow

*JLC Academy, Leadership Institute, Mentee Program, General Training*

#### OUR LEADERS

should support and develop our members, while also honing their own skills to fulfill organizational needs *Leadership Institute, Leadership Launch, Mentor Program, AJLI conferences and workshops*

### THE 4 DIMENSIONS WHERE OUR TRAINING OCCURS

#### ENVIRONMENT

the community, culture, and systems we work within

#### EXPOSURE

connecting to those around you and learning from them

#### EXPERIENCE

in your placement work where the majority of our development occurs

#### EDUCATION

the formal learning that takes place in League training sessions

### TRAINING COUNCIL PROGRAM OFFERINGS

#### GENERAL TRAINING SESSIONS

intertwined with GMMs  
1 training credit

#### JLC ACADEMY

year long placement focused on internal League processes to train aspiring leaders  
1 training credit

#### LEADERSHIP LAUNCH

annual workshop required for all incoming leaders  
1 training credit

#### MENTOR PROGRAM

year long pairing with a seasoned member to shadow  
1 training credit

#### LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

professional & personal development sessions to be taken in succession or as stand alone trainings  
6 training credits

#### MENTOR PROGRAM

year long placement mentoring a newer member  
1 training credit

*When she joins*

*When she wants to learn more*

*When she's ready to lead*

# 100 Year Anniversary of WOMEN'S

# SUFFRAGE

By Catherine Korizno

In 1919, the Junior League of New York was close to celebrating two decades of existence, the First World War had been won, and cities across the country had defeated night with the power of electricity. It also happened to be the year that my grandmother was born, a woman who would make munitions for yet another world war, send her daughter to college when she couldn't, and become the matriarch of our family for more than 25 years. Whenever I visited her, I was always stunned that despite all the things that were around when she was born, she still predated Women's Suffrage in this country.

While the fight for the vote took generations of hard work and foundation laid by many incredible women of every color, religion, and creed, the Junior League entered the fight in 1914, when the St. Louis chapter decided to use their talents and time to give women this all-important right and privilege that should be bestowed on every citizen. The Junior League of St. Louis adopted the enfranchisement of women as its first outreach project, partaking in parades, giving lectures, holding meetings, and even traveling to the nation's capital for suffrage events. The JLSL came to national attention for their work two years later, when the Democratic National Convention was held in the city. League members and thousands of suffrage advocates stood along the route to the event in total silence, bringing much-needed awareness to their cause.

These women did not fight for this right because it was fashionable or popular- it was, in fact, quite the opposite. They fought it because they knew every woman has the same value as every man. They fought for it so they could have a legal, powerful say in the future of our country. They fought for it so their daughters could become doctors and lawyers and judges and mothers and business leaders and not worry about if they would have their independence to

do it all. The Junior League is meant to empower women and to give us the support we need to be leaders in our communities and country. Many historians rightfully point out that August 18, 1920, was not day all women won the vote - women of color would still have to fight decades to secure their enfranchisement. Civil Rights Movement and the Junior League played a part in that fight, too. That's why I believe there is no greater accomplishment in the League's history than fighting for the vote. That's why I believe there is no greater accomplishment in the League's history than fighting for the vote.

Junior Leagues around the world and closer to home, continue to work to ensure creative and sustainable solutions to community needs. Not only work like the JLSL suffragettes, but also through work that enables women to be in leaders making decisions; provides care for children and battered women seeking to leave behind abuse, that builds homes and packs food for families in need. Today, we continue our work by setting up diaper banks so women can go to work and school while their children are in daycare. Every action we take to better the lives of those around us serves to honor what Junior League women in the 1910's did to secure the vote.

That fateful August day was 100 years ago. Women have broken many barriers, but are still kept from many rooms where decisions are made. Women have taken the boardroom, the bench of the Supreme Court, and medical school, but we still have strides to be made. We stand on the shoulders of all the women who came before us, in the hopes that our daughters and granddaughters can not only be in those rooms, but be in control of them. For them, that was breaking the glass ceiling to use their voices in elections; I am sure they were heartened knowing their work informs our bright future.



## THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CHARLESTON SERVES THE SENIOR COMMUNITY

By Lizzie Cook

The Junior League of Charleston is founded on the mission of improving the community of Charleston through the action and leadership of trained volunteers. The JLC's relationships with its community partners help bring that mission to life! For over 97 years, the JLC has proudly worked with countless organizations, providing reliable support by way of volunteers through both single events as well as year-long partnerships.

For some time, the League has served seniors in the Charleston area through its partnership with the Charleston Area Senior Citizens (CASC) center, a nonprofit organization serving the Tricounty area for over 50 years. The center's services and programs are available to low-income seniors at no cost to them and its mission is made possible through the help and support of volunteers.

One of the many ways the center changes the lives of seniors is through the Meals on Wheels of Charleston program. League committee members regularly support this effort to help seniors remain in their homes by providing a nutritious meal and a friendly smile. As described by Committee Chair, Ruby McChesney, "This partnership allows [the League] to provide a direct service through preparing meals, serving breakfast at the center, and delivering meals to those in the community."

In addition to serving a hot meal, which might include eggs, grits and toast, at the center's Breakfast Club, other volunteer tasks include portioning side items, organizing coolers, and packaging hot meals that will then be delivered to seniors in the community.

In addition to the Meals on Wheels of Charleston program, committee members serve by way of cohosting activities with the seniors twice a year. Members organize functions such as bingo, lunches, volleyball, and even a sing-along with Major Tecklenburg during which he played the piano! These activities bring joy to both committee members and seniors alike.

Are you interested in getting involved with the CASC? Visit [www.charlestonareaseniors.org](http://www.charlestonareaseniors.org) to sign up for a volunteer opportunity, including Meals on Wheels, the Dining Room Program or the Emergency Food Pantry. Visit them today at 259 King Street in downtown Charleston. Business sponsorships and individual donations to JLC help fund direct community service programs such as this one. Businesses can show their support by sponsoring and you can give personally by shopping on AmazonSmile; Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice!! You can support the incredible impact of the JLC.



# PROVISIONAL SPOTLIGHT

## AN INTERVIEW WITH LAUREN ELLIS

By Catherine Korizno

**What placements are most interesting to you and why?**

I would love to be involved with The Diaper Bank Committee. After hosting a Diaper Drive at North Charleston City Hall and becoming more informed about the urgency and demand for diapers in the Charleston region, I am overly passionate about engaging the public to make everyone aware of how the lack of this essential item ultimately impacts the life and well-being of both the mother and child.

**What or who inspired you to join the JLC?**

The JLC embraces all of my core values and when looking to get more involved in my community, I realized that the JLC embodies everything that I was originally seeking in an organization. I was inspired by the idea of surrounding myself with like-minded women who want to make a positive impact on our community.

**What is the most meaningful experience you've had as a member of the JLC?**

Over the past year, this organization has allowed me to establish meaningful relationships. Through the JLC, I have had the opportunity to network with and get to know a great diverse group of women, many of whom I truly respect and admire. There are many women that I look up to and aspire to be like who will continue to be great mentors in my future successes.



**What is your favorite thing about being a member of the JLC?**

My favorite thing about being a member of the JLC is a sense of community within the organization and knowing that through our actions, we are making the community a better place. I have already made new wonderful dear friends and look forward to creating great memories with my fellow JLC members.

**What does being a member of the JLC mean to you?**

It's a privilege to be a part of an organization that values helping those in need, as well as growing in friendship, knowledge, networking opportunities and personal development.

**What do you love most about living in Charleston?**

We live in an area where vibrant culture meets southern hospitality. As a Mount Pleasant native, I truly admire the Charleston area not only for its warmth

and friendliness, but for the many opportunities that are available to us. I love living in this prime destination where golden proximity, exceptional assets, unique history, and a flourishing economy are at the tip of our fingers.

**What is a fun fact about you that nobody knows?**

I unexpectedly had my appendix removed while studying abroad in China 3 years ago.

**Where do you see yourself in 5 years?**

Regardless of my professional position and personal decisions within the next 5 years, I will continue to serve as a leader of the community leading with a purpose. I envision my future to encompass being an advocate for the community of North Charleston, as well as the greater Charleston area.

# SUSTAINER SPOTLIGHT



## AN INTERVIEW WITH STEPHANIE TILLERSON

By Casey Vigrass

**How long have you been a member of the Junior League of Charleston?**

I transferred to the JLC in 2016, but I've been in the League since 2007. I started my journey with the League in Spartanburg, SC.

**What is your current JLC placement? What JLC placements have you had in the past, which did you enjoy most, and why?**

My current position with JLC is Sustainer Director at Large. I served numerous placements while I was a member of the Junior League of Spartanburg, including serving as president. The placement I enjoyed and why? All, and I say all because I learned so much from each placement. Some placements took me more out of my comfort zone than others, but everything it allowed me to meet new members, get involved in the community in ways I probably would not have and learn so much about the Spartanburg league.

**What or who inspired you to join the JLC?**

I was inspired to join the League from the time I was a little girl in Lansing, Michigan. There was a community program that I participated in, I do not

recollect who sponsored the program or how often I attended this one summer, but I do remember League members coming in and reading or just spending time with us. I would light up when these women came. They were always so welcoming and approachable. They came in with smiles and eagerness to listen, and I felt they genuinely cared about us. They were an extension of my mother, and they carried themselves like ladies. I would shyly watch their every move. I didn't understand the purpose of the Junior League at the time because I was young. I didn't understand a lot about this group of women that regularly visited us during our summer break at the community center. However, what stuck with me most was the kindness, caring, and love they expressed for a group of young girls they didn't even know. So, what inspired me to join the League. A group of unknown ladies that called themselves Junior League Members.

**What is the most meaningful experience you've had as a member of the Junior League?**

Attending an AJLI conference with my President-Elect. I had such a great time getting to know her one-on-one outside the League. I have photos I darn not share (ha-ha) on our plane ride back home.

**What is your favorite thing about being a member of the JLC?**

My favorite thing about being a member of the JLC is meeting new League members. I'm still new to the JLC, so for me, meeting new League members is exciting.

**What does being a member of the JLC mean to you?**

Being a League member of JLS and JLC has been a life-changing experience, and I'm so thankful for both of my Leagues for allowing me the opportunity to share with life and work experiences with the ladies of the League of the community. I have navigated through a lifetime of memories with the League. Being a member of the League for me is being a gracious role model and, when needed, to be a gracious follower.

**What do you love most about living in Charleston?**

The natural environment, the Gullah culture, the marshes, the cobblestones, and the many sunny days

**What is a fun fact about you that nobody knows?**

When I'm upset about things, I like to dance it out in my living room under dim lights and a glass of wine

**Where do you see yourself in 5 years?**

God only knows, but I look forward to my journey



## ACTIVE SPOTLIGHT

### AN INTERVIEW WITH SARAH NIELSEN

By Lizzie Cook

**How long have you been a member of the JLC?**

My provisional year was 2012-2013, and my first active was 2013-2014 (I had to look that up!)

**What is your current JLC placement? What JLC placements have you had in the past, which did you enjoy most, and why?**

I am currently serving in my first of two years on Nominating, which has been really fun! We have an amazing group this year, and I know that next year will be just as amazing with the new members coming on. I worked on Night at the Races twice, and that was really rewarding - seeing an event like that come together is always magical. I have spent most of the

rest of my time in finance - the committee members that I served with were incredible, and I've made a lot of great friends in those placements! It's also the largest part of my "day job," so it's fun to be able to transition that to a volunteer organization. Although all of them have been great in many ways, I'd have to say my favorite placement thus far was the year I served on Membership as the Chair for Recognition & Recruitment. That was the first time I got to work with Beth Meredith, and she is just inspiring in every way. She really took an interest in me both as a person and in my League career, and it's one of the main reasons I continue to serve in leadership positions. I had such a great time with my committee that year - we put on a really fun Recruitment event where we asked members the outlandish things they'd

heard in the past, "urban legends" of League-gone-by, if you will. Our members were incredible - "I'd always heard that you had to be vetted by a past President to get in." "That the JL would want to know how much money your husband made" "That your dad had to be a doctor or lawyer to be considered" - and then we gave these crazy questions out to prospective members as they walked into the event. We all wore Donna Reed-type outfits with aprons, and the prospective members thought we were nuts. It was a really creative way to describe that this isn't the Junior League of the 50s. We're progressive and empowering and talented! Such great ideas from our committee that year - I was really blessed to have such great people to work with.

**What or who inspired you to join the JLC?**

My parents always instilled in my sister and me that giving wasn't just a choice, it was a part of life. Even when they were just married and didn't have two dimes to rub together, they dutifully tithed and contributed to charitable organizations. That was ingrained in me from such a young age.

My boss, Weesie Newton, has a similar growing-up experience, and she has been investing in me for the entire 15 years I've worked for her. She co-founded a giving circle called Women Making a Difference (WMD) in the early 2000s that still gives endowment grants to this day. She is one of the most generous people I know, and it is always amazing to see people respond to the kindness that surrounds her.

My having joined the JLC can be traced back to several conversations with one very amazing member: Vanessa Beechem. I was six months off a stint on the board at WMD, and I was itching to get heavily involved in something again. Vanessa had been involved for several

years in JLC and always spoke so highly of it, so when I asked for a little more information, she just sold it in a way I couldn't refuse. She remains one of the most influential friends in my life!

**What is the most meaningful experience you've had as a member of the JLC?**

This is so difficult to pinpoint as I've had so many amazing experiences in the League! The first time I was asked to serve in a leadership position was such a surprise - suddenly long-standing members I didn't even know knew my name (!) were telling me they'd noticed me and my ability to talk to people and make them comfortable and had recommended me for Recognition & Recruitment. I was so humbled and honored (mainly to find out that my incessant talking was a positive!).

**What is your favorite thing about being a member of the JLC?**

The people. Honestly. I have just met so many charming, funny, smart, talented, kind, experienced, incredible super women in this organization, and I have no earthly idea how some of you pack families into a lifetime of achievements!

**What does being a member of the JLC mean to you?**

That I'm part of something bigger. By myself, I make a small ripple. Being a part of the League means I'm a part of a huge tidal wave of support given to this community that I care for so dearly. Thank you, thank you, thank you to our members who give of their everything to make this world a better one.

**What do you love most about living in Charleston?**

There's that moment when you're driving over the James Island Connector to



downtown where you look out over the Peninsula and see the Holy City gleaming under rays of sunlight - it never gets old to be a part of a community that is kind, polite, helpful, and willing to share. I've been here 17 years and, Lord-willing, have forever in my sights. Despite changes, traffic, new people, an endless supply of hotels and apartment buildings - this is still Charleston, and her people are still the epitome of Southern hospitality.

**What is a fun fact about you that nobody knows?**

It's silly, but I'm a pretty open book, so most people know everything. But...I have monkey toes. I can pick up pretty large objects!

**Where do you see yourself in 5 years?**

Six years away from paying off my house, so hopefully looking at a little land in Wadmalaw to build my dream bungalow! I'll be 41, so hopefully I'll have London and Paris under my belt with lots more Europe

to go. Gosh, my nephew will be 8 and my niece will be 6, and I'm so hopeful that they'll still be in Savannah so I can visit often - they're the lights of my life! And of course, heavily involved with the League - hopefully in a placement that allows me to make new friends often!



SUSTAINER SPOTLIGHT

AN INTERVIEW WITH GREER POLANSKY

By Casey Vigrass

How long have you been a member of the Junior League of Charleston?

1995, 24 years

What is your current JLC placement? What JLC placements have you had in the past, which did you enjoy most, and why?

Sustainer at Large on the Board, Sustainer Chair, VP of Sustainers, Whale of a Sale Committee, VP on Whale Committee, Products Chair, Served on the Board twice as Fundraising VP and Community VP and several others.

What or who inspired you to join the JLC?

My mom was a member of the Junior League in Virginia many years ago. She inspired me by her example over her many years of service. Kitty Robinson also encouraged me to join and invest in the League. She was a very encouraging person in my life and inspired me to join the League.

What is the most meaningful experience you’ve had as a member of the Junior League?

Whale of a Sale and Products Chair were two of the most impactful experience I have had as a member of the Junior League. Whale of a Sale was an all-encompassing experience allowing you to get to know so many aspects of the League and people within the League. I also enjoyed being Products



Chair because the products committee is in itself a small business. It was a rewarding experience to work on both committees.

What is your favorite thing about being a member of the JLC?

The beauty of the League is that it is not something you are in for five or 10 years; it is a lifetime commitment. As a member, you roll through the seasons of life and experience different statuses within the league during those seasons.

What does being a member of the JLC mean to you?

The JLC is part of my fabric. It is part of who I am.

What do you love most about living in Charleston?

I am originally from Charleston so for me it is familiar. In my eyes, Charleston is a slice of paradise. It has a richness of both culture but also sports. I play

tennis and run therefore I love the outdoor opportunities that Charleston provides.

What is a fun fact about you that nobody knows?

Recently, I ran my 11th marathon. I have completed three Marine Corp marathons, three NYC marathons, two Chicago marathons, one Atlanta marathon, one Miami marathon and one San Diego marathon.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

In my League life-I see myself continuing to support the JLC with growth opportunities. In my personal life, I aim to continue helping my clients to fundraise and plan to work hard to build our Florida client roster.

JLC PRESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

AN INTERVIEW ON ENTREPRENEURISM WITH MISTY BURTON

By Beth Bailey

As President of the Junior League of Charleston, I have been inspired daily by women leaders from all over the world as we serve as agents of change in our communities. We are a support network like none other! I first met Junior League of Columbia Past-President Misty Burton in January 2017 during the Association of Junior League’s Winter Leadership Conference in Tampa, Florida. This weekend was not only the start of a friendship between Misty and me, but also the start of a life-changing entrepreneurship dream as Misty brought together her leadership training and heart for community impact. Her service as President gave her additional confidence and skills that led her to start Tenfold Collective, a socially conscious business that empowers women as artisans and shoppers alike. In this inspiring interview, Misty proves the keystone to the Junior League’s mission, developing the potential of women.

What inspired you to become an entrepreneur?

The Junior League of Tampa’s ABOLISH presentation\* was one of the first times I had heard of human trafficking in regard to it being a real problem in America. Sadly, my only previous reference was the movie “Taken” and the occasional Dateline mention. The more I learned, the more I was burdened by the fact that, although not false, there is much more to the human trafficking narrative than a Hollywood movie could show. I wanted to create a way to spread awareness around what trafficking is and is not. I knew from my own habits as a shopper that women love to shop with purpose.

Describe the mission of your business and why it is important to you.

Tenfold exists to aid in the fight against modern day slavery. I aim to help my customers shop with heart, join the conversation and start new ones. A portion of my profits is donated to anti-trafficking efforts locally and around the globe. This matters to me because, as a mother, I cannot imagine my own child ever being a statistic.

Why is community important when building/starting a business?

Community is vital when building a business because this is HARD! Don’t ever believe anyone who would tell you otherwise. I work extremely long hours and am often learning as I go. You need people who will show up for you and remind you why you started in the first place.



What advice would you share with women who are in the beginning of launching their own business?

The advice I would share with women who are beginning or launching a business is to go scared. If I waited until I had everything perfectly figured out, I would not be in business. In just under two years, my business has already grown and changed several times. I imagine that it always will so I will continue to keep showing up, learning as much as I can, and going scared.

How has the Junior League supported your development as an entrepreneur?

The Junior League gave me a confidence to believe this was possible. I have done things in the Junior League that are so outside of my formal training that I knew I could at least try this. I like to say the pain of stopping short is far greater than the pain of falling short. I know if I stop short, I will regret it...if I fall short, I will learn.

Footnotes:

Tenfold Collective is a collection of handmade jewelry to help abolish modern-day slavery. Learn more at [www.tenfoldcollective.com](http://www.tenfoldcollective.com).

\* Over the course of its 117-year history, The Junior League has amassed an archive of irrefutable results and an indisputable reputation as thoughtful and influential change agents for the public good. There is perhaps no better example of this than the achievements of Junior Leagues in the fight to end human trafficking. In 2017, The Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) adopted ABOLISH as an association-wide initiative to scale the movement and unite communities across the United States and beyond in an effort to generate greater awareness of the intractable, systemic issue of child sex slavery.



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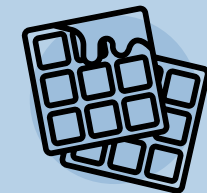


# HELPFUL HINTS FROM CHARLESTON RECEIPTS

By Ali Fox



Left over cheeses of all kinds may be put from time to time in jar containing a little wine. When enough to be used has accumulated it will have a very intriguing flavor



A bit of sugar in batter of pancakes or waffles will make them brown more quickly.



Sprinkle salt in frying pan before frying meat to prevent fat from splashing.



To keep cakes fresh put half an apple in container.



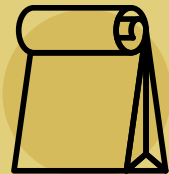
Peel an onion under water to keep back the tears.



Add 1 t. of salt water to keep egg white from escaping a cracked shell when being boiled.



To keep macaroni from boiling over; put a T. of butter in water.



To flour chicken for frying; shake in paper bag with flower. Cookies may be covered in confectioners sugar the same way.



A pinch of salt added to sugar in making icings will prevent graining.



Wrap a cloth moistened with vinegar around cheese to keep it fresh

## DEFINED BY IMPACT

By Liz Morris

Part of what makes the JLC so unique is our community impact. Our purpose highlights how we seek to improve the community — not just through effective action, although that is certainly important, but through the leadership of our trained volunteers, too.

So, what does the JLC’s community impact look like?

### Our Service Impact

Perhaps the most identifiable means of improving the community, the JLC’s service impact is inspiring to see. Throughout our 97-year history, the JLC has rolled up its sleeves and served the Lowcountry community through both time and financial investments.

Each year, our members support a slate of community partners — nonprofit organizations throughout the Lowcountry addressing needs that align with our focus area. We couple financial support and volunteers to amplify the work of these nonprofits. Our trained volunteers serve effectively and with heart, while our funds serve to help immediate needs of the community.

Since our founding in 1923, the JLC awarded millions of dollars to meet local needs in areas ranging from education to child abuse to feeding the homeless. In 2019 alone, our economic impact was over \$2.75million from volunteer hours and direct investments in leadership training and community service. All of this translates to valuable community advancement made possible by collaboration.

### Our Training Impact

Trained volunteers certainly are a key resource in accomplishing direct service; yet, our training goes beyond volunteering into the personal and professional worlds of our members. We are especially proud to be the oldest women’s leadership training organization in the Lowcountry.

Take, for example, our emphasis on training exercises. A member learns real-world skills in a Leadership Institute seminar, which may be directly applicable to her own professional career. She might glean new insight into organizational operations, which may help her in her next nonprofit board position. She could discover the power of

intentional conversations, which may help her personal interactions with a roommate or a friend.

Our emphasis on leadership training ensures the JLC’s impact and collaborative improvements are sustained. Many trained volunteers have gained a passion for a long-standing community issues and continued to work addressing that need for years. Joining community service passions with exceptional training yields unstoppable results.

The JLC’s hands-on training opportunities foster strong, empowered women — giving our Lowcountry community powerful advocates and leaders.

### Our Leadership Impact

Speaking of advocates, a lesser-known element of the JLC is our leadership advocacy. We are change agents and have been over the course of our storied history.

There are countless illustrations of JLC advocacy making real change in the Tri-County area, but one notable example is Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center. In 1988, at the behest of our League, the Charleston County Legislative Delegation appointed a committee to study how our community responds to allegations of child abuse. Out of that task force and due to our leadership, the JLC founded the Lowcountry Children’s Center which opened for business in March 1991. The Lowcountry Children’s Center saw more than 3,800 clients in its first five years and is nationally recognized as a model for the treatment of child abuse.

Named for one of the passionate, trained JLC leaders instrumental in its origination, the Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center, as it is known today, continues to create a community where children are safe from abuse and trauma. They recently opened a new location earlier this year, where they thank the JLC for its founding support and many years of dedicated support and funding.

A more recent example, the JLC Diaper Bank highlights how we continue to identify and fill gaps in our community. For countless mothers, having enough diapers is a constant struggle. Without diapers, their children cannot attend daycare, which may prevent parents from making an income. It is estimated that one in three mothers in the U.S. feel the effects of diaper needs.

Knowing that federally supported nutritional programs like WIC and SNAP do not fund the purchase of diapers, the JLC established its diaper bank in 2017, which is a part of the National Diaper Bank Network. The JLC Diaper Bank collects, packages and works with distribution partner organizations to provide diapers to those in need throughout the Lowcountry — helping to fill the poverty gap one family at a time.

These examples, as well as countless other programs initiated by JLC, are successful because of the drive, determination, leadership and advocacy of the JLC women. We continue to deepen and widen our impact by identifying and meeting needs of our community through a unique focus on training, funding and collaboration.

# LITTLE BLACK DRESS INITIATIVE



A PROGRAM OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE

## BLENDING ADVOCACY AND PHILANTHROPY: THE LITTLE BLACK DRESS INITIATIVE

Charleston County records a 15.3% poverty rate, significantly higher from the national average of 12.3% (source: DataUSA, Census Bureau). Statistics show that single mothers are more likely to wrestle with poverty’s devastating effects. The Little Black Dress Initiative is a week-long, social media-centric “drive” aimed at raising funds and awareness on how poverty affects those — in particular, women — in our community.

This initiative, known by shorthand throughout the League as LBDI, presents an interesting intersection of the ways we as JLC members impact our community. The Little Black Dress Initiative sparks conversation and discussion around a major challenge our community faces; it encourages members to take an active role in understanding an issue and formulating constructive ideas to combat it; finally, it engages members with a meaningful community need and helps raise money for our community partners who address all aspects of the poverty cycle.

LBDI highlights the collaborative nature of the JLC and the pioneering ways in which we shine a light on and help address community needs through training, advocacy and hands-on initiatives. JLC members participate in LBDI each year in the spring — stay tuned to our social media pages for the very latest in how you can get involved!

Thank you for donating the meeting space!



Thank you for donating the meeting space!



## 2018-2019 YEAR-IN-REVIEW



100,075

diapers distributed to local partners

30,532

diapers received through donations  
for distribution to local partners



### OPERATION HOME

Volunteers built wheelchair  
ramps allowing 3 homeowners  
to safely remain in their  
own homes.



1,738 Total Hours of  
Volunteer Service

With assistance  
from JLC funds,

**East Cooper  
Meals on Wheels...**



Served 650 meals  
each week

Helped 125 families  
with their food pantries



Served 30 clients (on  
average) breakfast each weekday  
(50% of whom were  
homeless)



10,800  
bags packed  
for 350+ food-insecure  
children  
in 15 tri-county  
schools

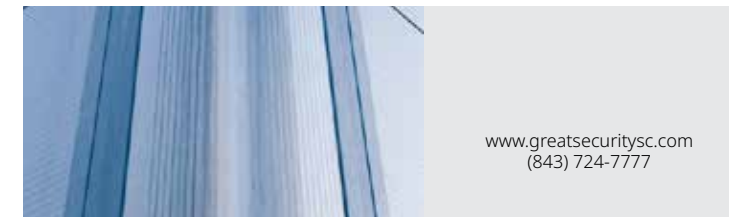


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**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
CHARLESTON**

**CURRENT IMPACT**

JUNE '19 - FEB.'20



TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT FROM JLC VOLUNTEER HOURS (2019):

**\$2,637,500**

93%

AVERAGE MEMBERSHIP RETENTION RATE  
OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS

**OVER 2,500  
WOMEN TRAINED**



**200% increase**  
of local women leaders  
participating in JLC training

**65%**

of women are  
repeat participants



**6,800 BAGS PACKED  
WITH FOOD**

FOR THE LOWCOUNTRY  
FOOD BANK'S BACKPACK  
BUDDIES WEEKEND FOOD  
DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM



### JLC DIAPER BANK IMPACT

142,825

DIAPERS DISTRIBUTED  
BY THE JLC DIAPER BANK  
through 12 local partners

104,929

DIAPERS RECEIVED  
THROUGH DONATIONS  
for distribution to local partners



## CHANGING LIVES WITH THE JUNIOR LEAGUE

By Catherine Korizno

As a new provisional member, every woman who joins the Junior League of Charleston learns a line that we give to people when they ask what it is that we do: The ongoing mission of the JLC is to identify the needs of the community and use time, talent, and training of its members to fill those needs. In the flurry of learning requirements and committees and names, the importance of that mission can sometimes go unappreciated until we see the people helped by our work. That is certainly true for me of our newest initiative, the JLC's Diaper Bank.

Research shows an immediate and ongoing need for diapers by families in the Tricounty area, which can at first seem like an odd and unnecessary item to some. In the United States, one in three mothers struggles with diaper need, especially here in the Lowcountry where the poverty rate is above the national average. Children require six to 10 diapers a day and having clean, dry diapers is vital to the healthy development of a child. Not only that, most daycare centers do not allow children to attend without diapers, hindering a mother's ability to earn an income needed to provide for her families or attend school to improve her family's overall situation. And on top of this, diapers are not covered by government nutritional programs like WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) or SNAP, formerly food stamps.



diaper need and its far-reaching implications. In conjunction with the NDBN, we are hopeful to one day assist in changing policy, so purchasing diapers can be less of an economic hardship. In the meantime, we continue to strategize on how to expand this program and do all we can to meet the needs of local families.

We need your help! There are many ways to use your resources, volunteer some of your time by bundling diapers with us, host a drive or bundling event at your workplace, drop off diaper donations at our many locations or through our Amazon wish list, or become a JLC sponsor or donor. Every little bit helps families in need.

Enter the JLC Diaper Bank, now a member of the National Diaper Bank Network (NDBN) of New Haven, Connecticut. In 2017, the JLC Diaper Bank began with members and friends donating diapers in person or online, collecting diapers in drives across the Lowcountry, and bundling them for distribution to families in need. Last year, JLC distributed over 100,000 diapers, smashing expectations; this year, we are on pace to exceed the 150,000 diapers mark. The ability of the JLC to meet the growing demand helps alleviate stress parents feel while also helping provide basic hygiene for children. League members are trained all year on diaper need awareness and participate in activities to collect and bundle the diapers, as well as certain supplies like unopened baby wipes and diaper cream. These 50-dianer bundles, commonly distributed to working families facing low-income, systemic issues in our state, fill what has been identified as a "diaper gap" between what a family can afford and what they need.


While we are proud of our progress, there is still opportunity to grow. The JLC is working to further educate our state around





# The *Forward-Thinking* Mindset of a Junior League Founder

By Ali Fox




When I lived in New York City, the name Harriman didn't mean much to me other than I knew it to be a prominent New York family. But that all changed after I had the opportunity to spend a summer out in Idaho down the road from Harriman Ranch, now a state Park. I learned about a true pioneer woman named Mary Harriman Rumsey who started an organization called the Junior League in 1901. Immediately, I was fascinated by her. Here she was a New York socialite spending winters hobnobbing with New York's elite but then exploring the Wild West at her family's ranch during her summers. Only a truly adventurous and independent woman would have been open to contrasting lifestyles.

Harriman State Park is located on one of the most scenic places in the country situated along the Henry's Fork River, just north of the Snake River. It is 16,000 acres of full of wildlife, hiking trails, fishing and exploration. The land is still very untouched but there a few signs of changing times, a gas station, mini mart, and a few fishing lodges and cabins have popped up on the main road. Mary probably spent her days taking in all of the adventures that the environment offered, even experiencing a possible run in with a Black Bear or Moose.

It is hard to know how Mary's western adventures influenced her mindset, but one has to think it only further sparked her pioneer spirit. While still a student at Barnard College, Mary got deeply involved in the Settlement Movements of 1901. For those who are not familiar with this movement, it assisted immigrants in building a new life for themselves in this country.

She then persuaded 80 of her fellow debutantes to band together to form the Junior League for the Promotion of Settlement Movements. Since the members lacked understanding of the immigrants' needs and challenges, Mary organized lectures for the members to better understand how they could help. Thus, the Junior Leagues' dual focus on training and community service began. It was not long before other women in New York joined the effort. Among them were Eleanor Roosevelt and the interior decorator of the day, Ruth Draper, to name a few. Junior League chapters have been growing ever since and now the Association of Junior Leagues International includes over 150,000 women in 291 Leagues in four countries!



Although I had heard about Junior League prior to officially joining, I never knew about the extraordinary Founder or how much the League does for our communities. Learning more about how Mary blazed her own trail inspires me to continue her legacy in supporting the Junior League and Charleston community as well as in my own life. Add Harriman State Park to your bucket list, and let it inspire your own journey!

# HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CHARLESTON

By Liz Morris

From supporting our community partners in their work to developing the potential of our own members, the Junior League of Charleston is a group of women on the move! Yet, our work wouldn't be possible without YOU. There are a number of ways to get involved with the Junior League—so no matter who you are, you can join us in advancing our mission.

## Looking to join?

Each year, we encourage women aged 21 or older across the Charleston area to join an organization that not only gives back but also trains women to reach their full potential! Applications to join our provisional class—what we call our new group of members—opens every spring. There are events throughout the year that details the membership process, how to join, and what you can expect. If you are interested in being a part of an organization of committed, driven individuals who collaborate to address community issues and prepare our members to be leaders, thus making a true impact, we encourage you to join our growing organization. Email [recruitment@jlcharleston.org](mailto:recruitment@jlcharleston.org) or visit our website for the latest information.

## Looking to give?

Our funds and endowments help further many facets of our mission financially. Both JLC members and members of our community can contribute to any of the following funds:

- **The JLC Annual Fund:** This is our highest priority for philanthropic giving, empowering women leaders. Donations to the Annual Fund provide support for all aspects of the JLC mission of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through effective actions and leadership of trained volunteers.
- **The JLC Endowment Fund:** This fund provides long-term sustainability for the JLC and ensures we can continue positively impacting the community now and into the future.
- **The Henrietta F. Gaillard Leadership Fund:** In memory of Henrietta Freeman Gaillard, 1985-1986 JLC president, this endowed fund provides a permanent source of funding for the JLC's leadership training activities.

You can make your donation online on our website or by contacting the JLC office at [development@jlcharleston.org](mailto:development@jlcharleston.org).

## Looking to sponsor?

Business support is a vital part of continuing our efforts. From supporting our fundraisers to in-kind to partnering with the JLC Diaper Bank to championing our mission-related programs, sponsoring the JLC supports the power of thousands of members, supporters, and partners. As the oldest women's training organization in the Lowcountry, we have developed exceptionally qualified and empowered leaders who work to improve the community daily. Contact the JLC [atdevelopment@jlcharleston.org](mailto:atdevelopment@jlcharleston.org) or visit our website for more information.

## Looking to partner?

Nonprofit organizations in the Lowcountry are encouraged to explore how the JLC can advance your work. JLC members solve issues and are committed volunteers equipped to serve the community with creativity and resources to make an impact. In addition to funding specific projects, we provide trained volunteer support for one-time and ongoing placements. We select project partner each year, and the application process begins in the summer. While many community needs take generations to resolve, JLC strong focus on training members to be community leaders ensures needs are addressed, improvements are sustained, and the shifts are viable. Check out our website for the latest information.

# THE PEOPLE THAT MAKE JLC POSSIBLE

The Junior League of Charleston wouldn't be where it is today with out the dedication of all our members and the leadership of both our Board of Directors and Management Team. Thank you for your hardwork and vision in serving our League!

## Board of Directors 2019-2020



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**Beth Bailey**



Director of Nominating  
**Amy Reynolds**



Executive Vice President  
**Haywood Titchener**



Active Director at Large  
**Anne Jackson**



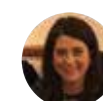
President Elect  
**Beth Meredith**



Active Director at Large  
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Executive Director  
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Active Director at Large  
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Recording Secretary  
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Sustainer Director at Large  
**Greer Polansky**



Treasurer  
**Meghan Norvell**



Sustainer Director at Large  
**Stephanie Tillerson**

We also would be remiss if we did not thank our office staff who are tireless in their support of our mission. In 2019, we welcomed Amy Jenkins as our first-ever Executive Director and Maggie Bice as our Operations Manager.

## Management Team 2019-2020

Executive Vice President  
**Haywood Titchener**

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**Meredith Deaner**

VP Community  
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